

***Editorial—***

# **The Native Vote Is Still a Juicy Plum**

The interest in the native vote by the Alaska leading politicians is holding strong, if not more so, in this 1970 election year. If there are signs that there is no concern for it, it is now non-existent from this vantage point. If anything, there seems to be more interest in it contrary to some beliefs that a leading politician does not necessarily need the native vote to be elected. This opinion should be strongly noted by the native leadership. Counteraction to the idea should be kept in mind so the native vote action this year can be aimed at a target, or issue, that will be a most telling result.

The native people are embroiled in politics. They can count on being continually involved in it in the future. Since they cannot get away from it, they might as well work toward using their votes the best way that they can.

The voting privilege can be their strong servant to combat the issues and personalities that might go against them and use the vote for those things that would benefit them. The importance of this privilege is without question. The native people must take full advantage of it. Their leaders should exert strong influences to make this real political servant to work for native interests that will benefit them well in their everyday lives.

The native people and their leaders should keep in mind always that the native vote is still a juicy plum desired by leading politicians as well as the lesser ones. Always remember also that a vote well placed is a beneficial one. Still better, collective votes well placed can definitely have a telling influence in the political arena of Alaska.