

Editorial—

Voter Pre-registration

August 25— a very important day for Alaskans. And that's little over a month away. That is the day when the voters of the State of Alaska will be going to the polls to pick candidates they wish to have for their representatives in the U.S. Congress and those they would like to see represent them in the State government.

A set number of candidates will then get more votes than their respective opponents. Those winners will then start laying plans for the general election in November and the winners of that election will be designated to serve as servants of the people as elected officials.

There is one catch to the primary election and the general election this year. Only those who have pre-registered to vote will be taking part in the elections. Those people who have the right to vote but who are not registered will not be able to cast their ballots. On August 25, they could just be standing around with nothing to do. And then, after the votes are counted the candidate that they might have wished to see elected had lost by a few votes. If this happens, it will be disappointing but then that will be too late—irretrievably too late at least for years to come. Those persons—and these can be native persons—who did not bother to pre-register to vote could very well have made the difference.

This election year stands to be a crucial one for the future of the native people. They will need to have elected officials who will be willing to work for them so those officials can help them solve many of their knotty problems.

There is still time to register but the time is getting short. To do this, the folks still have until August 11, 1970 to get themselves officially listed on the voter registration. Leaders all the way from the top to the village level, mothers clubs, and other concerned persons should get to work and encourage and have every village eligible to vote registered. Show them the proper place in which to do this. This work—this helping hand—should be viewed as a serious assignment which can be rewarding and beneficial in the future of our native people.