

"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— Bolting Republicans

The august body of the Senate of the United States government took a stinging slap in the face last week when three Republican senators walked out on Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education during its tour looking into the education of the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts in Alaska.

Charging "publicity stunt" and suspecting that this was so because of a memo advising Sen. Kennedy to focus television coverage of the inspection tour "on native poverty contrasted with the affluence of government installations," Senators George Murphy, R-California, Henry Bellmon, R-Oklahoma, and William Saxbe, R-Ohio, bolted the Kennedy party in Anchorage.

When that happened, the Senate chambers of the United States took on something of a childishness as well as looking somewhat silly considering the weightiness and intent of the subcommittee's trip to Alaska. The incident took on the aspect that a good portion of the Republican party did not care very much about improving native education in our state but instead chose to make it into a partisan affair.

We were also relieved that our own state Republicans, Sen. Ted Stevens and Congressman Howard Pollock chose to stay on with the Kennedy party to the end. Had they followed the example of their fellow Republicans, it might have been the beginning of the end for them as our representatives in our national government. They chose to stay on and along with Kennedy, saw some of the most squalid conditions among our native people and took admirable part in the education hearing in Fairbanks.

The bolting Republicans, as far as the native people are concerned, may have cast a shadow that may be hard to illuminate for some time. The shadow may not fall on the current Republican incumbents in our state, but it may also prove to be a deterrent.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's trip with his Subcommittee on Indian Education had a profound meaning to the native people of Alaska. It gave them a prime opportunity to air their deep grievances so something might be done about them.

Contrary to what Sen. Murphy, Sen. Bellmon and Sen. Saxbe thought, Kennedy's committee delved into some of the most disturbing native situations on the 4,000 mile trip through the outlying areas. There was an unmistakable evidence that Sen. Kennedy and those who travelled with him were deeply impressed and appalled with what they saw and heard. We are of the firm belief that something concrete will come out of the education probe because the causes and effects of a misguided effort in educating the native people were brought out in their stark realities by witnesses at the Fairbanks hearing and several other village hearings.

LETTERS to EDITOR

April 14, 1969

Editor
Tundra Times
510 Second Ave.
Room 220
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Sir:
I was grieved to note that three of the members of the Senate Committee on Education did not choose to continue the trip to other villages of our great State, after their first day's journey. I wonder if they did not like what they saw, or if they didn't think they wished to see more of the poor conditions of the villages. It would seem to be an unwise choice, for they missed meeting the numbers of wonderful people who live in the rural areas, and who would have welcomed them with as much hospitality as could be mustered.

These men complained about the fact that the event seemed to be "staged." They have obviously a lot to learn about the Alaskan tundra. Perhaps they should have continued after all. Then the weather became poor, and the party could not get into the villages where they were intending to go, the plans were changed, and radio contact was made with other villages. In Alaska, there are no private telephone services in the bush.

If the news goes on the air, every village on that radio band hears the news, and one would be surprised how fast news travels. With the commercial bands, the private agency bands, and the ham radios, we knew in Anchorage just where the committee had been, and what they had done, before they had climbed back on their plane to return to Bethel.

This is one of the factors which makes survival possible in Alaska, and which solidifies the population. Each is dependent upon the other, and many utilize the radio frequencies to keep in touch. Alaska truly is one of the smallest towns in the world. There are those of us who like it this way.

Senators, we are sorry you chose not to stay, for the committee had a most enlightening hearing in Fairbanks. They reflected the fact that they had not only listened, but that they had heard what went on around them on their fact finding trip—the first time a U.S. Senate Committee has come to Alaska for this purpose.

Cordially,
/s/ Jane Sutherland
(Mrs.) Jane Sutherland
1140 Sixth Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Poem— Our People

I think I see OUR PEOPLE there,
I see them with open arms.
They are reaching out for something
and their lips move as they stare

Where are Those who are paid to listen?
Why don't They heed the call?
Their lips make silent noises.
Can't they see OUR PEOPLE fall?

You, who are paid to listen,
beware
Try to see through eyes that are clear.
Do your work for those who need you
Can't you see OUR PEOPLE there?

—NELS A. ANDERSON, JR.

Force is no remedy. —BRIGHT

ASNA Resolution On Tundra Times

ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION
BARROW, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 69-6

Re: Tundra Times

WHEREAS, the "Inupiat Newspaper" the Tundra Times has been very influential, and

WHEREAS, the manner in which it has served the public and particularly the Native Peoples of Alaska, has been to bring out the facts regardless of the parties involved, and

WHEREAS, the Arctic Slope Native Association feels that the Tundra Times through its energetic editor has always lived up to its motto, "I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it,—Voltaire," and

WHEREAS, this is indeed a courageous motto and the paper has more than upheld the rights of all individuals, deserving our most sincere and unflinching recognition,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Arctic Slope Native Association so that the Tundra Times might be the continuing voice of the Native people of Alaska, independent of any financial needs in the future, and most of all it deserves to be recognized, that in the final distribution and enrollment of the Native people with the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Tundra Times be enrolled as a legal body and be entitled to an equal share as if it were a person,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be made a permanent record of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and may be distributed as it sees fit.

Passed by the Board of Directors, Arctic Slope Native Association, April 8, 1969, at Barrow, Alaska.

/s/ Eben Hopson
Executive Director, ASNA

/s/ Walton Ahmaogak
President

/s/ Joseph Upicksoun
1st Vice President

Dan Lisbourne (not present)
2nd Vice President

Edward E. Hopson (not present)
3rd Vice President

/s/ James Nageak
Secretary

/s/ Lester Suvlu
Treasurer

Foster Parenthood to Be Theme of Discussion at Hospitality House

"You are invited to attend a program April 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Hospitality House, 1406 Airport Way, for the purpose of bringing out the joys and the problems of foster parenthood," writes Mrs. Mable Rasmussen, director of the Hospitality House.

Miss Kay Kendall, Institutions and Foster Care consultant, will be present from Juneau to lead discussion following a movie.

Other resources available to provide mutual help and support will be brought out.

Sponsoring agencies in addition to Hospitality House include: Division of Public Welfare, Bureau of Indian Affairs Welfare Division, Division of Corrections, and Alaska Native Health Service.

"Foster-parental is a real challenge and these agencies wish to show their appreciation as well as offer assistance," said Mrs.

Rasmussen. "This will be an informal evening with refreshments. Please invite others if you feel they might be interested."

Native Craft
CARVED IVORY, Slippers; mukluks; custom seal skin parkas.
— R.R. "Bob" Blodgett —
Teller Commercial Company
Teller, Alaska

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.