

Editorial Comment—

Arctic Slope Borough

Despite some delaying tactics and acts of prevention, the Arctic Slope borough nevertheless became a sudden reality it seems to us. Although the borough still faces legal challenges to be brought before it in October via the Alaska Superior Court by the oil companies, it is also one of the most amazing events ever to occur in the Alaska Native world. It is a victory against truly formidable odds. This speaks well indeed for the leaders of the effort and their legal counsels, private and State Department of Law.

The new borough, largest municipality in the world, also brings with it new challenges for the Eskimos and their leaders. This is at once a new experience and a new testing area. Chairman Eben Hopson and his officials will be watched. Their skills will be tested. The results of their administrative efforts will be scrutinized and evaluated.

Formidable and difficult the new challenges may seem, we are not too worried about the end results. Native leadership has been tested well during the great fight for the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims. What they showed us was skill and daring under heavy odds and under great complexities. We are sure this quality will be evident among the leaders of the new Arctic borough. They have great goals to attain.

One of these is the quality education for the Arctic Slope children — a need all Native people recognize as one of the most desirable aims. The borough will be watched how this will be conducted.

In order to do this properly, enough money for establishment of it will be the primary need. A hard look at how it should be done will be a necessity, we believe.

A great achievement — the Arctic Slope borough.