

## EDUCATION MEETING . . .

(Continued from page 1)

it," said Marcelo Quinto, a delegate from the University of Alaska to the Sitka meeting.

At the morning session of the meeting yesterday, Mary Jane Fate spoke for the Fairbanks Native Association; John Sackett for the Tanana Chiefs Conference; Flore Lekanof for the Aleut League; and Mrs. Patsy Aamodt for the THEATA Club, a native student group at UA.

Charles Zellers, Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs under Commissioner Robert Bennett, spoke yesterday afternoon. Zeller's subject matter was not available at the time of this writing.

Marcelo Quinto said that the residents of Sitka made a very cordial reception of the delegates. Hotel reservations were made by

the Sitkans and the officials of the banks there held a reception for the group at the Moose Hall.

All the available native delegates met on Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. to discuss views of various representatives.

"This was done so that we may make a united stand and present and air our views on local areas," Quinto said.

Quinto said that he didn't really foresee any explosive moments at the meeting although some may develop in today's session.

The conference is being co-chaired by Congressman Howard Pollock and Senator-elect Mike Gravel.

The meeting will adjourn today.

## AFN GRANT . .

(Continued from page 1)

at McGill University in Montreal.

There will be delegates from Canada, Greenland, United States, Soviet Union and Scandinavian countries.

The AFN will use the grant to strengthen its organization's capacity and expand its efforts to build up communications network among various native communities through additional field staff and regional meetings.

A small portion of the fund will be used to train natives in the Bristol Bay area on a special project on building trades.

In its announcement, the Ford Foundation stated that of all U.S. Indians, 50,000 natives in Alaska live under the worst conditions; that this was compounded by the harsh climate, great distances between cities and villages, and high living costs.

The foundation further stated that the incidence of tuberculosis is 25 times the rate in other states; infant mortality is twice as high; and life expectancy is 39 years as compared to 69.

Only 12 percent of the native young people complete high school; that for many, the nearest high school may be located hundreds of miles, even thousands of miles from home.

Of the few who enter colleges, only one out of 24 can be expected to graduate. The foundation mentioned lack of education, job skill training, cultural differences.

Isolation, said the foundation, help account for the fact that although natives represent more than 20 percent of the state's population, they hold less than 10 percent of the jobs.

The natives' unemployment rate in Alaska is 60 percent.

## Nixon Sees Urgency of Settling Native Claims

New York, New York  
October 5, 1968

HON. HOWARD POLLOCK  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Howard:

Pursuant to my discussions with you and Elmer Rasmuson I want to take this opportunity to publicly state my position in regard to the Alaska Native Land Claims.

I am aware of the importance of this issue to the people of your state. The Native citizens of Alaska deserve full compensation for the injustice that has resulted from the neglect of their claims. This neglect, as you know, was clearly recognized in our Party's National platform and a pledge was made to promote policies responsive to the needs and desires of the Indian and Eskimo people. Solution to the land claims problem is an intricate part of this pledge—a promise I fully support. In addition, the development of the state as a whole dictates that there be no further delay in reaching a settlement.

Therefore, I can state the following points on the land claims question:

1. A Nixon-Agnew Administration will officially recognize the justice of the aboriginal Alaska land claims and the need for just compensation, either in money, lands, royalties or some combination.

2. A Nixon-Agnew Administration will give top priority to the speedy solution of the Alaska Native Land Claims. This will be the case regardless of the outcome of the current litigation concerning the so-called "land freeze."

3. A Nixon-Agnew Administration will cooperate closely with you and other Congressional leaders to achieve the best settlement possible in the quickest time.

4. A Nixon-Agnew Administration will consult with your Governor, Walter J. Hickel, and other state officials and with Native groups with a view towards achieving a consensus on a settlement. A solution will not be arrived at behind the secrecy of closed doors.

I am proud of the role I played in the creation of the State of Alaska. While in the Senate I co-sponsored a bill for Alaska Statehood and as Vice President was a part of the Eisenhower Administration that finally admitted the 49th state into the Union. Having participated and fought for such a momentous event for Alaska, I cannot help but have a deep and abiding interest in its future. With this in mind, you can be assured that as President, I will take steps to see that this critical problem now facing your people will be quickly solved.

Sincerely,  
DICK

## Golden Heart Camp Fire Girls Decorate Tree

The beautiful tree standing in Alaska State Bank this month was decorated by many of the 300 Camp Fire Girls in Golden Heart Council.

On Saturday afternoon, Dec. 21st, the bank expressed appreciation by hosting the girls to a festive party of refreshments, caroling and games.

The traditional party was highlighted this year with a "Festival of Giving" when each girl helped fill a big basket with canned fruit and juices for Hillcrest Home for Boys and the Hospitality House.

## Native Craft

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If you qualify for any of these jobs, or are looking for a job, contact the ALASKA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, located at 6th and Barnette, in the State Court and Office Building, Room 131. Their hours are from 8:30 to 12 noon and one to five in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. Call 452-1501.

**PROGRAMMER (COMPUTER):** Three or more years experience in the commercial data processing fields. Working knowledge of COBOL; strong background in analysis, design, and development of large scale processing systems, some knowledge of inventory control systems would be helpful but not necessary.

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