

"3 Cheers for Nettie"

By JOHN D. MILNE, Ph.D.

Millions of dollars have been spent over the past 50 years on Native education and self determination projects—usually most of the money is slurped up by hungry bureaucrats and poured down the drain by stupid but well-meaning consultants.

For the first time in Alaska's history there is one project which really got the money to the people where it was supposed to go—right down to the village level.

Some mistakes were made by village people at first as they came to realize slowly and hesitatingly Nettie Peratrovich really meant it when she said, "It's your money, your kids and your schools!"

"You decide what you need

and want most for your children."

In the first year of operation over a million dollars in direct service to villages passed through Indian Education Director Nettie Peratrovich.

It wasn't easy fighting almost hour to hour, day in and day out weekends and evenings—neglecting her own family in the process to make sure the money really went where it should go but she fought hard and won.

Nettie served the past two years as director of Indian Education for the State-Operated School System serving hard and well and when the bureaucrats finally began to eat away at her program she had guts enough to stand up and tell them to run it themselves.

Good for you, Nettie, we know who the good people are. It takes guts to stand up and not sell out as others have done and are doing just to hang on to a good paying job.