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Editorial—

The Pain of Decision

"Enclosed a copy of my letter of resignation to the Alaska Legal Service Program. Use it as you see fit. Regret this—much, but feel under the circumstances I am of no value to my people on this Board...."

The above was penned by Mrs. Nora Guinn, Deputy Magistrate at Bethel, Alaska. The pain of decision she had to go through was obvious in her note and her letter of resignation from the State Legal Aid Board, a part of the machinery that supposed to give legal aid to the poor who cannot, otherwise, afford such aid. Instead the Board promptly created a controversy and failed to elect an executive director to administer the legal aid program. It ended, shamefully, in a stalemate.

What is the price of a controversy in a situation like this? Who suffers most? The ruffled feathers of

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the well-heeled members of the meeting in Anchorage? We are sorry that we do not feel any qualms of sympathy for them because they, apparently, did not realize the gravity of the job at hand and failed to resolve their differences. Some of the participants harbored hurt feelings and stuck to them forgetting the poor they are supposed to help and helped, instead, in creating a stalemate. This is selfishness in one of its rawer states. Although funding to finance the program is already on hand, nothing is being done now to benefit the impoverished of Alaska who cannot afford the fees of legal service.

Mrs. Guinn, who was the fourth member of the Board to resign representing the poor, wrote the followings