

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire



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Other Voices—

Slope Areas Forever Without High Schools

All native Alaska is looking at what attitude the State government of Alaska has on the North Slope Borough application of the Arctic Slope Native Association.

Let us put this application in perspective. For decades the Eskimos have not had junior and senior high schools. Today, Point Hope, Wainwright, Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass have no junior high schools. Barrow has no senior high school.

Two years ago the State got \$900 million out of the North Slope. Two legislatures have met since then. The state government from the highest to the lowest, from the Governor to the legislature on down has not returned five cents to the Slope.

The only way the Eskimos can demonstrate their love for their children is by sending them a thousand miles to junior and senior high schools. From the youngsters' point of view it is like being reared without love.

Is there any place in the whole United States where such injustice exists?

The Arctic Slope Native Association says they want a borough so they can build their own schools. We support them.

We wonder what the oil industry will do. We think waiting for two legislatures, let alone the decades of neglect is long enough.

With a borough, Eskimos can build their own schools for their own children, their beloved children.

—Name on File

NANA Board Meets—

Approves AFN Land Selection Plan

The Northwest Alaska Native Association's Board of Directors met at the village of Noorvik for which was to be one of the most important gatherings since the formation of NANA in '66.

The NANA board has been meeting regularly since '66 and has established a strong inter-board relationship and as a result feels itself capable of administering many of the services initiated in this region thru the State and Federal Government agencies. For a start, NANA signed a contract with the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of developing a comprehensive Social Services study for the entire NANA region.

Senator Willie Hensley, who spent much time in Washington D.C. lobbying for the Alaska Native Land Claims Bill, explained the position of this legislation. After much discussion, the board endorsed the position the AFN took and this being the selection of 30 million acres of land by the villages prior to any State selections plus an additional 10 million acres of free

floating land selection; creation of 12 strong regional corporations with provisions to merge by referendum of the regions involved; a provision that would allow a village on the borders of proposed regions to select the region it feels more interrelated by a village vote; with the strongest terms, a provision that would allow native land allotments that have been filed, be processed without penalty; and the elimination of any provisions that will allow non-natives to participate in the land claims settlement directly thru municipal corporations since this is a NATIVE land claims settlement.

The board also passed a resolution strongly opposing the state selection of land southeast of the present terminal-airfield area in Kotzebue. The board backed this resolution by summarizing each aspect of the city of Kotzebue's unique land shortage problem.

Evacuation at Tununak -- Villagers Build Tent Village Before Amchitka Shot

By MARIE TOSCANO
Tununak, Alaska

November 6, 1971—About an hour ago, I returned to my home after a most unusual day for Tununak. Today on Amchitka Island the "bomb" was tested.

For some time now we have been hearing about this proposed test and a number of dates was given before today's was finally decided upon.

It was mid October and I was sitting in the home of a dear Eskimo friend and we were drinking tea. Rather suddenly, Susie said, "Marie you come with us to our tent." Her statement took me by surprise and she then proceeded to explain. The people of Tununak would evacuate on the day of the test. They were sewing their tents and would start moving their belongings up to the hill in preparation for the day. I thanked her and accepted. This was the first of many offers because the Eskimos wanted to be sure that I was not left alone in the village.

Two years ago, when there was an atomic test on Amchitka, these people went up to the hill, but there was not the preparation then that there was for today. The people knew that today's test was to be much more powerful and they were much afraid of a tidal wave. We live about 50 yards from the Bering Sea.

During this past week, the preparations were in full swing. From my window I could see the community of tents building up on the hill. Snow machines and sleds were going back and forth, back and forth carrying the people's meager possessions. The children in school all talked about the "bomb" and learned how to make sounds like a bomb explosion. Their drawings were of bombs. They knew what was going on and I could sense the uneasiness in them. Whenever I met an adult, the conversation was always about

the bomb.

As a rule, I do not panic in adverse situations, but I must admit that these past few days have made me extremely uneasy. The thought of a tidal wave is frightening. And two days ago, when we heard that this issue would go to the Supreme Court, I honestly felt a twinge of relief—I felt sure the Supreme Court would stop the test. Because of time zone differences, we would not hear the Supreme Court's decision until this morning. Having awakened early, I was by the radio for the first newscast this morning. It stunned me for a moment to hear the Supreme Court's decision, 4 to 3 to go ahead with the test. Apparently, the whole village was listening to the same first newscast because suddenly I heard much commotion and as I looked out I saw men, women and children coming and going in all directions. Then they started running all around. About a dozen people came to my door to make sure that I was going up to the hill.

It was not the kind of day I would ordinarily choose to take a walk up to the hill. It was windy and snowing. Old grandmothers and grandfathers were being driven up on the sleds. Younger people were still carrying last minute items they wanted with them. Children brought their puppies and kittens. I was one of the last to leave the village and Tununak looked like a ghost town and the houses were virtually empty. Watching the people through all this struck me as comic and tragic at the same time. I laughed—and then I really felt like crying.

When I got to the hill, I went into one of the tents that had a radio. It was a few minutes before blast off. As we sat huddled silently in the tent, the man on the radio counted down...4, 3, 2, 1, zero time. His voice was very calm as he described what was happening

and telling us that his building had a considerably rocking motion. The Eskimos were immediately relieved when the earth below us did not shake.

Thankfully, there is always a comic relief in such situations. Ten minutes after the blast, one woman looked at me and asked "...when are we going to have bomb?" She had not realized the bomb had gone off and everyone had a good laugh over this—including the woman herself.

Someone then announced—let's have tea and bread! The Coleman stove was brought forward and Paul made us tea. Everyone was now talking excitedly. They had expected an earthquake or tidal wave to occur immediately after the blast and they now felt there was no more need to worry. The lady next to me had a large bag filled with her things and she laughed as she showed me a bottle of cologne she brought with her. Her husband was asking her for a can opener for the can of butter and she said she forgot it. We all teased her about bringing the cologne and forgetting the can opener.

The next hour or so was spent visiting the people in their tents and drinking tea with them. In one tent, a seven year old boy asked his mother why she did not offer me bread with my tea...because I lived alone and did not have a mommy or daddy and maybe I didn't have bread. Such beautiful simplicity!

Everyone now decided that they should begin moving back down. And so for the next several hours they reversed what they had been doing all week. They have stopped for tonight. But they are all delighted to be back in their own little homes.

The scientists, politicians and all the people involved in this test will probably never know the effect they had on 260 people in a small Alaskan village.

Letters from Here and There

November 16, 1971

fairly settled.

November 8, 1971

Dear Editor:

Any "solution" to the Alaska Native Land Rights issue that does not allow the Natives first choice of the lands they wish to retain would be ludicrous.

By seeking a legislative, rather than judicial means of gaining final title to land, the Natives long ago indicated their desire to compromise. This compromise has always been taken to mean the amount of land they are to retain, and the amount of compensation they are to receive for extinguishment of their rights to the remainder of Alaska. Such compromise was never intended to include the order in which selections are to be made.

The Homesteader who sells his land to a Real Estate Developer has the right to decide which parcel of his acreage he wishes to keep for himself. In the same vein, the Alaska Natives must have first choice, if they so desire, on which lands they wish to retain.

This is the only way this action, which can bring to a close a more than 100 year old Real Estate transaction, can be

Terry T. Brady
Anchorage, Alaska

P.O. Box 125
Tanana, Alaska 99777
November 18, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

This is my personal feeling on the land claims. To the people who call Alaska home.

Alaska will never become the great country it was meant to be unless we open our hearts to the people of our country. Not only Alaska but the world where there is hunger, poverty, and helpless people unable to speak for themselves, such as our children and the very old.

There is a shortage, not of money or land, but a shortage of LOVE for HUMANITY. Money and land seems to be more important than the people who live and will live on this great land.

For Peace in Harmony
Marion E. Charley

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

I would like to point out an oversight which appeared in the Rural CAP Tundra Times page on October 20. There was a lengthy article discussing Governor Egan's opposition to the new Three Mile Limits set by the State Department. We neglected to point out that this issue was brought to our attention by Gordon Jackson, who is the director of Southeast Alaska Community Action Program (SEACAP). Gordon's staff did a good deal of work on this issue and had it not been for his work, the State Board of Rural CAP would probably not have taken a stand on changing the new maps which were issued by the Department of State and the Department of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,
John Shively
Executive Director

cc: Gordon Jackson