

"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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Editorial— AFN Cohesion Develops

Although there had been some troublesome obstacles and threatening barriers, in the efforts of the regional native organizations to work together, there are now some important signs that the native groups in all areas of Alaska are attaining the much needed cohesion of group effort toward working for common goals. This was clearly in revelation at the series of meetings in Anchorage last week of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors and its executive committee and other AFN members. The AFN board also serves as the member of the Governor's land claims task force.

The willingness to listen to each area's concern by other group representatives has been attained and strained relationship tendencies up till recently have been largely, or entirely, eliminated. This is an excellent sign when calls for unity among groups have been heavily demanded from all quarters in recent weeks.

Since this degree of cohesion has been attained, any group within the regional associations that might wish to bolt for some reason would be a lonesome group indeed because of the top-heavy spirit of agreement within the AFN is very much evident at this time and this attainment is not likely to change easily.

Those quarters who have doubted that the AFN regional membership may have a hard time getting together for unified efforts can rest easier as of last week in Anchorage. Perhaps Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, if there should be doubts within himself as to the unity of the AFN, should give it a good thought and give it a new consideration along with other entities he has been dealing with.

The spirit of unity within the statewide organization could not have been attained at a more opportune moment. It cannot help but be a blessing in view of momentous times in the future of the native people.

Other Voices— New Litterbugs

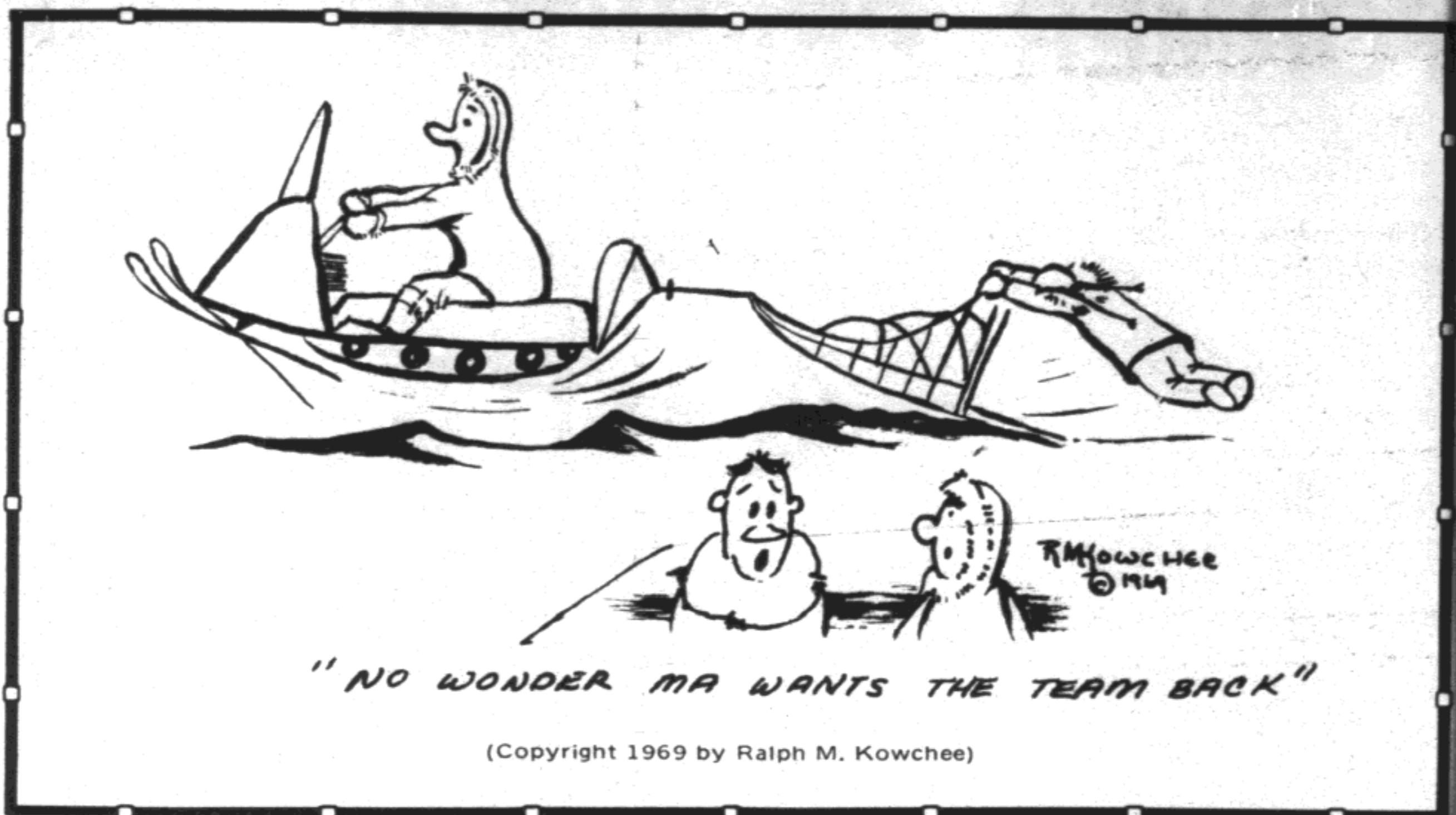
(Editor's Note: The remote settlement of Anaktuvuk Pass deep in the Brooks Range country is apparently feeling the effects of civilization in the form of trucks coming through the newly established winter haul road to the oil fields on the North Slope. An editorial in the school paper by Vera Ahgook points out one of the effects.)

(From NUNAMIUT NEWS)

If trucks come through this road that was just built few days ago, the men in the trucks should put their trash in an empty barrel, or box, or any kind of empty bag. And if they want to burn it they should burn it in an empty barre!—also put your cans or pieces of broken glass in a bag, barrel, or a box that has no holes in it. Don't throw your trash, pieces of glass or cans on the ground please!

I hope you truckers will keep the road clean whenever you go through this road.

—VERA AHGOOK



Creamer's Dairy Off Limits to Snowmobilers

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced that the recently purchased Creamer's Dairy property designated as the Fairbanks Wildlife Management Area will be closed to snow-machine use after April 6 in order to make the area as attractive as possible to migrating waterfowl.

"The area is used annually by 30,000 to 40,000 water fowl as a resting and feeding area before

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Letters to the Editor

April 2, 1969

Dear Sir:

Would you please announce this to the public. All are invited to the City of Nulato for our STICKDANCE AND SPRING FESTIVITIES!!

A place will be found for everyone so please bring your sleeping bags or blankets.

SCHEDULE: Nulato Dog Mushers' Association Races will begin on the Fourth of April with the Women's Race, 5th is the Sno-go Race from Nulato-Kaltag-Nulato, 6th is the First heat of the Men's Race, 7th is the 2nd heat of the Men's Race, 8th—Senior Boys' Race, 9th—Junior Boys' Race, 10th are the Men's Sno-shoe Race and Boys' Sno-shoe race. Potlatches for the Stick dance will commence on the 7th-12th. STICKDANCE on the 11th of April.

EATS: There is the Coffee Cup that serves Sandwiches and coffee, etc. and the Potlatches in the evening.

COME ONE! COME ALL! AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!!

Ivan Sipary, President
Nulato City Council

Poem— The Past and The Present

I have had beautiful dreams that would have been—always;
I have had goals of polished tunes that would have chanted my life.

Now I am told that I must be only good for a tourist;
Because I lick my eating-knife with my skilled tongue.

I know how they play the games.
When I attack, they retreat;
When I sleep, they scavenge;
When I look, they hide;
When I talk, they are blank, and
When I smile, they just smile.
—ANONYMOUS

This Land Is My Land (Conclusion of Two Parts)

By HELEN L. ATKINSON

It is much simpler for an oil company to deal with only one entity—such as the state—rather than a lot of individuals. An oil company pays the state a bonus (highest bid so far \$1,509/acre) and then pays the state \$1 an acre a year rent for the land. If an oil company drills and doesn't find oil—the state keeps the bonus plus whatever rent has been paid before the lease is dropped.

If an individual sells his lease to a company and a "dry hole" is drilled, the state is paid the same rent, but no bonus. However, the individual still has to pay federal and state income tax on whatever he got from the oil company for his lease.

If an oil company drills and finds oil, then the company has to pay the state a royalty of 12½% on each barrel of oil produced, plus a severance tax (presently 3%). Each company is allowed a 27½% depletion credit. A company with world-wide operations could distribute losses and gains and pay federal tax on net profit of total operations—rather than just Alaskan operations. If they owned property in a community they would pay real property taxes. Sales tax would be paid on goods purchased locally. Companies based out of state pay no state taxes or corporate tax.

If an individual sells his lease he has to pay federal and state tax on his income from the sale. He usually negotiates for an overriding royalty of 1% to 6% (even up to 25%). This will actually amount to much more than his negotiated price if his lease has a producing well, and the individual will have to pay federal and state tax on this royalty income additionally.

An individual selling his lease to an oil company would be in a higher federal income tax bracket. The rate would depend on how he elected to receive his payment. If he were a resident of Alaska initially he would pay 16% of his federal tax as state tax. If he lived and invested in the Fairbanks area he would pay real property taxes of 9.6 mills to the City and 15 mills to the North Star Borough. The 3% City tax and 2% Borough sales tax on all goods purchased with his additional income would also directly benefit the community if he chose to remain.

But back to the competitive side again—there is no doubt an oil company could bid higher on a competitive bid than an individual. Although Burglin and Miklautsch got their blocks of land near Prudhoe on a competitive bid—their bid was just \$1 an acre because no one else bid on the block. Prudhoe hadn't been discovered yet. Now it would be impossible to pick up any Arctic acreage for such a low price.

Technically the people who should know the most about the overall geology and potential of the Slope ARE in the state's Oil and Gas Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Every oil company is REQUIRED to send in drilling reports and submit cores from the wells. This information is classified and confidential and cannot be released to the public for two years.

As quoted in the press the state's Oil and Gas division director said "Competitive leasing is the only way to go." When asked how much the state would realize from a competitive sale he replied "To even hint at it would be improper." No competitive bid figures

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Gravel Praises Teacher Corps

Senator Mike Gravel praised the Teacher Corps for approval of a summer training program which will help local schools to meet the special needs of Rural Eskimo children.

Senator Gravel said that 24 Corps members would study and have special training at Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage to help them comprehend and challenge the complex problems of Alaska's rural school population.

"In my communication with Mr. Richard Graham, Director of the Teacher Corps for the United States, I have been impressed by the innovation and effort to bring teacher excellence into communities which are disadvantaged," Senator Gravel said.

"This summer \$3 million will be spent by the Corps in training programs."

"I am highly pleased that Alaska has been chosen for the first Teacher Corps program and that the attention of the program will focus on the extremely critical problem of Native education."

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.