

Editorial —

No more, please . . .

Like many Alaska Natives, Morris Thompson travels frequently, changing scenery about as fast as his remarkable career has developed. We knew him first in Juneau, where he was in public service on the governor's staff. The governor was Walter Hickel. When Hickel left Alaska, Thompson left too, becoming Indian affairs special assistant in the Interior Secretary's office. When Hickel was fired, Morris' talent was recognized by Hickel's successor, and he went back to Juneau as area director for Alaska in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Then, once again, Thompson bounced back to Washington, this time as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

We learned, too, that Thompson has lived in other places as well, in Los Angeles, where he studied at RCA to become an electronics technician. And in Fairbanks, where he commuted to work at the Gilmore satellite tracking station.

One thing we knew about Thompson was that, no matter where he was, Tanana was home. We knew that he has always voted absentee from Tanana from all these far-flung places. It is a way of life for a lot of Alaska Natives (and for a bunch of Alaska non-Natives, too). If Boyko needs some more "irregularities" in his hunt; there are a lot of us who might be vulnerable to his allegations. We imagine that Thompson will gravitate next toward Fairbanks, when Northwest sets up their headquarters in the Golden Heart City. And, we imagine, he'll still want to vote at home, at Tanana.

The singling out of Thompson, the only voter name mentioned in pages of wide-ranging charges, is crude and insensitive. Too many Natives and other Alaskans enjoy their freedom, their mobility, and their right to call one place home, to put up with any more of this stuff.

There is only one decent thing left to do. Call him off, Wally, and let us get on with the election.

Enough!