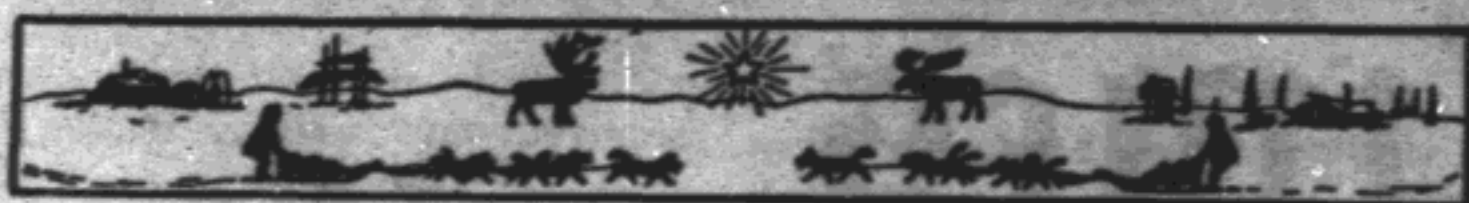


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## TIME FOR THOUGHTS AND DEEDS

(Continued from page 1)

legislation by Congress."

The lethargy of the past Congresses has finally been shaken loose. The process of breaking this lethargy came rather suddenly, as time goes in matters such as the lands question in Alaska, and this suddenness is rather disconcerting. It is bringing with it some feelings akin to impending dangers because the mechanics of the final thrust for solutions came within the last few short years. The fast and urgent process in arriving to the point of introduction of the bill leaves a feeling that it was done too fast and that not enough time was given to weigh matters connected with it. This is past history now and the stark reality of the introduction of the measure is upon us and the native people and their leaders must face it with the best minds they can muster.

"This is a draft which so far merely represents a bill which the administration is prepared to support," declared Senator Ernest Gruening in his wire to the Alaska press media a few days ago.

This means that our native people and their leaders, the State, and all others concerned, will be given the opportunity to study the draft and the parties concerned will be given the chance to submit proposals for changes or amendments. Since there has been sharp dissatisfaction among the native leaders as to some of the contents of the bill before it was introduced, they should now make a very serious study of the draft and be prepared to voice unequivocally their convictions and disagreements with the measure as it now stands.

The land claims bill, even at this stage before serious discussions are being made on it, is already touching our ways of life throughout Alaska and it cannot but influence us profoundly. There will be no time to tarry for our native leaders and their people in preparing their arguments and these must be truly representative. The urgency of the need to get right down to work cannot be stressed too much, especially when we know sudden requests for testimonies can be made a few days ahead of time leaving little opportunity for proper preparations on things we truly wished to say.

This is the time, NOW, for concentrated, responsible thoughts and actions. The bill in its present form must not be allowed to pass. An alternative bill, such as the one submitted to the Department of the Interior by the Alaska Federation of Native Associations in Anchorage, may be needed.

Native leaders from organizations and villages should hold regional meetings as soon as they possibly can to prepare for discussions and hearings.

These are but a few actions that must occur—and act we must because whatever is done now and in the time ahead will greatly influence the future of our people.

## Northway School Merger

School segregation in Northway will end next month. The 40 youngsters who have been attending a Bureau of Indian Affairs school at Northway village will attend a special orientation program at the state school near Northway Federal Aviation facilities, in July.

In fall they will join the 50 youngsters at the state school as regular students. The B.I.A. facilities will be closed.

The merger followed a protest last April from Kenneth Albert, village president.

Villagers threatened to transport their youngsters en masse to the state school and deposit them at the door.

"We want to mix our kids with non-native kids so they can learn a better way of living," Albert said.

"We're tired of this double-shifting. We're tired of having our kids packed in a 19 by 25 foot classroom—of receiving an inferior education."

## Two Given Awards For Heroism

A rescue of two women at Candle, Alaska last August earned valor awards last week for the Bureau of Land Management employees.

The men, Roger Huntington and Richard R. Faltonson, were waiting to be flown out after suppressing a fire, when a little girl led them to a shaft where two women lay unconscious. Risking carbon monoxide poisoning, the two men descended the shaft, carried up the women and revived them with mouth to mouth resuscitation.

The women had gone down into the shaft to examine a meat cache stored beneath one of the buildings that had burned down.

## Grandfather

(Editor's Note: In the last five years, Vincent Price has offered awards in creative writing to students at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico. One winner, Grandfather, by Shirley Crawford, seems particularly appropriate this week, in view of the introduction of the land claims bill to Congress and its possible threat to a traditional way of life. We reprint it here.)

by Shirley Crawford

Grandfather sings, I dance.  
Grandfather speaks, I listen.  
Now I sing, who will dance?  
I speak, who will listen?

Grandfather hunts, I learn.  
Grandfather fishes, I clean.  
Now I hunt, who will learn?  
I fish, who will clean?

Grandfather dies, I weep.  
Grandfather buried, I am left alone.  
When I am dead, who will cry?  
When I am buried, who will be alone?

## Weather

The weather was warmer than usual along the Arctic, the Aleutians, Pribilof Islands and the Kuskokwim Bay area.

The temperature range during the month was from 4 degrees at Barter Island to 73 degrees at Annette. Precipitation amounts for May were generally below normal except well above normal at Anchorage, Annette and Barter Island.

## Other Voices—

## Seminole Similarity

Tucked away inside a Fairbanks paper of 11 June, 1967, was an item of more than passing importance to all Alaskan Natives. The AP story from Washington, D.C. was treated with little interest by the non-native press of Fairbanks because it bears out the point that justice cannot be denied the Native American in the assertion of his native rights and that the present laws of the land uphold him when he declares his land is his and it cannot be taken from him arbitrarily.

The parallel that exists between the Seminole tribe originally inhabiting Florida and the Natives of Alaska is similarly striking. Florida was purchased by treaty of the United States with Spain. The native people inhabiting Florida were not recognized as having any right to the land at the time of the Florida Purchase Treaty.

When the settlers began infringement upon their lands without regard for their inalienable right of occupancy, they took up arms in defense of their homeland. In a bloody war against superior weaponry, they were defeated and forcibly removed from Florida by the Army. That so-called civilized people have acted in such a manner to deprive these people of their land, and such action even having been condoned by the then President Andrew Jackson, does NOT, according to the present Court of Claims ruling, make it necessarily legal under our law.

This brief article should give all Alaska Natives heart to maintain the present stand for their claims because the decision means that **EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN DEFEATED IN BATTLE, THE SEMINOLE RIGHTS CONTINUED UNIMPAIRED.**

If we continue to stand firm in our purpose and intent, we shall see, in Alaska, compensation for the land already taken, and **FULL TIME** passing to the native people where the land **HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN.**

The subtle purpose of the Interior Department bill, the State bill and any similar piece of legislation is to **CONSUMATE THE TAKING OF ALL REMAINING LANDS** presently reserved to the native people and pay a **TOKEN COMPENSATION** for the taking. This bill and any similar legislation should **NOT BE ALLOWED TO PASS IN CONGRESS** or we will have forever been separated from that which rightfully still remains in our possession.

The present offers of a little land around villages is like the bait in a trap. If we reach out for this seeming innocent offer, we will be losing much more than we gain.

—HUGH NICHOLLS

P.O. Box 214

Barrow, Alaska

June 12, 1967

## WHO WILL SPEAK FOR US ? . . .

(Continued from page 1)

that it is too weak and ineffectual to be heard. Destroying AFN does not help the native people in any way.

We must mend our fences and strengthen ourselves as quickly as we can. Rather than write off the AFN, we should call for an other meeting immediately. Next fall's scheduled meeting may be too late. At this special meeting we should review and amend the constitution so that it truly represents a majority opinion. We should either hold new elections or add officers that balance the slate.

If we discount AFN, we have nothing. At least AFN is established. Its machinery would take many months—too many months—to duplicate. Let's attempt to save it from becoming just another organization. Only by pooling our strength do we have any hope of saving our lands.