

**"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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## After 20 Years, What?—

### Upicksoun Addresses Alaska Press Club

(Note: The following are excerpts from a speech by Joe Upicksoun, President of the Arctic Slope Native Association to the Alaska Press Club—September 22, 1971.)

"...As we have talked internally among ourselves—our board of directors and our advisors—we long ago formed the conclusion that the Alaska Press—newspapers, radio, television, and magazines—was sharply critical of the Natives and our position in the settlement.

Now this critical attitude is not so bad, because the Press is supposed to question, to criticize, to make public institutions responsive to the public need. And so, the question is: You have done a fine job in criticizing us; what kind of a job have you done as against the other competitors for our land?

We, the Inupiat Eskimos of the Arctic Slope, have a story to tell the world. For the last time, the United States has a chance to prove to her own citizens and to the rest of the world that her Christian morality is more than words...

The question before the Congress today is: Can the Congress measure up to this high responsibility in settling the land rights of Alaska's Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts on the basis of fair value?

Have you, the Press, devoted any real attention to the honor of the United States? Have you reminded the State government that the more the State gobbles up from the Natives, the less honor the United States and her people will have?

We take courage, however, in Section 4 of the Statehood Act which states: "\*\*\*\*The State and its people do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to any lands or other property\*\*\*\*the right or title to which\*\*\*\*may be held by and Indians, Eskimos or Aleuts\*\*\*\*"

"...The huge frenzy over the pipeline is an example. You see, I feel that most people missed the basic point: Over whose land is it going to be built? That is the initial question.

"...In looking at the Press, we have concluded that the Press has whipped up an hysteria over the pipeline. As a direct product of this hysteria, people up here over-bought on credit, over-spent on credit—all because of this atmosphere that everyone was going to be an instant millionaire. May I suggest that if the Press had really understood the mood of the Native people, it would have been more restrained and much hardship avoided.

You must understand that Western Civilization really didn't touch the North Slope until about 1965, and then it poured in like a gusher that drown everything.

This rampant development inflamed the Eskimos. It was like a bulldozer.

Even today we have no assurance that the Congress will pay us fair value for the extinguishment of our rights in our lands. And we are aware of Adam Smith's law: The ultimate source of all wealth is land...

"...Now we have the oil. We can learn from the whaling the placer mines, copper, salmon and timber. The real backbone of Alaskan industry is Native ownership. We don't leave, because this is our home.

Instead of concentrating on Native ownership, the Alaska Press has given the public the idea that the pipeline is the answer for our economy. We read our editorials and news columns. We also read the publicity put out by Alaska. There will be a construction crew of five to ten thousand for two or three years and a permanent crew of three hundred.

While speaking of the pipeline, we should mention the issue of environmental protection. No matter how competent Alyeska's engineers are, there is always the human factor. Recently, two sailors in Puget Sound forgot to check two valves, so that five thousand barrels (two hundred and ten thousand gallons) were pumped into the Sound.

One of our worries is that a spill will occur and our subsistence living will be injured. Our legal advisors tell us we don't own wild animals, so we can't sue for their destruction even though our subsistence living will be injured. We have, therefore, proposed that the Native regional associations be paid Fifteen Dollars per gallon of spillage and the association would then replace the subsistence living with substitutes to its people.

"...One of our truly basic concerns is that we love the North. We like living there. It is generous to us—the sea, the rivers, the tundra. Our advisors tell us that an oil field has an average life of twenty years. What then?...

## Adam John Protests Cannikin

"Of us, the natives in Alaska, it can be said that we are behind an ice curtain—an ice curtain not put on by any country other than our own. This ice curtain that we are behind is a curtain of silence. The true people of Alaska—the Eskimos, the Athabascans, the Tlingits, the Haidas, the Tsimshians and the Aleuts are essentially behind the ice curtain of silence that is perpetuated by people who want something that belongs to them."

These are the words of Adam John, an Athabaskan Indian, extracted from a tape he made for KRAB radio in Seattle and a T.V. tape distributed network wide across the lower 48.

Last week, Adam John flew to Seattle—to speak against atomic testing at Amchitka. This trip, and he has appeared in the news media before as a speaker against atomic testing in Alaska, was sponsored by Seattle Women Act for Peace.

During five days in Seattle, John was interviewed by the news media, spoke on television and appeared at various places around Seattle. He is a talented and forceful speaker—upset by the fact that Alaska has been contaminated by atomic testing.

Originally, Adam John got on television through being interviewed by Tanna Beebe, an Indian reporter from KIRO-TV whom he knew from New York. Later, his eloquent plea for his people earned him other invitations.

"We are contaminated. I am contaminated. Due to the cause of atomic testing and so forth, radiation has contaminated all the food that we eat in Alaska—the reindeer, the caribou. These are the animals that eat the lichen or the moss on the tundra in the northern areas of Alaska.

"The tundra is like a sponge. Whenever Strontium 90 or Cesium 137 or any radiation particles are brought down into the atmosphere by rain or snow, it is automatically sponged up by the lichen or moss that reindeer or caribou feed on. We the people in turn for our survival feed on caribou and reindeer and we are contaminated.

"We are dying, yet people do not know that we are actually dying. People will have to see Eskimos and Indians in Alaska die before an alarm is brought out and sounded."

Adam John has also spoken to stateside audiences to inform them of Alaskan fears of earthquakes caused by the Amchitka blast next month, of the Aleut suit against the blast and other native fears.

Outside Alaska, not much is known about scientific findings that radiation is drawn to the poles and that Alaskan Eskimos have one of the world's highest body radiation counts.

Adam John, is presently assistant director of the Model Urban Indian Center in Fairbanks.

## Jeane Dixon— Predictions

CHARLES EVERS—The mayor of Fayette, Miss. has most of his disappointments behind him. I see the "Midas Touch" applying to everything he touches between now and 1974. On an upward spiral of winning, he will run for ever higher political office, winning practically every one. By 1977 he will be prominent politically and very wealthy.

It seems that somehow, some way, he will be in the liquor business, although at the same time I get that he has deep religious convictions.

In 1972 I see a great deal of luck coming to him no matter which way he turns or what he does. As time goes by he will get a presidential appointment and will succeed because he will not permit himself to fail.

In spite of his success I get revolutionary tendencies within him... revolutionary vibrations which do not unite the people, but divide them.

Something of great interest to all is coming up in the life of Charles Evers in May or June of

1972.

LEO DUROCHER—His spur-of-the-moment decisions have caused him much trouble...this he cannot help...these are the vibrations he has. Leo very much resents this because he feels he has tried sincerely to do his best in very difficult and tangled situations. Inside he always wondered afterward if he had done the right thing—and anguished over decisions that turned out badly.

He will suffer from a back ailment, but it will disappear with time. There are bright years ahead for him.

SONNY JURGENSON—will retire from active football in the not-too-distant future and take a job where he will be giving advice and/or instruction. He will not be a full-time player this coming season, but will still be important in an advisory role. A great change is coming in his life, but he is not one to complain because of it. September of this year will bring him great opportunities.

## Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Your birthday today: Dynamic personal adjustments feature your life this coming year and a half. Your energy level rises dramatically in response to health care regimes. Romance sparkles in unexpected moments. Today's natives are industrious and adapt themselves to carry heavy responsibility.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: Accept distraction and general inefficiency as the natural environment and go ahead the best you can.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Negotiations of all sorts are strongly favored—even side issues may serve some good purpose. Settle and improve working conditions.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Choose the younger, spirited approach to all questions. Make it an active day of personal growth.

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: Stay with your earlier plans; keep your sights set on long-range goals. Trying to bring others with you doesn't work out very well.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: Different ideas offer challenge, inspiration; if they're somebody else's, all the better. Use them where yours are lacking.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]:

Break away from set habits, old routines. Seek short cuts, efficiency at work while sparing no effort.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Many transactions work out more smoothly with less direct pressure from you. People rearrange themselves with little arbitration.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Any hard-pressed effort provokes repercussions. The simple, serene path is the only really feasible course. Later hours favor thanksgiving moods.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Extra work diverts and upsets most schedules. Do what you must without complaint, knowing you'll be redeemed later for your sacrifices.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Follow your head today; leave personalities aside. Waiting until others come to terms among themselves is part of your responsibility.

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Within proper context, an outside observer may offer uncomfortable comments you need to hear and learn.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: Peculiar conditions pop up for you. Values, prices, figures need verification. Let others buy for themselves to avoid confusion.

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## Native Youth Movement— Mitch Demientieff Is Movement Chief

By CYNTHIA SMZYO

On Friday, September 24th, the Native Youth Movement held its second meeting at the Fairbanks Native Community Center.

During the meeting, elections were held. Chief of the Movement is Mitch Demientieff; se-

cond chief, Ted Sutton; third chief Al Judson; secretary, Barbara Albert. The five councilmen elected are Amy Kalloch, Roy Otton, Lucy Jimmie, Joyce Demientieff and Reggie Joseph. Shirley Demientieff was appointed draft counselor.

As of now, the NYM is working on two projects. First, they

are helping to campaign for Sam Kito in the race for seat C of the North Star Borough school board. Second, they are helping the day care center get started.

A class in Cultural Heritage of the Athabaskan Indian is to be held every Monday night at the Fairbanks Native Commu-

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