

# All should speak

From the first announcement of the formation of the Alaska Native Review Commission in Frobisher Bay last summer, the commission has drawn emotions ranging from hearty support to angry denunciations.

Supporters felt at last they would get their say while detractors questioned the motives of those Inuit Circumpolar Conference organizers who commissioned the study.

Supporters seemed to believe that the ANRC will denounce the established corporations and leadership while detractors seem to believe the same — that the anti-corporation/anti-leadership mindset has already been fixed.

It would be easy to sit on either side of this argument but we prefer to remain open minded and act in good faith that this study will be conducted in the manner that it should be. All sides will be given a chance to talk and will be heard equally.

At six days of hearings in Emmonak and Tununak last week, virtually every comment heard by Judge Thomas A. Berger who is the commission were negative. No one was happy. Once back in Anchorage, the Commission overview hearings have started and the record is still negative toward ANCSA.

It is very easy for those people who are critical of the Review process to dismiss these criticisms as being from the merely misinformed, that those people who are venting their frustrations don't know what they are talking about or never understood the Act in the first place.

But we would like to point out that the feelings of these people who feel no benefit from ANCSA are *very* important and very telling. If they, if we believe that ANCSA has done nothing for us then everything that has been done has little meaning. And, if we don't "know enough," then we cannot really be participating in our corporations, and ANCSA has failed.

Which brings us to a criticism levelled on the first day of the overview hearings which seek to find the goals of the men and women who worked in 1971 to pass the land claims act. 'Where are the corporation leaders?' asked one speaker. 'This shows how they feel about this proceeding.'

It made no matter at that point that in the next round three corporation leaders would testify and participate.

We feel that everyone who has ever had anything to do with ANCSA in 1965 through 1971 and to the present should participate in this hearing process. If they testify about how they feel ANCSA has done nothing for us, so be it. If they testify that their original dreams and aspirations have been met in the ANCSA aftermath, so be it. If they say they love or hate, trust or mistrust the corporations, so be it.

This process is going to continue. It has and will continue to have a great deal of publicity and will be closely reviewed by village, state, national and international governments and leaders.

If the words of all sides of the ANCSA conception, birth and growth are not heard, the end product of this commission will not be as good and strong as it should be.

But, also, if all who are given an opportunity to talk do not do so, they have no right to criticize the end result. If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.