

Leaders of Northwest Association Hitting Back at Wendell Kay

Leaders of the Northwest Alaska Native Association in Kotzebue are hitting back at Governor-candidate Wendell Kay, over a statement Kay made that the northwest group was dominated by Kotzebue House Candidate William Hensley.

Kay said, in a Fairbanks press conference two weeks ago, that the Kotzebue group was, "entirely a Willie Hensley organization."

The charge was made after Tundra Times Editor Howard

Rock asked Kay what he thought of the Kotzebue group's political endorsements. The Northwest Association endorsed Kay's opponent, Gov. William Egan, for re-election.

John W. Schaeffer Jr., President of the group, told Tundra Times that Kay should have, "a better understanding of the goals of this association, to prevent a recurrence of erroneous statements of this type."

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"If Mr. Kay is as seriously concerned with the problems confronting the Native people of Alaska as he has stated, he should have complimented rather than slandered the progressive Eskimo people who have united to attempt to alleviate some of the severe problems which confront them."

"This association is not entirely Willie Hensley's, as Mr. Kay has stated, although Hensley is a very important member. He was instrumental in focusing the interest of the people on the problems facing them. His efforts in the controversial land claims issue, and in helping to organize this association have earned

him the complete support of the Eskimo people in this area."

Hensley is running against four other Democrats in the Northwest House district, which holds one state house seat.

The seat was formerly held by Jake Stalker, of Kotzebue.

Democrats running are Stalker himself for re-election; Hensley; Lee Staheli, a Kotzebue bush pilot; John Nunginya of Barrow; and Robert Nowlin of Noorvik, on the Kobuk River.

Evelyn Conwell, of Kotzebue, is running in the Republican primary, August 23, against Jerry Crow of Barrow.