

"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—

An Opportune Time For Land Hearings

The U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is planning to hold its version of native land claims hearings in Alaska sometime in October. This means many native leaders will be traveling, probably to Anchorage, to attend it. Some of the delegation members will barely be able to afford to go there because of high transportation costs.

It is also customary for the Alaska Federation of Natives to hold its annual convention in October on the first week of that month in conjunction with the Tundra Times annual anniversary banquet which falls on Saturday October 4 this year in Anchorage, Alaska. Native leaders from every corner of the state numbering about 300 will be converging on the Cook Inlet City for the convention and to attend the banquet.

We think that it would be an opportune time for the House committee to hold its hearings around the time when AFN had its annual meeting in Anchorage. It will be the greatest gathering of the native leadership in the state and its main interest will be the native land claims situation. Since this will be so, it would be a good idea for Chairman Wayne Aspinall and his committee to give it serious consideration. It would not only be a significant time, but it would have the keen interest of the large congregation of native leaders and who are already anticipating the hearings.

If the hearings are held then, it would also mean saving money because many of the native men and women would not have to make a second trip if the hearings are held at another time. Many of the village delegates cannot afford to make a second trip.

We hope Congressman Aspinall will give our suggestion a fair consideration.

Editorial—

Only One Bob Cooper

William Robert (Bob) Cooper hid his true, humanitarian feelings behind his colorful and profane manner of speaking which he did with abandon and flare wherever he went or sat. Very few men, if any, will ever compare with him. He was Bob Cooper and nobody else.

A crash took his life over two weeks ago after a career of bush flying for 25 years, 16 of those years in the wilds of Alaska.

"That man—he would fly to some far off village in almost any kind of weather to pick up a sick native and bring him to a hospital. Not many people perhaps would believe this but Bob was that kind of a man. He cared for people no matter who they were," said a friend of his this week.

Bob has left a big void among his many pals and friends. He was a man unto himself—a cussing, hard-drinking man but a man with pure kindness nevertheless.

Legends by Jimmy Killigivuk—

The Tale of a Wise Raven

(Copyright 1969 by Jimmy Killigivuk)

By JIMMY KILLIGIVUK
Point Hope, Alaska

A long long time ago there was a man living at Point Hope who was a very poor hunter. No one could say that he didn't try hard, but the results were pitiful. He didn't get any animals in any season of the year.

Although they had no children, the man was very embarrassed that he and his wife had to be supported by their generous neighbors. He tried hunting every day but got no animals.

One day, when he felt particularly ashamed, this man decided he would kill himself by starvation so that he would have no descendants. He got up very early in the morning, walked about seven miles east past a rise called Beacon Hill, and laid down in the snow to die. He threw away his weapons, a bow and arrow, and closed his eyes looking very much like the dead man he wanted to be.

Several hours after he had lain down, a flock of ravens happened upon the "body." They chattered among themselves about this curious thing and circled the man. The man in the meantime just laid there with his eyes half-closed listening to the ravens talking to one another.

"When shall we cut his eyes out? I can't wait!"

"We'd better not. Our king will be coming around soon I think, so maybe we should wait for him."

"Yes, that sounds like a good idea."

After a short time, the man heard, "Look, here he comes now. King, our king. Let us cut this man's eyes out!"

The raven king arrived, looked over the situation, and replied, "Yes, but I will be the one to cut his eyes out."

The raven king jumped on the man's chest and drew a fine, long dagger. Just as he was about to start the action, the man, who thought that he had heard enough about what they were going to do to him, sat up and yelled. The birds were all scared away except for the king who dropped his dagger as he jumped to the ground.

The man examined the dagger and said, "Hmmm. This could be of use to me. I think I'll keep it."

"Give me back my knife," ordered the raven king.

"No, I won't."

"What use could it have for you?"

"It could help me to kill animals when I go hunting."

"You don't fool me. I know you. You are a poor hunter and cannot catch ANY game. No caribou, no seal, no oograk, no nothing. Now give me my knife!"

"I'll keep it as long as I live!"

The two argued vehemently over the dagger for quite some time. Suddenly the man grabbed the knife and stood up. The raven king, not frightened by this, pushed the man over backwards.

"Look behind you," the raven said.

The man looked over his shoulder and saw a long straight piece of driftwood.

"When you went hunting, that went with you and scared your game away. Use this wood inside your house for a tuuruk (a long piece of wood attached to a wall for a head rest). Each time when you return from hunting, rest against it. Now stand up again."

The amazed man obeyed the bird. As soon as he was on his feet, the raven knocked him down again. This time the man heard a metallic clang when he

hit the ground. He looked around and found a bucket with a water dipper in it.

"When you went hunting, that was with you and the noise scared your game away. From

now on when you return from hunting, drink water from this bucket with the dipper. Stand up now!"

Again the man obeyed. The (Continued on page 6)

Polling Shows Alaskans Against Amchitka Blast

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

In a statewide poll conducted in the middle of August 1969, we found that 57 per cent of those Alaskans responding indicated that they were opposed to the impending Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear test at Amchitka. Like these people I am very much concerned about this test and wish to do something about it.

Also, like most of these folks who participated in the public opinion poll I too am unskilled in the physical sciences and the parlance of the scientific world. However, this does not preclude our participation in the dialogue that should precede an undertaking of the magnitude scheduled for Amchitka sometime between September 25 and October 15th.

I am concerned not only because I see possible dangers in the months and years ahead from man made earthquakes, tidal waves, ecological damage, fallout, damage to wildlife but because there are so many inconsistencies surrounding the impending test.

Examples are plentiful. To state only a couple, I am concerned when I observed State Representative Chuck Sassara who had raised a dissenting voice due to the lack of information available to him, squelched by a legislative spokesman who announced a briefing for legislators by the AEC on September 26th or some six weeks later. For the life of me, I cannot imagine why the legislators would have to wait until the period of when the tests are scheduled to secure a briefing on the test and its potential dangers.

I am concerned when I see confusion surrounding a statement made by our Senior Senator on Anchorage television this past week. In an interview on the News in Depth program in KENI, August 21, Senator Ted Stevens stated that he wasn't overly concerned about the Amchitka test since in two briefings by the AEC he had been informed that the size of the weapon was no greater than the Long Shot test conducted in 1965. This is not accurate. The current test which is to be called Milrow is designated as a calibration test and by all indications will reach the one megaton stage. This represents a leap forward with the Amchitka site for the only previous test conducted on the Island was the Long Shot explosion in 1965 which measured in intensity at 80 kilotons.

Senator Stevens told Dick Holwill, who questioned this, that if this were not accurate then he had been misled. In checking today with the AEC I was informed that Senator Stevens must have been confused with an AEC statement that the test to be conducted at Amchitka is no larger than two previous one megaton tests conducted in the Nevada test site. However, this is not what Senator Stevens said and in checking with Dick Holwill, he confirms the specific statement relating to Long Shot.

Further, I am very much concerned when I read an editorial in Alaska's leading newspaper, the Anchorage Daily Times, which states, in effect, that maybe an earthquake in the Aleutian Chain might even be a good thing, since it would allow our scientists to learn more about earthquakes and might even possibly relieve pressure in the circum-Pacific seismic belt and thus reduce the magnitude of future earthquakes. Quite frankly, this statement frightens me, since it confirms what we have been hearing from the scientific community relative to the potential short range and long range damaging results from underground testing in such an earthquake prone area.

What concerns me most is that where a majority of Alaskans are very much concerned about the impending tests, their elected representatives are sitting on the sidelines apparently oblivious to the potential danger.

I am urging every Alaskan who feels that the proposed Amchitka blast needs closer examination to contact his elected representatives, congressional or otherwise, asking for them to secure impartial information relative to the upcoming test and to request a postponement of the blast until that time when we here in Alaska can be assured that such a test will not be harmful to either our people, their land, their wildlife or their posterity. Alaska's delicate land it being torn, gouged, burnt, mined, drilled and now blasted. It behooves all of us interested in Alaska to at least ascertain the possible resultant damaging affects to our country.

Sincerely,
Larry Brayton
Drawer 412-ECB
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
August 28, 1969

ARTIFACTS WANTED! If you are going to sell old-time objects, please contact the Alaska State Museum first. If you have old-time things that need special care, you can lend them to the Museum for safe-keeping and display. If your things are in the Alaska State Museum, they stay in Alaska. Contact: Jane Wallen, Director, Alaska State Museum, Pouch FM, Juneau, Alaska 99801, phone 586-1224.

