

JUNEAU, ~~MM~~ March 1st, 1949

Cyrus E. Peck, Grand President,
Sitka, Alaska.

Dear brother;--

Re Your letter Juneau Press Feb. 27th,
Feb. 28th.

"Why is the Alaska Native Service Necessary".

I should begin "The storm has broken". Roy Peratrovich is angry and got Andrew Hope to request a meeting of the executive members for last night. I got there one hour late because of another appointment, but in time to hear Lester Roberts read a repudiation of the article. From there we went on and considered the entire problem of Indian education and what we considered to be the policy of the Indian Office for continued action in Alaska.

I can only take time to capitulate.

Andrew figured that the ANS is going to quit in ten years or less, perhaps five. Likewise FGJohnson. So did I. Roy could give no assurance for a longer period.

Roy says he could support a demand that the ANS quit forthwith and argued that such a demand would be consistent and logical and more dignified.

I told him that his position was like mine in 1920, but when we think of the consequences wherein perhaps several thousand children would get no education, immediate abolishment is unthinkable. That is why I proposed a resolution at Hydaburg convention of getting Congress to establish a twenty year plan diminishing 5% annually.

All parties wanted a direct subsidy with no mention of the Indian problem as a supporting reason, the request being based entirely upon the boom in Alaska occasioned by the war defense activity. My reply was that Congress would give Alaska nothing if the argument is limited to that, and that the only hope we have for success is to use the Indian argument. Regarding Roy's argument or objection to that, I said that he was too sensitive because reason did not support his position and that such an argument and its consummation could not diminish the Indian's rights of citizenship in the slightest.

Dr. Ryan is ready to introduce a memorial along the line of your "recommendation" and after seeing your letter, he called Hope in and wanted ANB support. Hope stalled because your "recommendation" had not been officially approved. At last night's meeting, I wrote a statement explaining to those who had read more into that last paragraph than was warranted and restated the position of the ANB, namely, that the "recommendation" of the Grand President was under consideration but had not yet been approved.

I have heard many fine things from important people about your letter, and your statement recommending its adoption is right. If we could be sure that we could secure a majority vote of a quorum who might meet at your call, I would advise you to do so as soon as you know that you will be supported. How do the Sitka members feel, and could they attend a two day session (it would take that long). How would Widmark vote? I have kept him informed. If you called a meeting, you would have to give at least one week's notice to all of them.

There was more, but I must get this letter off.

Yours faithfully,

William L. Paul, Sr.
William L. Paul, Sr.

P.S. This question is important enough to warrant the presence of Booth and Young. We are considering something that will affect five thousand school children, and our next meeting will also determine the plans of the ANB in the next political campaign. The powers that be are ganging up on both Hope and FGJohnson. They are not needed any more and so they are being pushed out as we all knew they would. I had a chance to compare our political position today with that of 1928, and I told them about incidents and fights that I had then, and explained why the ANB's power had diminished. In short, the fight is not labor versus capital. It is the free booters fight for the biggest share of the spoils. Explained in this light, why should they give the Indians anything unless we have the power to take it away from some of those who are expecting the most? WLP

Consult freely with
Leslie Gant. You should
have the most disinterested
and intelligent advice
possible. I wd like
to share my res-
ponsible as law advisor.

WLP