

ASNA, CINA May Initiate Annual Group Conventions

Last Sunday, a charter flight of 70 people landed at the Top o' the World City of Barrow and 25 of the people were members of the Cook Inlet Native Association of Anchorage who had gone to meet with the members of the Arctic Slope Native Association of Barrow.

Among them was the Democratic candidate for governor, Wendell P. Kay.

An informal meeting was held at the old schoolhouse where a capacity crowd of about 200 attended.

"We have come on the charter to see the Barrow people and members of the

Arctic Slope Native Association to discuss unity and political action to benefit all Alaska Natives," said Lloyd Ahvakana, vice president of CINA, representing his president, Emil Notti.

"We seek unity of Native people of Cook Inlet Native Association and the Native people of the Arctic Slope Native Association to further this cause."

In the ensuing discussion, the possibility of holding annual conventions of Native associations officers and delegates were made to plan and to formulate an overall policy to benefit the entire

Native population.

It was agreed that work to this end should be initiated by both organizations immediately and to inform other Native groups of the undertaking.

It was said that the meeting produced an understanding that there were basic problems that were similar among the Native people. It also showed that there was a necessity for unity and a need for common policy among the associations. The first meeting of the widely diversified groups found much common ground on which to build and

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work together.

During the course of the meeting, Lloyd Ahvakana introduced Wendell Kay who spoke through an interpreter. He said:

"It is time for the Native people to reach out through their own political organizations and demand a constitutional convention be held to restore representation in the Senate of the northwest areas."

He stated that three of the basic problems confronting the Native people were housing, education and economic development. He added that it was the responsibility of the State to further the economy of the depressed areas of Alaska by attracting new and diversified industries.

He further stated that Native aboriginal rights were important and these must be given due recognition.

"This is the first year that the Natives of Alaska as a whole have begun to exercise their political strength from the Panhandle to the Arctic," Kay declared.

In concluding his address, Kay predicted a bright future for Alaska and its Native people. In order for this to come about, he urged all Native organizations to work together.