

# Hensley Calls For Unity

Senator Willie Hensley recently called on Alaskans to unite in the common fight against outside control. Speaking to the Northwest Regional Democratic Convention in Kotzebue, Hensley said Alaskans must never allow the same mistakes in Alaska as have been made in other developing states.

"We are now at the crossroads," he said. "Whether we opt for uncontrolled, shotgun development or an orderly plan of controlled progress depends on the decisions we make now. It would be foolish to think we can stop the hands of the clock in Alaska.

"But it would be equally foolish to move ahead without first deciding on a sensible plan of development which will benefit all Alaskans economically while preserving our great land."

Discussing the Native Land Claims Settlement Act, the Democratic congressional candidate told his audience that many urban businessmen fought the settlement. But he hailed the appearance of what he called a "new attitude."

In Hensley's words, "Those same businessmen are realizing that justice for one group of Alaskans is a step forward for all Alaskans. They are realizing that the millions ceded to Alaska Natives under the Settlement Act will be pumped back into the state to provide a new base for Alaska's economy. Throughout the state, Alaskans must realize that we are all economically bound together."

Hensley said regional ties have been necessary in the past for political strength and protection. But he added the future will lie in Alaska's ability to rise above the limits of regionalism to present a united citizenship.

"Sensible, effective land use planning, so necessary to the optimum use of non-use of Alaskan resources, will require not a regional approach, but a statewide effort."

Hensley pointed out that Alaska is facing a period of growth and development. And he said he feels it is imperative that Alaska controls its own future, and that "the combined efforts of all Alaskans, no matter what their regional background, are consolidated into a united effort.

"Alaskans must fully control the important decisions affecting their state.

"This can only be done if we approach the problem as Alaskans. Listening to each others needs, backing each other, and respecting varying ways of life and each individual's right to it."