

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

Air Mail

July 31, 1942.

Mr. Edward C. Johnston,
706 Federal Building,
Seattle, Washington.

Reference is made to your letter of July 15 concerning information reaching you from Mr. McMillin that a number of natives have requested permission to take their families away from Funter Bay to look for work elsewhere, also urging that some arrangement be initiated whereby the natives at Funter Bay may be paid in cash a comparatively small monthly wage, the aggregate monthly total of which would be \$2,430 for both islands.

These matters have received considerable attention here. A conference was held recently in Mr. Jackson's office at which were present also Mr. Paul W. Gordon of the Office of Territories and Island Possessions, Mr. Moore, and the undersigned.

Mr. Moore stated that the wording of our appropriation would not permit us to pay the natives while at Funter Bay, as suggested by you. He said that the best plan would be to have them paid from the emergency appropriation for work actually performed. If this is not done, legislation would be needed to cover the matter as far as our appropriation is concerned.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the emergency funds would be suitable to finance the rehabilitation of the buildings and to provide any additional structures or equipment of an emergency nature growing out of the evacuation of the natives from their accustomed place at the Pribilof Islands.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the sum of \$25,000, the emergency appropriation, has been transferred to the credit of Mr. Naghel, disbursing officer at Juneau, such funds to be disbursed on certification by Mr. Hirst. Mr. Gordon felt that all future requests for disbursements against this deposit or future deposits should originate in Alaska.

In order to get the matter on a business-like basis, Mr. Gordon desires the submission of a budget covering the amount required from the emergency appropriation in as detailed form as possible to cover requirements from July 1, 1942, through June 30, 1943. He felt that in view of the emergency nature of the work it would be difficult to go back to June, when the evacuation was started, in any such budget, but he feels that things have shaken down sufficiently now so that a reasonably satisfactory estimate is possible to carry on for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Moore suggests that your budget be prepared to show expenditures required for normal operation of the Penguin and support of the Pribilof natives, to show expenditures required for the present emergency operation, and to express the amount in excess of our appropriation which must be made up from other sources. He concurs in the suggestion that an adequate reserve of funds be made for rehabilitation of equipment in the event of a return to the Islands next spring.

We indicated to Mr. Gordon that our regular appropriation would be used for the support of the Pribilof natives and that an allotment of emergency funds would only be necessary for essential expenses in excess of our appropriation.

Mr. Gordon said that during the period the Penguin was engaged in transporting supplies from Seattle to Funter Bay, Killisnoo, or elsewhere, he was willing to have the cost of fuel oil charged against the emergency appropriation; in other words, he regarded this as a proportionate sharing of the expense inasmuch as the Penguin would be rendering service in connection with evacuees from other places as well as from the Pribilof Islands.

Please give careful attention to the preparation of this estimate as desired by Mr. Gordon, and forward by air mail.

An important matter is the planning of a work program for the natives. It would seem that one such project can be for actual camp upkeep, the people so engaged to draw compensation payable from emergency funds; another program perhaps might involve the detailing of natives to stream-improvement work. Anything of the latter nature would need very close supervision and would have to be in collaboration with Mr. Olson and supervisory employees under him. The question would come up as to whether there would be sufficient funds in Mr. Olson's allotment to carry on any work of this nature.

Mr. Gordon indicated that payment might be made from emergency funds for definite work projects related directly to the evacuation of the natives. This would have to be on an established pay schedule as there is likely to be no consideration of any cash dole along the line of the former sealing division.

It is realized that when sealing operations are resumed in the future, experienced native workers will be essential. As stated, however, by Mr. Moore yesterday, we have no definite hold on the Pribilof natives who are evacuated to Funter Bay. With regard to employment elsewhere, the rules concerning these natives can be effective only while they are directly connected with the evacuation camp. While there, they are subject to the jurisdiction, care and support of the Government. If they go away from Funter Bay for a while to engage in other work, there is nothing that we

can do to stop them. While they are away they are earning money which will in part at least relieve the Government of the expense of their maintenance until such time as they return to our jurisdiction. In my opinion, very few will stay away for any length of time, and when conditions permit them to return to the Pribilof Islands, practically all will be on hand ready and anxious to go. Perhaps experience outside might give a better appreciation of the excellent care given them at the Pribilofs and the facilities for their welfare there.

To hold the natives together, it is the opinion here that an outstanding feature is to develop local work programs at Funter Bay or in that immediate vicinity, payable from emergency funds. Perhaps the Forest Service can render help through the laying out of projects of public importance, such as road building or trail building, upon which numbers of Pribilof natives can be employed working out of our camps on Funter Bay.

Ward T. Bower

Ward T. Bower,
Chief, Division of Alaska Fisheries.