

# Publisher's Notes

## INTERIOR SECRETARY CLARK'S RESIGNATION

No one, in the Alaska Native Community, seems to have much to say about the departure of William Clark from Interior. During his 13-month stay there, he managed to give some attention to Alaska, on some sensitive issues such as the "Sovereignty" question and the matter of certifying IRA's. Some of his comments such as "It is clear that we can have only one state here and that is the State of Alaska" were not welcomed in some quarters, but he didn't do much to back up those comments.

The post of Interior Secretary is an important one to Alaska for a number of reasons so anyone who occupies the office requires our close attention. Clark's replacement will no doubt be given that by our leadership.

The "1985 ANCSA Report" will be going to Congress sometime during the current session. Section 23 of ANCSA calls for the report to be submitted through the President. Whoever has the job of shepharding the report will need a crash course in ANCSA matters and concerns as well as in Alaskan politics.

The Sovereignty issue and the application of the Indian Reorganization Act to Alaska are some other matters that are quite sensitive at this time. Bill Horn, Undersecretary seems to be on top of the problems so the continuity of resolving the issue may not be broken, unless of course, a new Secretary decides to make some changes there.

Most important of all are the "1991 amendments," which now occupy top priority for the Alaska Federation of Natives and the regional and village corporations; and indeed for all of us in anyway involved with ANCSA. We're going to need a friendly ear in the Department of the Interior.

History sometimes has a way of repeating itself. Remembering another time that was critical to Alaska Natives when the post of Interior Secretary was being filled, hearings were being held, and concessions being made. Just prior to the passage of ANCSA in 1970, Walter Hickel was preparing to step into the job of Interior Secretary with a well publicized attitude of lifting the "Land Freeze" that had been put in place by Secretary Udall. During the hearings, our leadership managed to make some substantial gains in terms of extracting concessions from him that paved the way for passage of ANCSA.

We are now facing a similar situation where hearings will be held on candidates for the job of Interior Secretary. Our leadership has now the task of determining what concessions can be made if any on the amendments to ANCSA. Its a task that will require some coordination and skill, which our leadership is prepared for.

## "THINK SNOW"

The weather in Anchorage and around Alaska in fact is worrisome for those who want a mid-winter holiday. If we don't get some snow soon, how will the dog races be run during Fur Rondy? Even if the snow is trucked in, will the weather be too warm for the dogs to race comfortably is a question on the minds of many.

Join the rest of us and "Think Snow" for the rest of the month.