

# Politicians Woo Native Leaders

By Howard Rock  
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Anchorage (SPECIAL)—The statewide Native convention being held here this week got front page newspaper coverage all over the state and the 250 delegates received VIP treatment from politicians running for election in November.

The stellar treatment the delegates received led chairman Emil Notti to remark, "one good thing about this conference is that you don't have to spend money for meals."

The remark was made after all the delegates were hosted at dinners and luncheons by political groups. On the first day of the conference Governor William Egan gave a luncheon hosted by Mike Gravel, speaker of the State House of Representatives. That same night Republican Sen. Howard Pollock, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, hosted a buffet dinner for the delegates.

At noon Wednesday Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett gave a luncheon for conference members in the ballroom of the Anchorage-Westward Hotel and at noon Thursday, Rep. Ralph Rivers hosted a luncheon. That night the First National Bank of Anchorage hosted a dinner at the Captain Cook Hotel.

Today Walter Hickel, Republican gubernatorial candidate, was the host for a dinner banquet.

The political wooing of the largest gathering of Native leaders ever held in Alaska didn't interfere with the real reason for the conference—the discussion of some of the weighty problems facing Natives all over the state.

Two of subjects receiving most attention were the land problems and a proposed state-wide Native organization.

Some concern was shown when the Anchorage Daily

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# Unity Asked ...

Times came out with the headline, "Natives Split on Land Claims" when the conference was barely two hours old.

After lunch, many of the delegates brought back copies of the newspaper and chairman Notti held up the paper for the audience to see.

"I suppose you've seen the headlines," he pointed out. "You know the old axiom that if you want to defeat somebody you divide and conquer."

"One of the things I hope we don't do here is to break up into factionalism. When this meeting was called everybody was willing to work together. As far as I know, everybody is still willing to work together. Tyonek isn't concerned about going one way and as far as I know no one else is concerned about pulling the other way... so I wouldn't be too concerned about a headline."