

Editorial—

Tundra Times Stands Ready to Serve

It is going to be very imperative to give the native people of Alaska the most pertinent information on the native land claims within the immediate future and for the next two or more years as Congress tackles the problem. Knowledge of what is to take place will be needed to be known by our people. They must have this information, not only to keep on top of the matter but to absorb the ways of the proceedings so they may become handy references in the future in the event the land matter is settled. Good knowledge of what will be taking place on land deliberations can serve as a strong base for implementing the administration of the congressional legislative results.

Tundra Times will, of course, try its best to be of service but being shorthanded, it will need help in dispensing the information. Since this newspaper is operating on a modest budget, it cannot afford to hire on-the-spot correspondents. It will have to draw its materials from the best sources it can get under the circumstances.

One of the most important sources of information will be the Alaska Federation of Natives. That statewide organization will, of course, be striving to be on top of the land claims proceedings. What its leaders do and think about the important land matters as it courses through Congress will be pertinent to the native people. We think the dispensing of this should be done through the pages of Tundra Times. Letters to villages, although important, will not do the full job in our estimation. We are a public media and we have a proven wide readership in villages and towns throughout the state. This the native leaders should keep in mind. We are most available for their use and needs for spreading the word.

We, of course, will be relying on the utterances and releases of the Alaska congressional delegation in Wash-who are, and will be, directly involved in legislative processes. Their communications will be greatly appreciated as usual by ourselves in the Tundra Times and our readers.

The land legislation in Congress besides the native people will involve everyone in the State of Alaska. Its outcome, in whatever form it emerges, will influence every Alaskan. It will also have some overtones of influence in the rest of the country.

The legislation will be no light matter. It may manifest sensitiveness. It may even manifest dramatic overtones. In whatever manner it courses through Congress, it will bear watching and what will be seen needs to be transmitted to the native people of Alaska as well as other people elsewhere. It should be the foremost duty of the AFN officers, other native leaders, the congressional delegation, and other people who may be involved to feed the information to us and to other news media. We all need to know what will happen during the upcoming Alaska native land claims legislation in Congress.