

Cultural Discussions Needed

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Something less than 300 persons have any direct knowledge of it, but a considerable contribution to the development of Alaska was made recently in the presentation of a panel discussion by several outstanding Alaskans under the title "Cultures in Conflict."

The manifold conflicts among the various cultures co-existent within Alaska were the sum and substance of the enlightening discussion which involved such knowledgeable Alaskans as Fred Machetanz, an artist of international reputation who has made Alaska the subject of his work for many years; John Hope, a Tlingit Indian native of Alaska who has served his people long and well as a representative of the Alaska Native Brotherhood on the BIA; Howard Rock, Eskimo artist and long-time editor of the widely read *Tundra Times*, and Dr. George Rodgers, an economist who has served Alaska as territory and state in several capacities during the past several years.

No final solution to Alaska's many social and economic problems was suggested, nor was one intended. The discussion served the very useful purpose of offering the thoughts of the panelists as catalytic agents to stimulate thinking on these problems among those attending. In this respect we believe the discussion will prove invaluable.

The "something less than 300 persons" referred to above relates to the size of the audience. As we scanned them, we noted the audience included many of the people who get things done in Alaska. For the most part their questions to the panelists clearly indicated that broad and objective thinking had been stimulated.

With the 1965 "Cultures in Conflict" as a starter, we would hope that the 1966 Spring Festival of Arts might provide similar discussion opportunities, with equally knowledgeable panelists—perhaps under the title "Cultures in Cooperation."

—JIM COUCH