

**Editorial—**

# **Effort Promising But Needs Improvement**

In the process of electing officials in the recent election, the Native people of our state took an important part and their votes were evident in the results of important political contests. This has been the year in which the vote of our people was closely watched by the entire state. The Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians should now begin to fully realize that their political participation in Alaska is becoming more and more important every election year. This is due to a most gratifying development — the waking of our people to the importance of politics. The evidence of this was that some villages recorded the largest number of voters in their history. Those villages that did so should be highly commended for their exceptionally fine efforts. This is a good omen for the future participation politically and the importance of it cannot be stressed too highly.

Although our Native people are developing excellent awareness to our elective system we noted, however, that the political effort was lacking some coordination in some areas. There were diversifications that were pronounced clearly indicating that there was considerable outside influence. There will, of course, be outside influences always which we will have to learn to recognize as such, otherwise we will continue to be swayed and not really think for ourselves. If this persists, our political efforts will be static in operation. This we do not need if we wish to have some measure of influence in the affairs of our state.

Although we are making a good start in political affairs, there is room for improvement. Our Native leaders should take particular note of this situation and think of ways of improving the effort so it can be made to function in a more productive manner. Our people need the nearest to the right kind of influence and our able leaders should be able to give this. The political try so far is a promising one to say the least. Its development into a working order should be the goal. If the leaders work seriously at it, they will have done one of the most important services for their people. Then, and only then, will we be able to realize the full benefits of a well-functioning political effort.