

**Editorial—**

# **He Alerted the Native People on Lands**

Richard D. Mueller has lost his fight as far as reinstatement to his job is concerned. He lost it in the first place while trying to alert the Interior Indians that the George Lake area lands were being considered for sale as wilderness estates at the New York Worlds Fair over two years ago by the Alaska Division of Lands. Mueller was the lease sales manager with the Division at the time. He made a trip to Fairbanks to notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management that something might be remiss in the State Land Division plan; that the area in question might, in fact, be under Indian claim. It turned out that it was. For that action, Mueller was fired by his department for being absent without leave.

Mueller's efforts, and the resulting difficulties he had to undergo, may not have been for nought. He alerted the native people of things that could happen to them if they did not watch out. Now the lands question seems to be well on the way to being solved and Richard Mueller's painful efforts might have helped along the way. The native people should give him a vote of thanks for his unselfish efforts in their behalf.

