

Disputed ANB Election Valid Says Hotch

Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp President Steven Hotch said yesterday that a much disputed election of ANB officers held in Juneau in December was a valid election.

"I was there," he told the Tundra Times. "I made a ruling that the first election is valid and that is final."

In fact, Hotch said, "we installed the newly elected officers. Some of them walked out, but they did that on their own."

He went on to explain that under the ANB constitution, if a member misses three consecutive regular meetings without any just cause, he is automatically out of office and his office is declared vacant and is filled.

"I think that's the next move," Hotch said, although the officers who walked out at the installation of officers "still have a right to come back."

Hotch said the trouble over the ANB Juneau Camp No. 2 election of officers began on the December 6 meeting. At that meeting, he said, three letters were read by the corresponding

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secretary—two which contained money, for “which there was no objection,” Hotch said, and one in “regards to a candidate for office.”

The letter concerning the candidate was a simple letter, Hotch said, and read: “If ANB needs good leadership for the future, we heartily endorse. . .”

No formal objection was made, Hotch said.

Then, he said, blank ballots were handed out and votes were cast. “No objections were made,” he said, “until after the results were announced. I based my ruling on Robert’s Rules of Order which states that when elections returns are announced, the candidate is automatically elected.”

Some ANB members questioned his ruling, he said, but “it’s a real normal procedure.”

As far as he is concerned, he said, no changes will be made in the election, and his “executive officers agree.”

There is no problem at all over the election, Hotch emphasized, “just poor losers, that’s all.”