

"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— The Evaluation of The Native Leaders

The recent testimonies of our native leaders and their counselling lawyers at the land claims hearings before congressional committees in Washington, D. C. were revelations that should be noted distinctly by our people. The impact of the articulate presentations and the firmness of conviction on common problems were nothing less than inspirational. This should be a convincing proof that our native people have chosen their leaders well.

Perhaps Anna J. Riley, an Eskimo woman who works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Washington, D. C., expressed best our feeling of pride when she wrote the following:

"As an Alaskan Native, I was an interested observer at the Congressional hearings held here on July 11 and 12 regarding Alaska Native Claims. I was truly impressed—and the Congressmen appeared to share my sentiment—at the excellent Native leadership who came to Washington to testify before these committees on this most important issue.

"With a deep sense of pride I witnessed our people demonstrate before the Congress of our country their ability to present a well-prepared and united appeal for a cause that we certainly hope will be given speedy and favorable action by the Congress.

"Hopefully this will set a precedent for continued unity by Alaskan natives as the framework for accomplishing the goals we seek."

The evaluation of the caliber of our native leaders by Anna Riley is a moving tribute. The impact of it becomes even more forceful when one considers that many of our leaders are products of but a few years—three or four years to be a little more specific. In that short time, good many of them have blossomed into influential men. They have shown their ability to grasp profound and complex problems to the extent of becoming authorities concerning those problems. This is the mark of good leadership. This is the blossoming of talent.

We have great hopes that the caliber of our leadership will prevail in the future. It should have an excellent chance to develop into a refined effectiveness in whatever endeavors it will engage. It must develop to that extent because we are about to enter into the threshold of great responsibilities. This area is the imminent and impending solution to the land claims problem. The responsibilities that will come from it will be formidable. They will try men's minds and abilities. Preparations to meet them must be made early. Our best foot forward must be made at the beginning.

We trust that we will be able to meet this with better than halfway approach because we have fine leadership and wise counselling now. We are profoundly thankful for the availability of this and we trust that it will prevail and improve as time goes on to the future.

LETTERS to EDITOR

July 7, 1968
Kotzebue Hospital

Dear Editor Rock:

I recently transferred up to the Kotzebue PHS hospital after spending two years with the State TB Control Unit. I mentioned to the staff here that for the first time in Alaska's modern history the Native Hospital in Anchorage does not have any children with TB on its wards. This marks an important mile-

stone in Alaska's TB history and is the result of a vigorous case-finding program on the State's part combined with thorough treatment by the USPHS.

I convey this information to you because I think many of your readers would be interested in the progress our State is making towards TB eradication.

Yours truly,
Keith R. Hooker, MD
Medical Officer
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Joint Statement On Education By State, BIA

(Editor's Note: The following is a joint release from Warren I. Tiffany, Assistant Area Director (Education), BIA, and Cliff R. Hartman, Commissioner of Education, State of Alaska.)

NATIVE EDUCATION and rural schools have been focal points of serious public questioning recently. Both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Alaska Department of Education schools, their quality, and their curricula have been under fire. So has the availability and quality of secondary schooling for students from small, remote, predominately Native Alaskan villages.

THE QUESTIONING is good. It is encouraging that the general public is awakening to the critical needs of rural Alaska. The signs point toward an increased willingness at both the state and federal levels to devote more resources to the education needs of the state. Unfortunately, the criticism reveals a lack of understanding of the problems, and of the progress and direction which the BIA and the Department of Education are making, cooperatively.

CONFLICT between the BIA and the Department of Education is what the public apparently sees. Not so! Actually, the opposite is true. An excellent cooperative working relationship between the Alaska Department of Education and the Bureau's educational staff has built up. Programs and policies of the two agencies are openly discussed. Actions regarding curricula, enrollment, school transfer, and construction are carried out mutually. Daily inter-agency contacts are commonplace. Full cooperation and mutual understanding can be documented in

(Continued on page 4)

Poem— Beauty in Frosty Sky

I like a man who walks the snowshoe trail
And climbs up mountain stairs to reach Northern Lights.
He sees the beauty of the frosty skies.
He measures friends by the Northern code.
And gathers dreams atop a miner's rig.

He sees the beauty of the frosty sky
And cups his hands to hold December's snow.
He sings the song of the Canadian loon
And catches stars to make Alaska's flag.

But spinning dreams is not his only feat.
Behind a dogteam in mukluk clad feet,
For he's akin to Earth, Jackpine and spruce,
Behind his spurs, he furrows contours neat.

And builds his North with sturdy anvil strokes.
He's a Sourdough, a Northern man—
An Alaskan Native of our land.
One of the dreaming, working, loving clan.

—DELORIS TRIM

Letters to the Editor

July 15, 1968

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor
Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

My name is Anna J. Riley from Unalakleet, Alaska. I am presently working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.

As an Alaskan Native, I was an interested observer at the Congressional Hearings held here on July 11 and 12 regarding the Alaska Native Land Claims. I was truly impressed—and the Congressmen appeared to share my sentiment—at the excellent Native leadership who came to Washington to testify before these Committees on this most important issue.

With a deep sense of pride I witnessed our people demonstrate before the Congress of our country their ability to present a well-prepared and united appeal for a cause that we certainly hope will be given speedy and favorable action by the Congress.

Hopefully this will set a precedent for continued unity by Alaskan Natives as the framework for accomplishing the goals we seek.

Sincerely yours,
Anna J. Riley

Dear Editor:

I am a married man with two small children and a wife to support. I have been trying unsuccessfully for the past ten months to get a job. I am just one of the natives in Alaska who has a very high labor grade scale in construction and many other fields but have yet to be hired this year. There have been many people called to work both above and below my name.

I have heard the people saying to hire the students. Well, tell me this: don't the employers know that a man must support his family and that to do this he must have a job? Can't they see that if the single people take all of the available jobs that there will be none left for the family

Alaska Native Health Center
528 Fifth Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

July 22, 1968

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

Betzi Woodman, Public Information Officer, Alaska Native Health Area Office, Anchorage, asked me to relate to you the following corrections to the Fact Sheet, dated June 27, 1968, which she sent to you recently concerning Contract Medical Care of Alaska Natives by the U. S. Public Health Service.

In paragraph No. 8 she stated "....is received through the Fairbanks Health Center at 528 Fifth Ave., telephone 452-3359." Fairbanks Health Center should be changed to Alaska Native Health Center in Fairbanks; also, the telephone number shown should be changed to 452-3339.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Helen Weitz
Staff Assistant

cc: Betzi Woodman, Public Information Officer ANHAO, Anchorage

man? The union shouldn't even hire the college students because they aren't union members at all and they should be union members before they are hired. I say, think of our families first!

People from the "Lower 48" are getting hired seemingly in preference to Alaskan residents. In the Seattle Times there are three full pages of "help wanted" ads. Almost half of those are from Alaskans advertising for outside help. A person, I feel, should be in Alaska at least six months before they are hired or the Alaskan residents should be hired first.

Have all Alaskans gone crazy? they seem to say, "To blazes with our Alaskan residents. All we're concerned with are our students and the welfare of the people from 'outside.'" Well, don't forget, if the Alaskan resident families can't get along there will be no future students or even a future Alaska to worry about.

Candidates for political office say that if you vote for them you will be hired but, even if you do, you still aren't hired.

The BIA won't even help. They only want to send you to school and you don't get any results in return. Even if you have previous training they will promise but not carry through. When they send you to job training when you come home there are still no jobs.

What's wrong with Alaska?

Respectfully yours,
Tim W. Luke, Sr.
2019 Turner
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

P.S. When a person is called during the union calls and doesn't answer if he is in the hall, his name should be dropped to the bottom of the list.

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; petlatch 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 Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.