

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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13th Corporation

By LORETTA SCOTT

While the subject of the thirteenth regional corporation was not considered very controversial or important by most Alaska-based Natives, it has recently become an important issue in Alaska while all the time being an important issue in the lower 48 states. Perhaps this article will help others to understand a little better what is going on down there.

In section 7, subsection 12(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the following regarding the thirteenth regional corporation is stated: "If a majority of all eligible Natives eighteen years of age or older who are not permanent residents of Alaska elect, pursuant to subsection 5(c), to be enrolled in a thirteenth region for Natives who are non-residents of Alaska, the Secretary shall establish such a region for the benefit of the Natives who elected to be enrolled therein, and they may establish a regional corporation pursuant to this act."

The enactment of this passage has been the cause of several major court disputes. The first lawsuit was concerned with the question of whether or not the majority of non-resident adult Alaska Natives had voted in favor of the establishment of a thirteenth region. The Interior Departments first vote count did not show the required majority in favor of the establishment of the thirteenth region and so did not establish it. Following the vote count, the Alaska Native Association of Oregon and Alaska Federation of Natives International filed a suit challenging the Department of Interior's decision not to create a thirteenth region. Judge Oliver Gasch ruled last year in favor of the non-resident Natives in that the required majority had voted in favor and ordered the establishment of the thirteenth region.

Alaska Federation of Natives International and Alaska Natives Association of Oregon have filed a petition to hold the Interior Department in contempt of court for not creating a thirteenth region. A decision has yet to be reached.

The twelve Alaska-based corporations were not in favor of the creation of the thirteenth regional corporation as they would lose approximately 4,500 Natives and their share of the Alaska Native Fund.

Kent Frizzel, acting Secretary of the Interior, stated the new region would come into effect as of October 1, 1975. The Department of Interior has reported that Frizzel has asked 17 non-resident Native Associations to advise the Interior Department by October 14, 1975, of their eligibility to nominate prospective incorporators of the thirteenth regional corporation.

The problem the non-resident Native groups have now is that they cannot agree on the method for establishment of their corporation. They are disagreeing mainly in the method of selecting the incorporators to prepare the articles of incorporation. The proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws must be approved by January 1, 1976, the day of the first shareholders meeting. The election day of the board of directors is to be held by February 1, 1976. The corporation is to be paid it's share of the \$900,000, 000.00 settlement in the Alaska Naive Fund by February 15, 1976. All adult non-resident Alaska Natives will be given the final chance to return to one of the twelve Alaskan-based corporations when the thirteenth regional corporations starts distributing shareholder funds. They have little time left to accomplish all this, and should quickly settle their differences and get to work. They have a lot to do. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson announced a meeting which should help. The meeting was held in Seattle on November 19 at the Seattle center to discuss matters pertaining to the establishment of the thirteenth regional corporation.

Jailless OTZ gets help

From KOTZEBUE NEWS
At a time when the City of Kotzebue is without a jail and Police Chief, the Alaska State Troopers have detailed two men to aid the Kotzebue Police Department's remaining four patrolmen.
Sgt. Elmore from Nome has been appointed acting Chief to be assisted by Trooper Pelowook of St. Lawrence Island and

Trooper Leonard, already stationed in Kotzebue.
City Manager Barbara Steckel says that the troopers will be stationed in Kotzebue until a permanent Chief is hired. Recruiting is currently being carried out by the City of Kotzebue and NANA Security Systems.
NANA Security presented a

(Continued on Page 6)

Letters from Here and There

Writer: 200-mile Limit to be Disaster

Kodiak, Alaska 99615
December 26, 1975

Dear Editor:

The 200 mile limit bill now before Congress will be a disaster for Alaska fishermen. This is hard for me as a fisherman to say after four years of pushing the 200 mile concept, and spending much time the past six months involved with the legislation, but we had better face the facts.

Under the bill Alaska is handing over fisheries management to the federal government. The regional management councils which would be set up are only advisory—they recommend to the Secretary of Commerce. The management of Alaska's fisheries will shift back to Seattle, for Sen. Magnuson of the state of Washington is the powerful chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

The Secretary of Commerce will be an economic czar over Alaska fishermen, having the power to set fees and taxes, allocate the fish through leasing and auctioning, implement federal licensing and limited entry of boats, and capable of bringing fish traps back to Alaska in the name of promoting efficiency. This is all part of the bill and accompanying reports—Alaskans had better wake up and read the fine print.

At a time when our nation is learning the hard way that attempts to promote efficiency through heavy bureaucratic regulations usually produces just more costs and inefficiencies, we are about to embark on another fiasco. But the costs of this new federal bureaucracy coming with the 200 mile bill don't worry the politicians, for the Secretary of Commerce is supposed to tax the fishermen enough to cover the costs. So we fishermen will be paying for not only the scaffold but the hangman as well, and the consumer will suffer in the long run.

After all the public outcry by the Hammond administration last spring over the federal takeover of the few musk ox, it is pathetic to see the same men quietly giving away our entire fisheries to the Feds.

Months ago Kodiak fishermen proposed realistic amendments to the 200 mile bill that would make it acceptable. We don't argue about whether the state or federal government OWNS the fish between three and 200 miles, but we proposed that the state be allowed to MANAGE those fish so long as the fish don't overlap with another state, and providing that the management is consistent with the national standards of conservation.

We also proposed removing the economic controls from the national standards set up in the bill. The management role should be primarily biological.

No law is better than a bad law. The fish presently being utilized by Alaskan fishermen are already under good management, except for the Western Alaska salmon, and the high level deals have already been made to allow continued Japanese fishing on those salmon even with a 200 mile limit.

We fishermen are the ones who have our boats, mortgages and livelihood on the line with the 200 mile bill, and many of us who have looked long and hard at the fine print have decided we can do without it if it can't be properly amended. Unfortunately our top-level state fisheries bureaucrats appear to be quietly going along with the federal takeover, probably in hopes of being able to pull strings or get better jobs in the future in return for their acquiescence now.

I urge Sen. Stevens, Rep. Young and Gov. Hammond to insist on the Kodiak Amendments or no bill at all. I can't quite agree with Sen. Gravel's desire to wait for the Law of the Sea, but thank God for his opposition so far or this bill would be dumped on us as is already. The way things are going, waiting one more year for unilateral action might be the best route.

I hope the entire congressional delegation and Gov. Hammond will AGGRESSIVELY unite in support of state's rights. Presently most Alaskans blindly thing the 200 mile limit will just kick out the foreigners. Unfortunately, if the Kodiak, amendments aren't made part of the bill Alaskans will later be rudely jolted and discover that we just licensed the foreigners and brought in the Feds. Our fisheries will be in the hands of men in Washington, D.C., Seattle and Tokyo.

Sincerely,
Dave Herrnsteen

Who is a good Do-gooder?

Elm Street
North Berwick, Maine 03906
December 29, 1975

To the Editor:

Today there are many organizations whose apparent purpose is to aid the Native American. Actually, the vast majority use the "aid" pretense as a vehicle for selfish financial gains. Therefore, many Indians are skeptical and distrustful of these "do-gooder" outfits. This is the reason I am writing to you. I have had personal contact with some of these "Shmoehawks." It is a tragic shame, that to a large degree, government moneys continue to support these ineffectual institutions. But as most Indians know, Mother Earth giveth; BIA taketh away!

I would like to tell you of an exception, approximately one year ago, I had an occasion to visit the LeShowmar Indian Trading Post in Rochester, New Hampshire. I was warmly welcomed and given the grand tour by LeShowmar. He purchases Indian craftwork at a fair price with regard to the craftsman. Encompassing a large portion of his shop were bumper strips; supporting Indian movements, heritage, Tribal affiliations, religions freedoms, and denouncing the degradations imposed upon our people. He has an on-going collection of clothing from several communities. After sorting, cleaning, repairing and pressing these, he distributes them to Native Americans in need, both on and off reservation. All at his own expense.

At the outset, his benevolent

attitude was beyond my experience. To put my mind at ease about his sincerity, I made a large number of inquiries among my Brothers and Sisters throughout New England and Canada. To my astonishment his works were straight and sharp. This prompted my return to LeShowmar Indian Trading Post. After observing his deeds and accomplishments, I have found his sincerity and dedication to the American Indian refreshing and heartwarming. My only wish is that more of my people were as straight and trustworthy as he. LeShowmar Indian Trading Post is located in an area of New England where the Indian population is sparse. To a great extent the people of this locale are unaware of the plight of the Native Americans. He has sponsored broadcasts on Indian affairs, without government censorship, in order to enlightn

(Continued on Page 12)

Poem-- This Is My Land

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For the past several years, we have had many inquiries as to where persons could get permission to reprint the poem, "THIS IS MY LAND," by Clarence Pickernell (Quinault) Taholah, Washington. During the time we had been unable to locate any information where a person might inquire. We are printing the poem once again. This time we are reprinting it from the magazine, "MANY SMOKES," published in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The address of the magazine is: Many Smokes Publishing Co., P. O. Box 1961, Klamath Falls, Oregon.)

(From MANY SMOKES)

This is my land
From the time of the first moon
Till the time of the last sun
It was given to my people.
Wha-neh Wha-neh, the great giver of life
Made me out of the earth of this land
He said, "You are the land, and the land is you."
I take good care of this land,
For I am part of it.
I take good care of the animals,
For they are my brothers and sisters.
I take care of the streams and rivers,
for they clean my land.
I honor Ocean as my father,
For he gives me food and a means of travel.
Ocean knows everything, for he is everywhere.
Ocean is wise, for he is old.
Listen to Ocean, for he speaks wisdom
He sees much, and knows more.
He says, "Take care of my sister Earth,
She is young and has little wisdom, but much kindness."
"When she smiles, it is springtime."
"Scar not her beauty, for she is beautiful beyond all things."
"Her face looks eternally upward to the beauty of sky and stars,
I am forever grateful for this beautiful and bountiful earth.
God gave it to me
This is my land.
CLARENCE PICKERNELL
(Quinault) Taholah,
Washington