

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

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Gambell School Asks Clarification Of School Status

Gambell, Alaska 99742
May 14, 1969

Dr. Clifford Hartman
Commissioner of Education
Pouch F, Alaska Office Bldg.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Yesterday the Advisory School Board of the Gambell Day School had a special meeting with Mr. Jim Harper, of the Division of State-operated Schools. At this meeting he presented the points in favor of transferring Gambell BIA School to state operated.

Many of the statements he made were contradictory to other information we have from other sources. (One source is Sen. Bob Blodgett's letter to the Pt. Hope Advisory School Board about the state-operated school at Tell-er).

From you, as State Commissioner of Education, we would like some points clarified and some satisfactory answers to the following questions.

1. At present our school is staffed with 4 full-time teachers, 2 full-time teachers' aides, 1 full-time maintenance man, 1 janitor and 1 cook, each working 6 hours a day. (Our present enrollment is 89 students, with a projected enrollment in the next five years of about 105 students).

Mr. Harper assured us that under state operation we would maintain all of the present staff, with the addition of another teacher, and a probable increase in the working hours of the part-time employees.

Our question to you is: Will the present staff be maintained, including the teachers' aides, and do you concur with Mr. Harper's statement above?

2. In answer to the question as to how the state will finance the operation of this school, Mr. Harper said that there are federal funds available under a certain law to provide education to people living in federally-impacted areas. Is St. Lawrence Is. considered to be such an area, and do we qualify for such funds? If we do qualify how certain are we that said funds will be forthcoming? What specific clause in the law would assure us that such funds are available to us?

3. Is there a rural, predominantly-native community in Alaska whose state-operated school is so financed? If so, may we have the information so we can contact them and make further inquiry?

4. Assuming that federal funds would finance the cost of maintaining the school, with the island's present status, we should not be short-sighted. When the "native land claims" issue is settled the status of the island will be altered, and we would like to know how the state plans to finance the school when that occurs?

5. Please give us the names of several villages which have, in the past three years, transferred from BIA to state-operated schools, as we have some questions we would like to ask them.

We, as members of this community, would like the answers to these questions before we would be ready to make any decisions. An early reply would be much appreciated.

/s/ Victor Campbell,
President
Gambell Advisory
School Board

cc: Sen. Bob Blodgett
BIA Office, Juneau
BIA Office, Nome
Tundra Times

Position Paper on Native Land Claims

By YULE KILCHER

This position paper on the native land claims and related matters was started before the Goldberg withdrawal which this writer thinks does not necessarily harm the Natives' just cause and possibly will help it. Even a possible delay may be helpful by projecting a solution to the election year of 1970 and by giving the State of Alaska and its Natives more time to formulate policy and to achieve badly needed unity of purpose and methods.

With rapid economic and political development based on the nation-wide interest in our resources which is pressuring us from all sides, it is my hope to contribute what little I can to a better future for all Alaskans: the early inhabitants as well as immigrants who came to love this great land. Let us hope our children will not live as servants to colonial resource exploitation.

My wife and I and our eight Alaska-born children and their children to come have tribal rights and land claims dating back fifteen hundred years. If I'd married an Alaska native woman, my children would have two sets of tribal rights, the Alaskan set being the less secure of the two.

The Swiss rights they can never lose as long as their offspring are registered—not in Switzerland as such, but in my particular tribal community; for in Switzerland, even a foreigner does not become a citizen of the country, but of a sometimes very small community and so automatically becomes a "Swiss"... just as if a Tibetan went to Tyonek, Noatak or Minto, got accepted into the tribe and became thus a U.S. citizen. You can see that I came by

(Continued on page 4)

Letters to the Editor

Questions Organization Lawyers

Box 338
College, Alaska 99701
May 18, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

The Anchorage News of Friday 16 May printed an article on the legal consultants and attorneys for the various Alaska native associations and federations. The picture on page one showed some of the lawyers who have been retained to represent the interests of various native organizations.

Are the Alaska natives aware that they have retained attorneys with either personal interests or client interests that could benefit by a claims settlement that may not be the best available to the Indians and Eskimos.

At least one individual whose picture was prominently displayed in a front page article represents not only an Indian organization but also clients with hundreds of thousands of acres of potential leases on the North Slope. This attorney is representing a group of oil promoters who are attempting to gain title to oil lands which the Eskimos claim is theirs. Now exactly who is this representative of one of the native organizations representing? Is he representing his oil clients or his native clients?

There is at least one attorney

retained by a native group who has personal oil interests in lands claimed by the Eskimos. Who does this attorney represent—himself or the natives?

At a recent legislative hearing in Fairbanks related to oil lands on the North Slope, a telegram from Ralph Perdue was read to the assembled gathering. Mr. Perdue said in effect, "you are arguing whether the land belongs to the state or the oil promoters. It does not belong to either of you—it belongs to the Eskimos." One man—the only man the legislators allowed to speak twice—was immediately on his feet to attempt to rationalize and if possible negate Mr. Perdue's statement. This man is an attorney for a native group. Now exactly who is this attorney representing—his native clients, or his white man oil promoter clients?

Recently, the people of Alaska were unable to require their officials to "come clean" and divulge their land and oil holdings. However, the natives of Alaska are paying their attorneys and certainly they—the natives—can demand that their legal representatives disclose what land, oil, and other possibly conflicting interests they either own or represent.

Respectfully,
/s/ George E. Utermohle, Jr.

Poem— TUNDRA

Sitting on the Tundra. Spring and the first ducks flew over yesterday.

And the last snows melting fast and now only like the sparse clouds in the sky.

The smell around acrid like crushed blackberries and cranberries and blueberries all together.

A slight wind tugging and knocking at the dried winter grasses.

And two caribou trotting out from near me.

Tasting the cranberries and blueberries and blackberries.

Blueberries are still the best.

The mountains distant and their black jackets shimmering in

the bright sun, sun evaporating the last snows to make the first spring rains.

Already green sprigs with round leaves peer through the brownness.

And the lichens and mosses that the caribou like so much showing new green too, moist.

—FRANK KEIM

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; pot-latch bowls; fish hooks; spoons; and all N.W. items 50 years or age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.

Editorial—

Kuskokwim Fish Flap

The surprising policy adopted by the Alaska Board of Fish and Game opposing any arrangement by the Alaska fishermen to do business with any foreign fish buyers was a direct slap in the face of the fledgling Kuskokwim Fisheries Cooperative, a group of Eskimo fishermen. The way the Board is acting makes it a prime candidate for a Seattle Board of Fish and Game. The Board seems to be doing the bidding of the out-of-state fishing interests who have had the stranglehold on the Alaska fishing industry. Those fishing interests combined spell monopolistic hold on the Alaska resource. Their power is immense and woe to those who try independent operations such as the Kuskokwim Fisheries Cooperative.

The state government has also been showing weakness in being an easy tool of the out-of-state operators which had plagued Alaska business community for decades. Last year's ruckus over the Kuskokwim fishermen-Japanese freezer ship versus the state was a prime example. The state's part on that one smelled worse than the Kuskokwim River fish that rotted as a result of the controversy. As it turned out, it was a no little effort on the part of the state to accomodate lower stateside interests.

When the sparks settled in last year's controversy, people found that there was absolutely nothing wrong with the Japanese ship buying Alaska fishermen caught fish. In fact, the U.S. State Department had given clearance to the ship. The only trouble was that the out-of-state fishing companies were afraid that the fledgling, tiny Kuskokwim fishing co-op might make inroads into their fishing industry empire.

The Kuskokwim fishermen are now making ready to fish their waters. They are some of the poorest men around who are in need of things they have learned to like and cannot have because of the lack of cash. The cash economy has caught up and is infusing into their lives. The difficulty of meeting this new way of life is now a real problem because for one—the lack of their own industries.

The Eskimo co-op men in the Bethel area, along with sympathetic assistance of Alaska Legal Services Corp., and others, managed to salvage pretty well their salmon catch last year. But now a new spectre in the form of the Alaska Board of Fish and Game is staring them in the face. In spite of this, we hope the co-op will be able to weather the storm this year thereby encouraging other independent fishing operators and gain something of a foothold in the process of marketing their product to buyers for a good price. The purchaser should not necessarily be the Japanese exclusively, but other independent buyers could well be encouraged.