



WILLIAM L. HENSLEY

Kotzebue Eskimo Seeks House Seat

William L. Hensley, of Kotzebue, a graduate student at the University of Alaska, has thrown his hat into the political ring and filed for the Al-

aska State House of Representatives from the 17th election district of Northwest Alaska.

Hensley filed as a Democrat and will face two other Democrats in the primary election, including incumbent Jake Stalker, also of Kotzebue. The other candidate is Johnny Nusinginya, of Barrow, who served in the first State legislature.

Hensley told the Tundra Times that his interest and concern in the problem of Indian and Eskimo land claims was one of the chief reasons he had decided to seek public office.

"I have studied the problem carefully," Hensley said, "and have seen that no legis-

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lator has fully informed the native people about their rights to the land which they occupy."

The aspiring legislator said he planned to visit every village in the great Northwest Coastal District and inform the people about the problems of land claims and just what their rights are. "I plan also to see what we can do to establish claims," Hensley stated.

"The time to begin discussing and planning a land settlement is now. I believe the problem of the land must be settled soon; it is to the interest of the State of Alaska, to the Federal Government and to the Alaskan Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts," Hensley stated.

The 17th District, from Buckland to Barrow, is one of the richest potential development areas in the State, with oil and mineral exploration and development already un-

derway, as well as tourism growing in the Kotzebue area.

Hensley said he felt effective representation in the State House of Representatives will be extremely important with the northwest areas being limited to only one State senator under the new reapportionment plan.

"I would also like to see the people in the Kotzebue-Kobuk areas form a regional association as has been done by native peoples in other areas of the State," Hensley stated. "Associations like the Arctic Slope Native Association can play an important part in the development of an area and speak for the people," he added.

"I intend to do whatever is in my power to promote economic development in the area and assist the people in the villages with problems in the areas of housing, employment, and land."

William L. Hensley is 25 years of age and was born in Kotzebue, Alaska. He attended Kotzebue and Noorvik Day schools and attended high school in Tennessee. In 1960-62 he attended the University of Alaska and later graduated from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., with a degree in political science. He is presently engaged in graduate work in the school of Business and Economics at the University of Alaska.