

Asks More Native Hire By Oil Industry

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In as much as the Native people in Alaska have a 60% unemployment rate. And further, since the State insists on giving its resources up without any return, the Governor's office should initiate a program to insist that the oil companies hire more Native people.

The history of Alaska has been that she has given up billions of dollars of natural resources in gold, copper, salmon, fur seals, platinum and other valuable minerals with very little return, mainly because we were a territory, but now we are a state and can have some control over our destiny.

The oil wealth is being extracted at the rate of approximately 2.5 millions barrels per month and very little is being left in Alaska, not even a fair amount of wages. When the oil companies rotate platform crews out of here by the plane-load and refuse to hire locally, specifically Native people, there should be a huge cry across the state to at least hire locally where there is so much unemployment, and if that is not done, there should be a demand that we tax them at a fair rate of 9% instead of a ridiculous 1%.

There is an argument that this is a young industry and they will pull out and they cannot afford it and once they get their exploratory investment back then we can realistically tax them. Does that mean then, that since the state and really the people are underwriting the cost of oil exploration, that they will share a part of the profits when it starts paying? Of course not.

We should therefore, tax for the extraction of our resources. It appears that the men who argue against this all are benefiting from the present set-up. The least we can ask, if not more taxes, is more employment to reduce the 60% unemployment rate in rural Alaska.

Let the Native people benefit and become a part of the growth of Alaska.