

Kay Disappointed Over N.A.N.A. Endorsements

Wendell Kay, Democratic candidate against Gov. William Egan in the Aug. 23 primary elections, told the Tundra Times this week he found only "disappointment" in the recent political endorsements of the North-

(Continued on Page 5)

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(Continued from Page 1)

west Alaska Native Association.

The Association in Kotzebue announced support this week of four Democratic candidates in this year's elections—Gov. William Egan for re-election, Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett for re-election to the U.S. Senate, Mike Gravel for Alaska's one Congress seat now held by Rep. Ralph Rivers, and William Hensley, candidate for State House of Representatives in the Northwest.

"The Northwest Alaska Native Association seems to be entirely Willie Hensley's organization. Hensley himself was named Executive Director. I'm sure it was a disappointment to Jake Stalker, to John Nusunginya and others as well as to myself," the candidate said.

Stalker, of Kotzebue, is presently holding the one state house seat from the Northwest.

Nusunginya, running for the seat from Barrow, was recently endorsed by another northern Native Association, the Arctic Slope Native Association of Barrow.

Five Democrats and one

Republican have filed for the one Northwest seat.

Democrats running are Stalker himself for re-election; Hensley; Lee Staheli, a Kotzebue bush pilot; Nusunginya of Barrow; and Robert Newlin of Noorvik on the Kobuk River.

Evelyn Conwell, of Kotzebue, is the one lone Republican running for the seat.

Observers say the mass of Democrats running in the primary elections will serve to split up the heavy Northwestern Alaska vote and give strength to Nusunginya, running from Barrow in the

north.

Nusunginya has the backing of the Barrow Native Association and according to reports, strong support in most of the other northern villages of the district.

Kay, campaigning hard for Egan's position, recently barnstormed through western Alaska visiting Unalakleet, Shishmaref, Noatak, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Nome, Nulato, Galena and Barrow.

The candidate says he plans to make another swing through the area before the primary this August 23.