

# Kay Is Concerned Over Endorsement

P.O. Box 1178  
Anchorage, Alaska  
May 26, 1966

Mr. Sam Taalak  
President  
Arctic Slope Native  
Association  
Barrow, Alaska

Dear President Taalak:

I read with great interest in the Tundra Times that your Association made endorsements for various offices in the forthcoming elections this August and November.

I am, of course, deeply concerned over the fact that you decided to endorse the third term candidate for Governor, Mr. Egan. I certainly wish that I had had an opportunity to discuss my own candidacy with you before these endorsements were made.

I say this because I have been emphasizing the necessity of moving ahead in the native areas of the state from the outset of my campaign. I have advocated the regional high school plan for a long time—long before it was introduced in the legislature. I have supported legislation to improve native housing since 1950, and have been working hard for Senator Bartlett's Native Housing Bill in Congress. I have insisted that we do something to organize an economy which will produce jobs in the villages of our state and have advocated the processing of the fur seal in Alaska and the establishment of freezer plants for group marketing of food products.

In other words, it seems to me that I have been advocating and urging a really sensible program of development in the neglected areas of the state. You know, and I know, that the Arctic and interior areas of Alaska have been neglected under the present administration for eight long

years. You have had a lot of promises and conversation, but you have had no performance. It is hard for me to understand why you would again endorse the man who has been responsible for the utter failure of accomplishment in the villages of Alaska.

It is now becoming apparent that the people around Mr. Egan are making a determined effort to re-elect him in order to preserve and protect their own jobs and power. They are making this push in direct violation of the spirit of the Alaska Constitution, which limits the Governor to two successive terms.

This is a matter of vital interest to every voter in the State of Alaska. I am convinced that we have got to get off to a fresh clean start.

I intend to come up to Barrow soon and I sincerely hope that I will be given an opportunity to discuss the situation with you and answer any questions you may have. Believe me, I have every respect for your right to be heard and am very proud of the fact that the native people are beginning to exercise the political power which is theirs.

I only seek to be heard.

Very truly yours,

Wendell P. Kay

cc: Abel Akpik  
Fred Kanayurak  
James Nageak  
Walton Ahmaogak  
Hugh Nicholls  
Samuel Simmonds  
Howard Rock  
Ralph Perdue