

# **A Challenge**

A small drama of sorts has been unfolding in recent months. It is perhaps a minor problem, considering the complex public issues which Alaskans and Native groups are faced with this year. From week to week, over the past six months, the Tundra Times has not been certain whether it could publish another issue.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

# ● Editorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

The problems have largely been financial. For several reasons, income from special fundraising events was not available last year. A decision to maintain dual offices in Fairbanks and Anchorage proved premature, and the experiment was abandoned at mid-year as losses became evident. Staff turn-over was very high. Advertising income, expected to double last year, merely increased 50 percent. A rapid succession of bookkeepers was experienced. Necessary federal tax deposits were neglected and the keen interest of the Internal Revenue Service was excited. About the only good news was in the circulation department, where paid circulation has nearly tripled since March of last year.

Relief has not been readily available. The newspaper gratefully accepted help in the form of advertising commitments, subscription purchases and other aid from the Ahtna regional corporation, Alaska Commercial Company, Alaska Native Foundation, Kodiak Area Native Association, North Slope Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Tlingit and Haida Central Council. Largely as a result of this help, Tundra Times general manager Pamela Herman was able to deliver a check in full payment of the tax debt to the I.R.S. this week.

Long term solutions are currently being sought on behalf of the Tundra Times. An offer of sale of stock in the Eskimo Indian, Aleut Publishing Company was made in placement memorandums issued to most Native regional and village corporations. While Koniag, Inc. and Leisnoi, Inc. (Woody Island) corporations bought stock, most Native corporations waited to see what other Native corporations would do before taking any action.

Now, a challenge has been issued. Meeting with Tundra Times Chairman of the Board Willie Hensley in Kotzebue last week, the NANA Regional Corporation has said it would purchase \$20,000 of the new stock if four other Native regions would also buy stock. The question now remains whether the other Native regions will accept the challenge.