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# Tundra Times

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## IRAs, old issues dominate 1983



By Linda Lord-Jenkins  
Tundra Times Editor

1983 was a year of great debate about the future of tribal sovereignty mixed with the resolution of statewide conflicts that have lingered for decades.

Questions of tribal sovereignty dominated much of 1983 as Indian Reorganization Act conferences were held through-

out the state and a new statewide organization focusing on the sovereignty question was formed.

The United Tribes of Alaska was the baby born of an IRA movement which has gathered more publicity and interest throughout the Native community.

The sovereignty issue is one

which will dominate the coming years as individual Alaska villages look at following the example of Akiachak which has declared itself an IRA entity and gave up the state-recognized status.

That action led the state to immediately suspend revenue payments to the village and re-examine the issue.

Sovereignty must be decided between the state and the village government, was Sen. Ted Stevens' advice as he spoke to the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, but many of those involved in the movement contend the state has nothing to say about it.

The issue will go on.  
The people of St. Paul Is-

For photo explanation  
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land received their \$6,500 "corned beef money," which had been sought for years to compensate the islanders for past federal ill treatment during federal seal operations.

The federal government also

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