

"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—

# Politics Getting A Running Start

If we are wrong, tell us, but we think that Alaska politics are getting an unusually early start in the new year of 1970. We have to leave to speculation for now as to why politicians are seeming to champ at the bit. Some of them are already off to a running start. As things are developing politics-wise, the 1970 election year might turn out to be one of the most feverish the state has ever seen. It could be one of the most exciting as well.

Alaska's native people will be very much involved in the political year of 1970. They might as well get good and ready to take a full part in it—get in the swim of it up to their necks and plan to make their politics felt where it counts the most.

The results of the election will, no doubt, have strong influences among the native people. They might as well start thinking now that some candidates, if elected, will have negative influences on them. As some politicians are saying now, they should be selective as for whom they cast their votes.

It is also time for their leaders to start work in unity to influence their people and prepare them for well aimed political efforts. This should be the year where our people apply their politics to the fullest extent possible.

## Writer on Hot Lunch Program

Dear Mr. Rock:

The fact reported in your editorial of December 26th, 1969, that, nearly all State operated rural schools may have a hot lunch program in the near future, is certainly good holiday news.

However, I object to your editorial comment on the charges to be made for the school lunches. The National School Lunch Program, commonly referred to as the Hot Lunch Program, is a 25 year old federal program designed to help states and local school districts finance a costly but necessary school lunch plan. Within each state, each local school district has the option to accept the federal program and the funds which go along with it. However, once a local school district, such as Alaska State operated schools, accepts the federal school lunch program it is obligated to do several things. One of these obligations is to serve free or reduced-price lunches to all eligible children in each school within the district. Eligibility for a free or reduced-price lunch is determined by family size and income, or, in the alternative, eligibility for other welfare programs. There can be no discrimination between children receiving free and reduced-price lunches and children paying full prices.

This general program of free lunches and the policy implicit

in free lunches was determined long ago by the United States Congress. The local school district reaffirmed this policy when it elected to assume the federal program. Thus, the policy with regard to the charges to be made for school lunches has already been made and is in effect in the large majority of schools in America. This policy cannot be altered or reduced by either the local district or the individual school.

The Congressional intent in formulating the free lunch policy was that a school lunch, regardless of the economic conditions of the child's family, is as much a right to that child as education itself. The school lunch program should not be looked upon as a portion of the welfare system, but as a part of the educational system (in fact the Alaska school lunch program is coordinated through the Department of Education). Just as poor black and white children are receiving a free lunch when they are determined eligible under the federal guidelines, Native children in Alaska should be receiving a free lunch as a right when they are eligible.

Sincerely,  
Spike Stein  
510½ M Street  
Apartment A  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## Letters to the Editor

333 East 68th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Jan. 2, 1970

Dear Editor:

I send you herewith my check for \$8.00 to renew my subscription to your excellent paper. It was given to me last Christmas (1968) by my daughter Lisa (Mrs. Joseph) Rudd of Anchorage, and I have read every number as it came.

I strongly agree with your stand on native rights and pray that the Congress will do justice to the native people of Alaska. It has been my contention for some years that the native Americans were the great forgotten minority. Time is running out, but there is yet time for the con-

Cape Smythe Whaling  
& Trading Company  
Barrow, Alaska  
Dec. 31, 1969

Dear Sir:

Reading about, also seeing the T.V. program, Wolf Men. Anyone in his right mind can understand what angle the scientific student is trying to put across in the minds of the public.

I was born in Alaska and loved the nature and sent thousands of specimen to most of the large museums in the lower states. Living out in what we call the brush country, for over 25 years, trapping, fur bearing animals, also having reindeer as cattle, range covering 1,250,000 sq. miles.

I feel I am about as qualified to make a few remarks regarding the wolf. First, the whole North Slope of the Brooks Range once contained over 200,000 reindeer now there is none. Second, I estimated one spring of about 20,000 caribou passing through the Anaktuvuk Pass moving northward to roam the flat rolling hills and give birth to their young.

My reindeer herd was the last to go of all the domesticated reindeer north of the Brooks Range. What I saw the wolf did to the other herds east and west of my grazing area made me more vigilant, and I had to keep night and day herders. Still the wolf waited, when a blowing storm came, he did not take the sick and the lame but cut out 40 to 100 from a herd and would slaughter nearly all he took and did not even touch any to feed. If he did take time, all he cut out was the tongue. This same story of the wolf killing the vast domesticated reindeer does not jive that he kills only to eat.

Again regarding the caribou, before the large wolf packs were hunted down by bounty hunters from small plane, they, the caribou, were not holding out but were becoming more and more scarce.

Illustration: One day one of my reindeer herders and myself watch a large caribou herd stalked by 14 wolves. The herd was uneasy. When the time was ready four wolves appeared from behind the herd and a stampede started which would head this herd straight toward a bluff which would be impossible for any game to descend. As the momentum grew more wolves appeared and as the herd approached the bluff from both sides the attack started in a very short order. There were dead caribou, also many that could hardly move due to the leg sinews damaged to them.

I am one who has very little love for a killer that kills for lust. Surely wolf pups can be raised and play around with, but his

(Continued on page 6)

science of the country to assert itself.

Godspeed in your good work.

Yours very sincerely,  
Nathan Starr

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