

"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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Execs and Eskimos...

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operation, there is no resident population to be represented on the borough assembly. In that sense, it's a case of taxation without representation. Yet the borough will be operating almost wholly on revenues from taxes levied on Prudhoe Bay.

What worries the companies is that the borough might make excessive use of its taxing authority, which legally can go as high as 30 mills on assessed valuation. Executives fear that the militant North Slope Eskimos will go the limit in levying the taxes.

Legal advisors to the Arctic Slope people feel that these fears are groundless. Taxes must have a relation to service needs, they say, and it would probably be illegal to levy a heavy tax and then let the money pile up. Company lawyers, on the other hand, say there have been precious few cases in the U.S. of a successful appeal of a property tax, and that if the borough were formed they would be wide open to excessive taxation by the North Slope people. While there have been few precedents of successful tax appeals, we point out that there has never been a situation quite like the North Slope borough in the history of U.S. courts, and the courts might well grant the protection the companies seek. Or, they might not. Rather than wait to find out, the companies have decided to dispute the formation of the borough, thereby delaying it, while they seek a solution to the problem. Unfortunately, the Arctic Slope people are anxious to get under way with their borough and the industry action to stop formation of the borough looks to them as if the companies are just trying to squeeze out of paying any tax. To these people, borough government means schools run by them instead of the BIA, and a future high school at Barrow so teenagers won't spend most of the year away from home, attending boarding schools in Oklahoma, Oregon and elsewhere. The oil industry is cast in a role of disputing a good education for their children.

This hassle will probably get worse before it gets better. The companies will probably appeal the elections, making the Arctic Slope people even madder and incidentally creating the very militancy and polarization the companies were afraid of in the first place. And so it goes, a vicious circle. It would probably help if there were more informal contact between the decision-makers in the oil industry and the Arctic Slope people. Industry executives make these decisions in the corporate centers of Houston, Dallas, New York and Cleveland. They are confronted by the legal distinctions of the situation, which are indeed very real, but they are far away from the flesh-and-blood problems facing the Arctic Slope people, and which borough government would solve.

The companies do have their point, for it is with their money which the new borough would operate. But we wish there could be dialogue between the executives and the Eskimos outside of the courtroom. We wish oil executives could leave their insulated corporate centers and visit Barrow, Anaktuvuk, Wainwright, Point Hope and Kaktovik, and gain a feeling of these sensitive local problems. At least one company is now attempting to do this, but it may be too late to defuse the potentially explosive emotional situation that is developing over the North Slope lawsuit. If an atmosphere of trust and dialogue could be developed, some compromise could no doubt be worked out to solve some of the emotional issues at hand, allowing the complex legal questions to be worked out in a cooler, calmer atmosphere.

—ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Tanana Valley Fair Needs Fairguides

The Tanana Valley Fair Association is preparing for the 1972 State Fair and Fairguides are urgently needed. Fairguides are young volunteers between the ages of ten and fourteen who help out at the Fairgrounds during the summer.

Fairguides help prepare for the Fair. They do various odd

jobs in and out of the office, run errands, and help to care for the outside grounds. During the Fair, the Fairguides continue to help by serving as messengers and guides for visitors.

During the summer, Fairguides enjoy their own special days of fun and relaxation. Pic-

nics, hikes, and other festivities are being planned. And of course all Fairguides receive free gate passes to the Fair.

Interested persons should call 452-3750, or come out to the Fairgrounds at 2 mile College Road. A lively crew of Fairguides means a great summer and a successful State Fair!

Letters from Here and There

Nulato, Alaska
June 10, 1972

Hi Editor:

Well I thought I was through writing for the newspaper after the land settlement. But when the baseball team from Kotzebue, Alaska came over to Galena for the memorial weekend. Nine ball players and two ladies boosters, and also to keep them straight, that's the reason they won two games out of three.

Everytime the papers came to Kotzebue, they won't buy the papers unless my name is in there. That's the reason I'm writing again. I thought maybe might help.

Fred Stickman

230 Cedar Lane, Apt. 96
Vienna, Virginia 22180
June 13, 1972

The Editor
Kodiak Mirror
Box 1307
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Dear Editor:

Let me preface this letter by quoting a remark made by a Mr. William H. Veeder: "My life's work has been made possible by my continuing ability to become totally outraged at the unreasonable exercise of power by anyone." This "unreasonable exercise of power" appears to be the case with a certain faction within the community of Kodiak.

I read with dismay your front-page article of the June 9th Mirror, headlined, "EATON ASKED TO RESIGN." It is appalling that such action was taken to discredit the President of the Kodiak Area Native Association, Hank Eaton, especially at this crucial time. With this action, it is apparent that a small number of people are unaware of the political realities and the beautiful aspects of this democratic system of government. And that is, the fact that every elected official in this country serves at the pleasure or mercy of their constituency — the people — come election time. Now, as far as Hank's record is concerned, I have been in close contact with him during the past year, both with his work on state-wide Native affairs, and his efforts while he was in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Alaska Natives as well as for the Kodiak area Natives. I know he has been working for the best interests of the majority of the Native people in the Kodiak area and that this attempt to unseat him is highly unwarranted.

Certainly, I believe in the right for anyone or everyone to say their piece, but I think the time and opportunity for positive action has come to begin utilizing the tools of this Western Society for the benefit of all Native Alaskans, especially now that we have one of the greatest tools in the form of money from the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. But, in order for us to make the best use of this tool, we need to get our "stuff" together and recognize where we are and what we can do about it, collectively!

We have until June 20th to submit the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and budget to the Department of Interior in order for the Kodiak region to obtain funds that were made available by Congress through a supplementary appropriation. If these legal papers are not submitted and approved by the Secretary

of the Interior by June 30th, it is highly unlikely that we in the Kodiak region will ever be able to obtain funds that we have coming to us, nor will we be able to obtain funds from private sources, unless we show unity and begin acting like a multi-million dollar corporation. For the next two years, we stand a chance to lose about \$2 million dollars and about \$35 million dollars in the next 12 years, if we don't get organized.

With this in mind, I think the article about Hank Eaton was done in an irresponsible fashion and should be retracted. We should think about what's happening in the other regions as well as about our reputation. There is a lot that can be accomplished, and is being accomplished — in the other regions!

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Frank R. Peterson

COOK INLET REGION, INC.
428 W 4th
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

12 June 72

Tundra Times
Box 710
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Gentlemen:

This is to advise you of the difference, between, Cook Inlet Native Association, and Anchorage urban organization, and Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, one of the twelve (12) organizations in Alaska who will administer the Alaska Native Settlement Act of 18 Dec 71.

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. has an Interim Board of Directors composed of twenty (20) representatives from other areas and organizations.

We have two (2) representatives from each of the following six (6) villages: Kenai, Tyonek, Salamattof, Ninilchik, Eklutna and Seldovia. Five (5) representatives from the Greater Anchorage Area, all of whom are Board Members of the Cook Inlet Native Association. The three (3) remaining representatives are delegated to what is known as the "At Large" area. This is from those areas with no recognized village within. The "At Large" representatives are from: Kasilof, Homer and Alexander Creek.

We have an Executive Board consisting of a representative from each village and area. They are as follows: Larry Oskoldoff, Chairman, representing Ninilchik; George Miller, President, representing Kenai; Seraphim Stephan, First Vice President, representing Tyonek; Robert Rude, Second Vice President, representing Anchorage; Alex Shadua, Third Vice President, representing Salamattof; Peter Ezi, Treasurer, representing Eklutna and Flora Thiele, Secretary, representing Seldovia.

The Board of Directors shall be made up in that manner until such time as the first Board of Directors are elected by the stockholders in our Region and they in turn re-distribute representation.

We are confident that the village corporation will always have a seat on the board, even though the corporation we are setting up will be on a one man one vote formula, which does

not recognize area representation.

It is imperative to have area representation in the interim because we do need the knowledge input for all the Region.

The addresses and Telephone numbers for the two (2) organizations are as follows:

COOK INLET REGION, INC.
428 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
274-3861 or 274-4155
(Area Code 907)
COOK INLET NATIVE ASSOCIATION
Box 515
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
274-4633 (Area Code 907)

If you have any further questions in these matters, please write us:

Cordially,

Larry Oskoldoff
Chairman
Board of Directors
Cook Inlet Reg., Inc.

June 13, 1972

Mr. John Gilbert
North State Telephone Co.
Box 1258
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

It was 3 weeks ago that you stopped by this office at my request and agreed to fix our telephones. I returned to Kotzebue this week to find that nothing has yet been done.

Today our telephones do not work at all, we are crossed with the public health nurse, another party and a busy signal. This would be amusing except for the fact that we rely on our telephones to conduct our daily business. In the four months I have been at Kotzebue the telephone service to our office has been entirely unsatisfactory and, despite repeated requests, it has yet to be repaired by you.

I have read with interest an affidavit that you recently submitted to the Anchorage District Court outlining the "improvement," you are making to our telephone service in Kotzebue and the attached supporting statements from what you purport to be four of the largest telephone users here who are completely satisfied with their service. To satisfy four users out of a total of some 150 does not seem impressive to me. I consider our office a major user of the telephone, yet we are far from satisfied with our non-existent service. I feel the majority of telephone subscribers in Kotzebue would also agree with me if given a chance to express their opinion.

Please be advised that we will no longer pay any telephone service charges until our service has been completely restored. Your prompt attention is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Berger
District Representative
State Welfare Office