

"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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The Superlative Effort

The native leadership effort trying for equitable resolution of the Alaska native land claims in recent weeks has been nothing short of remarkable. And the response from the White House on these efforts has also been awe-inspiring and almost unbelievable in scope as well as the extent of understanding the complex problem.

The White House has shown to date the closest and equitable approach to the claims issue as presented by the native leadership. President Richard Nixon and his Vice President Spiro Agnew have lent sympathetic ears. As a result, they have buoyed up tremendous hopes for equitable resolution to the claims issue never before realized in the long struggle for solution.

The National Council on Indian Opportunity, in our opinion, played a vital role in involving the White House on the issue. The NCIO, an organization to better Indian situations, has the membership of the cabinet members, Indian leaders, and is chaired by Vice President Agnew. That organization, the Alaska native leadership with the backing of Indian leaders throughout the nation, and the President's insistence that the Indians pursue self-determination in meeting their needs, no doubt determined the formulation of the White House native land claims bill that was made public last week. The bill is asking for 40 million acres of land, \$500 million from the U.S. Treasury, and another \$500 million from revenue sharing. The White House bill is superseded only by the Alaska Federation of natives backed bill introduced by Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma. That bill is asking 60 million acres, \$500 million along with 2 per cent overriding royalty in perpetuity.

Mrs. Laura Bergt, a lady of Eskimo extraction from Kotzebue, now of Fairbanks, was instrumental in the arrangement of the White House meeting of the AFN members, including Donald Wright, AFN president, Laura herself, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton, President Nixon's special assistants and which was chaired by Vice President Agnew. Laura had requested Agnew at the Indian leaders conference at Kansas City that the administration members meet with the Alaska Federation of Natives representatives on the matter of the land claims issue.

The White House meeting was held on March 12, chaired by Agnew at the outset. During the two-hour meeting, Agnew turned the chair over to AFN President Don Wright who then presented a dramatic appeal to the administration on the question of the native land claims. It is being deemed now that Wright's eloquent presentation might have influenced policy changes by the administration toward the claims issue, and that these changes have been reflected in the White House bill.

The White House meeting, a major event in itself, had a unique and amusing beginning. It all started with the rubbing of noses—(an old Eskimo custom which we understand was done mostly by Eskimo grandmothers to their grandchildren to lessen the chance of giving the baby some sickness)—between the experienced Laura Bergt and neophyte Spiro Agnew.

The unique protocol might have helped to break the ice leading to Laura's request of Agnew that a White House meeting be held.

After that historic get-together, Tundra Times contacted President John Borbridge of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska at his Juneau office. When asked what he thought of the White House meeting, Borbridge was quick to reply:

"We are thinking around here that that bit of Eskimo osculation between Laura and Agnew might have been worth about two million acres."

Who knows, it could be worth more than that. At any rate, we will be part of the huge audience watching the congressional legislation in the near future to resolve the century old Alaska native land claims issue.

Native Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Entry forms have been forwarded to Alaska artists and craftsmen, the Tundra Times, Juneau Museum, Sitka Workshop, Walsh's store-Kotzebue, CEDC Coops, Sunnair, University of Alaska Inupiat Assoc., Nome Skin Sewers, Shishmaref Coop., Alaska Indian Arts-Haines and Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum for the Fifth Annual Juried Native Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held June 7-30, 1971 at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum.

Deadline for mailed entries is May 1 while hand-carried entries may be brought to the Museum May 2 and 3 between 9 AM and 5 PM.

The exhibit sponsored by the Alaska Festival of Native Arts, an affiliate of the Alaska Festival of Music and the Anchorage

Community College features categories of basketry, sculpture, models and miniatures, masks, graphics, beadwork, skin sewing, metal crafts, jewelry, dolls, utensils, and yo-yos, from artists and craftsmen of Alaska Eskimo, Indian or Aleut descent.

At last year's show, over 1000 items were submitted by over 200 artists and craftsmen. Special events are scheduled June 18, 19, and 20 to coincide with the Alaska Festival of Music (June 11-24, 1971).

It is anticipated that this year's will be even larger than last as artists and craftsmen whose entries are selected for the exhibition will receive payment in advance for their items.

Those items not selected for the exhibition will be placed in the "sales area" of the Museum and payment will be forwarded

after the sales transaction.

Exhibition cash prizes will be awarded not only for Best of Show—\$100.00—, but also within each category (except yo-yo category which is one prize of \$7.50). In each category, first prize is \$50; second is \$35; third is \$25; fourth is \$15, and also Honorable Mention Certificates.

Prizes will be awarded on the basis of design and craftsmanship at the discretion of the judges who will be Mr. Michael Kennedy, Director of the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, Ruth Koweluk, Wales Traditional artist in skin sewing and Glenn Simpson, professor of Art at the University of Alaska.

The Alaska Festival of Native Arts activities are partially funded by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Festival of Music.

Letters from Here and There

Sleeping Bag Co. Manager Replies

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter is in reply to a letter published several weeks ago in the Tundra Times. Two villagers from Togiak, Alaska have had delays in merchandise from the Alaska Sleeping Bag Co., according to the teacher who wrote to the Tundra Times, last- ing close to a year.)

Alaska Sleeping Bag Co.
13150 S.W. Dawson Way
Beaverton, Oregon 97005
March 31, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

An article in your "Letters" column in the March 17, 1971 issue of TUNDRA TIMES has

Poem—

MY LAND

A pious feeling of the Land
have I,
It scatters beyond the mountains
and the Sea—
To the Aurora.
Unreachable greatness—
Yet a unity of the Land and me.

As I view a wintry sunrise,
The shimmering frost—
A feeling of Harmony
Of the Land and me.

I am proud to have this arrogant
alliance
With this Land
Forever present.

—DOROTHY M. LARSON

Poem—

MY BEAUTIFUL HOME, MY BEAUTIFUL DREAM

I'm going to north and south;
I'm going to west and east,
taking all my feelings away from
home,
and forget the past of my home.
expect to find what I really want
but to find that I wanted more
and more
no use wanting more and more.

the beauty is at home only,
so I'm back to the meadows of
my home,
where my beautiful mona lisa
waits for me,
and I'm back home with all my
feelings—
to my beautiful home,
my beautiful dream.

—JOHN ANGAIAK

been brought to our attention. Jim Baenen, Principal-Teacher of Twin Hills School in Togiak, writes that shipments were delayed on merchandise which two villagers ordered by mail from Alaska Sleeping Bag Company.

We are writing Mr. Baenen to obtain the names and addresses of these villagers so an investigation of their orders can be made.

Because of our volume of mail order sales increasing tremendously, an electronic computer system was installed by us last fall to facilitate processing of orders. Regrettably many unanticipated problems developed in programming the computer, resulting in delays in order processing.

Coupled with this was inability to anticipate the phenomenal growth of our mail order business during the fall and winter. What were judged to be ample stocks of merchandise were ordered from suppliers, but these proved to be inadequate to meet customer requirements. Since many of our products are specially made for us there have been understandable delays in obtaining additional special fabrics and other materials for the manufacture of additional merchandise.

Fortunately, both of these problems are being resolved.

Alaska Sleeping Bag Company has been in business for 40 years, and we are proud of the fact that large numbers of Alaskans (as well as outdoorsmen in all parts of the world) have relied upon us throughout this time for clothing and sleeping bags. It has always been our policy to provide superior quality products and complete customer satisfaction.

We regret that circumstances caused inconvenience to the villagers of Togiak as described in Mr. Baenen's letter, and will take whatever action is necessary to provide complete satisfaction to these customers.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Ando

Manager - Purchasing

Letter to Egan

P.O. Box 1572
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
March 5, 1971

The Honorable Governor
William Egan
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Egan:

We are writing to protest the budget cut in the Department of Health and Welfare, and specifically those services to people as reflected in Mental Health, Public Health, Public Welfare, and Corrections. Budgets are already inadequate and cutting such services will further deprive those Alaskans who are experiencing the greatest difficulty in maintaining themselves in our economy.

As social workers we see our clients' desperate situations, and therefore we feel compelled to state our dissatisfaction with these proposed department cuts. We request that funding be continued at least at the current fiscal year level.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Margaret Wolfe

Secretary

Anchorage Social Service Assn.

CC: Lowell Thomas, Jr., Chairman Senate Health, Welfare, Education.
John Butovich, Chairman Senate Finance.
Genie Chance, Chairman House Health, Welfare and Education.
George Hohman, Jr., Chairman House Finance.
Chancy Croft
Clifford Groh
Joe Josephson
C.R. Lewis
John Rader
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Mike Rose
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