

Joe Upicksoun--

'Ad Hoc' Is a Beautiful Word

"When you look up the word 'ad hoc', it's a beautiful word," said Joe Upicksoun.

Not all of the delegates to the recent Democratic state Convention in Fairbanks would agree with Upicksoun, but according to Webster's dictionary, 'ad hoc' is defined: for this specific purpose; for this case only.

The case for political power on the part of the Alaskan Native had strong support from the exuberant Ad Hoc delegates. With single-minded enthusiasm, they accomplished the 'specific purpose' for which they had formed, to make their party a truly democratic representation of the will of the people.

Upicksoun, a key figure in the Northwest delegation which united with the young Ad Hoc element to swing the balance of power in favor of Native interests, had only praise for the part Ad Hoc played at the convention.

"I felt the Ad Hoc'ers were the people to work with," he said. "Because they're not interested in the metropolitan areas controlling the destiny of Alaska."

"They wanted to have the bush areas included in the future of Alaska. The Ad Hoc'ers are people that are educated to understand the need of the bush and the best way to resolve any problem is let the people do it. They know their problem and they know how to solve it."

"I don't know that the regulars would have supported the bush," he added. "They control-

led the state so long."

In the final days of the convention, the delegates had to accept one another as working partners.

"I feel that towards the end, all of us, the regulars, the Natives, and the Ad Hoc were working together so that there was unanimity. If you are defeated," he said, "you go with the majority."



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