



5-13-1907

Letter to the Honorable Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States

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Whittier, Cal., May 13, 1907.

To his Excellency.

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:--

Your communication of Nov. 30th, 1906, in regard to the Eskimo girl Elsie Oomalok, has just reached me, having been forwarded from Deering, Alaska, and I am pleased to know that you took the pains to investigate the matter, but I think the statements made by Mr. Hoyt are very questionable.

In the first place Mrs Noyes is known all over the Northern country to have been a sporting woman when she married Thomas Noyes, and Mr Noyes is a notorious sport. In all probability Elsie and her mother were frightened by them into making a false statement as to her age, as I believe she told the truth in the copy of her statement which we handed to you.

I am very well aware that with the lavish use of money much false evidence might be secured from a certain class of men in that country.

I believe that U. S. Attorney Hoyt shouldered the sole responsibility of dismissing the case because Judge Moore and Mr. Reagan are men of righteous conscience and could not be bought off.

We are aware that Mr. Noyes supplies Elsie with support for his child and the true relations between him and Elsie are well known by many of the men who look to him as their example in the same evil relations with other Eskimo girls. It is true that he made a pretense

at befriending the Eskimos, but a prominent official saw him attempt to coerce one girl and you can form your own conclusion as to why he kept so many girls around him.

Mr. Reagan had the case planned and would have prosecuted and no doubt convicted, but Hoyt took the case out of his hands entirely and censured him for attempting to prosecute. We do not know Mr. Hoyt personally at all but we know these are facts. Mr. Hoyt has repeatedly failed to convict in such cases, as for instance in the case of the notorious Captain Neuth, the whaler, who was proven to have forcibly raped little Eskimo girls not over 10 or 11 years of age, enticing them aboard his ship and sailing away.

Put Mr. Reagan in Mr. Hoyt's place and I think something will be done.

I have no purpose in this matter except to save some of the girls in the future, and am deeply grateful to you for the fearless and forcible stand you take when you know the truth in such cases.

Yours very truly,