

*"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—

# Native corporations key to economy

The winding down of activity which accompanies the near completion of the Alyeska pipeline offers a unique opportunity to the Alaska Native corporations and the Alaska business community to forge a partnership for keeping the state's economy moving during the post-oil line era.

Best estimates indicate that the state faces a three-year slump between completion of the Alyeska project and start-up on the gas-line. More businessmen in Alaskan economic centers are making plans to enter into partnerships and joint ventures with Native corporations during the slump.

There are good reasons for developing such partnerships. For one, these corporations have money. Sections six and nine of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act authorize the payment of 962.5 million dollars to these corporations. Of this amount, barely 30 per cent has been disbursed. Secondly, they have land — the best land in the State of Alaska. This week Joe Upicksoun, president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, is the man with the three million acre smile. ASRC became the first regional Native corporation to own land under the terms of ANCSA, and they have three million additional acres available for selection. The village corporations are at a similar advantage. The same desirable qualities which encouraged settlement of Native villages in their locales offer matchless attraction for OCS activity and other development.

In locating financing with which to leverage their money, the Native corporations are further favored. Loan guarantees, interest subsidies and other such provisions of Federal law designed to give minority businessmen a break have a great deal of benefit for the corporations.

Numerous activity among non-profit Native corporations are generating parallel opportunities for private investment. AVCP will contract for the total operation of 28 schools currently operated by the Federal government. The Tanana Chiefs are developing plans to operate hospitals, schools and colleges, and manage multi-million dollar contracts employing 184 persons. Projects are in full swing throughout Alaska to build hundreds of houses seasonally in response to rural housing needs. Tlingit and Haida people are leading the state in innovative creation of a regional electric authority.

Investments made to date by the profit regionals are astounding in size and diversity. One can check into a hotel room (Native corporations own more hotel space in Alaska than all other interests combined) in a Native-owned hotel with an Anchorage city view overlooking a Native-owned bank, shopping malls, office buildings, numerous Native-owned business and several other Native-owned hotels.

The money and the businesses Natives now have are cause for excitement enough, but now comes the land the resources. The attitude of the Native corporations toward land ownership can be summed in the words of Koniag Corporation leader Hank Eaton, who states, "The billion dollars is nothing; it's the land that's the real settlement."

Many of the things the Native corporations have been doing the past five years have been quiet, subtle actions which have been disguised amid the oil boom. But, now take away the oil construction effort and take a close look at what is the real fabric of Alaskan economy and one will discover the Alaska Native and his corporations. Native interests are the key to Alaskan economic well-being.

Discovery of this reality is a source of pride for those of us of Native heritage. Yet, we are not so proud as to believe we cut ourselves off from the rest of Alaska. Alaska Natives and the Alaska business community should work closely together to forge a partnership to keep our economy moving in a progressive, orderly manner. Alaska Native or Alaskan — we are Alaskans who must live together in Alaska.

—T.R.j.

## Letters from Here and There

### U of A defends Barrow actions

November 11, 1976

Dear Editor:

Recent news stories telling of irregularities in the operation of the University of Alaska extension center at Barrow failed to point out that the university began looking into this situation last July and since then has taken appropriate steps, including contacting the District Attorney's Office in Fairbanks, to set it straight.

The enclosed copy of my letter to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education outlines the action taken by the university, since last July, when irregularities were first suspected at Barrow. I urge you to publish it as a letter to the editor, in the interest of giving the public a balanced account of this unfortunate matter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hiatt  
President  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, Alaska

November 9, 1976

Alaska Commission on  
Postsecondary Education  
Pouch F - State Office  
Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Attn: Mrs. Banfield, Chairman

The Commission's resolution regarding the University's extension program at Barrow and the follow-up news article in the Anchorage Times are somewhat surprising actions in view of the fact that the entire Barrow matter is under investigation by several State and federal law enforcement agencies. Perhaps the Commission is unaware of the actions taken by the University which might have assuaged its concern and made unnecessary this item on its agenda. The following information highlights University actions thus far:

Mid-July: University Internal Auditor sent to Barrow for in-depth audit of the Extension operation

29 July: Audit completed and return to Fairbanks

30 July: Report on audit to the President

30 July: Richard Ivey, Barrow Extension Coordinator, suspended for irregularities

4 August: Contact made with District Attorney's Office (Pat Gulluffen), Fairbanks, with offer of all information available and assistance needed, for certain irregularities appeared to be illegal.

15 August: Student records frozen as evidence uncovered that course records may have been faked and teachers improperly paid.

17 August: Ivey appointment terminated. He left State.

Upon Ivey's departure all Extension Office records in Barrow were impounded by the State Troopers in Barrow, and are still held by them.

Richard Ivey's records submitted to our Registrar's Office for payments to teachers are impeccable. Student registrations are in order; course fees were collected, recorded and submitted properly. During the Spring semester all these ac-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Alaska Legal Almanac—

### landlords obligations to maintain your apartment



It is the landlord's obligation to maintain your apartment in a fit and habitable condition. This means that the landlord must maintain, in safe and working order, all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, ventilating and kitchen facilities supplied by him/her.

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ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES