

# Thompson answers Boyko

**Hickel lawyer**

**charge angers**

**prominent Native**

Anchorage attorney Edgar Paul Boyko, retained by Wally Hickel to review the manner in which the Alaska primary election was held, leveled charges of dozens of incidents of alleged impropriety in the conduct of the election.

In a story published in the September 8 issue of the All-Alaska Weekly, Boyko recited a tediously long list of charges of alleged improprieties he claims to have uncovered.

Strangely, the only Alaskan voter mentioned by name in the article authorized by Weekly editor Tom Snapp was Morris Thompson, a long-respected prominent Native figure, former assistant to then-governor Hickel, former Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and currently vice president of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline.

In the long recital attributed to Boyko by the Weekly, one of the allegations was "that a ballot counter in Tanana found three ballots which she knew to have been disqualified. She claims she remembers writing a letter to Morris Thompson, vice president of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline, that his vote had been disqualified and yet she says his vote was counted."

Thompson, very disturbed that his name was mentioned, that only his name was mentioned in the rambling list of allegations, and that the name of his company was mentioned, issued a strong reply on Tuesday.

"Mr. Boyko in an article in the September 8, 1978, issue of the All-Alaska Weekly alleges that I voted irregularly in the recent primary election. Mr. Boyko indicates that a ballot counter in Tanana remembers sending me a letter disqualifying my ballot," Thompson

(See THOMPSON, Page Six)

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(Continued from Page One)

son said.

"In discussions with some of the election officials in Tanana, they are unable to recall writing me a letter. I have not recieved a letter from anyone regarding my vote," he added.

"Some pertinent facts are-

(1) I went to the election pre-registration places and made an application to vote in the Tanana election district (19); (2) I received a voter registration card declaring me eligible to vote in Tanana (19); (3) I voted absentee the day before the election on a Tanana ballot (19)," Thompson responded

"Further, I was both raised and have family still residing in Tanana. I own property and homes there and consider it my permanent home," he said.

"I voted absentee in Tanana previously but it's curious that out of all Mr. Boyko's alleged charges and irregularities, I am the only

individual named. That's sad and I consider this an attempt to discredit me. In all my years of government service and service to rural Alaskans I have tried to maintain the highest levels of integrity," stated Thompson.

"Should there be a problem with my ballot," concluded Thompson, "I am eagerly waiting to hear from the election office."

Thompson, a long-time friend and associate of Hickel's and one of the few avowed Native Republicans in Alaska, maintained a low profile during the primary campaign, although the president of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline endorsed the candidacy of Governor Hammond.