

HUMPHREY ENDORSES 4 POINT INDIAN AND ESKIMO PLANK

Don Wright Helps to Negotiate 4-Point Program with H.H.H.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey of the United States has endorsed the four-point program drawn up by the newly organized First Americans for Political Action.

The FAPA was organized only recently at the conclusion of the National Congress of American Indians executive session in Washington, D. C.

Don Wright is the member of the NCAI executive committee and he attended the executive committee session.

"The Vice President was enthusiastic about this program and stated that he felt the request was fair and reasonable and agreed that he would use this as part of his campaign platform in the presidential race," Don Wright told Tundra Times today.

"Our meeting with the Vice President proved very fruitful," Wright continued. "He was enthusiastic about the self-determination of the First American organization and pledged whole-hearted support for our major four-point program."

Hubert Humphrey's endorsement in turn generated a formation of the National Co-chairmen of the First Americans for Hubert Humphrey for President.

The co-chairmen are:

Wendell Chino, president of the National Congress of American Indians; Roger Jordain of the Red Lake Chipewas of Wisconsin; Judge Lacy Maynor,



DON WRIGHT

Lummi Tribe, Pembroke, North Carolina; and Don Wright, First Vice President of the Alaska Federation of Natives and president of the Cook Inlet Native Association, Anchorage, Alaska.

The four-point program agreed to is as follows:

(Continued on page 5)

Humphrey Endorses . . .

(Continued from page 1)

-1) That a presidential candidate recognize the special rights of the reservation Indians to the extent that termination without consent of the tribe would be discouraged even to the extent of presidential veto of such legislation should it pass the Congress.

-2) Endorse the contents of the President's message on American Indian in its entirety.

-3) Support and maintain amendments of Public Law 280 insuring the rights of tribal jurisdiction regarding minor offences on reservations.

-4) Endorse the latest land claims recommendations of the Alaska native people and make every effort to give priority to this legislation during the next session of Congress.

"The general concensus of the executive committee was to form a First Americans citizens committee independent of the NCAI to support a presidential candidate who would publicly subscribe to and endorse the major issues recommended by the NCAI," said Don Wright.

The NCAI committee met in an executive session to complete unfinished business and discussed the involvement of the First Americans for Political Action.

The NCAI is a bi-partisan national Indian organization that believes in results and not party affiliation.

The organization through its president Wendell Chino has also declared that President Lyndon Johnson's message to Congress on American Indians is the biggest opportunity offered in the past 100 years.

After the NCAI executive committee meeting, a special meeting was called by the FAPA and national co-chairmen were appointed.

The following day, co-chairmen Wendell Chino, Roger Jordain and Don Wright met with Robert Short, assistant to the Vice President, and Julius Cahn, advisor to Hubert Humphrey on minority people, and the group requested a private audience with the Vice President.

On the next day, Wendell Chino and Don Wright were

appointed to discuss the position of the First Americans with Humphrey "in person and obtain a public commitment in support of our four-point program."

Don Wright, who is running for Democratic nomination for U.S. House of Representatives in the August primaries against John Rader and State Sen. Nick Begich, has been busy on land matters in Washington, D. C.

He was a member of the delegation that testified before Senate Committee on Interior and Insular and House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs on Alaska native land claims.

"My campaign in the state has been considerably delayed," Don Wright said, "because I feel the land claims issue is the most important issue confronting all citizens of Alaska."

He said he took an additional ten days in Washington to meet department heads and make a current evaluation of plans for projects scheduled in Alaska for the coming fiscal year.

"One of the most promising will be the development of timber resources along the river drainages which will be incorporated into the Alaska native housing project," Wright said.

"Another," he said, "will be the development of modern mining equipment to be used by small privately owned companies in the interior of Alaska."

In concluding the interview, Don Wright urged the native people of Alaska:

"I like to urge the native people of Alaska to stick together politically and economically to insure continued unity and success in our flight to insure the future of our people."

"The past two years have proven what can be done by working together for common causes. Do not allow political pressure, or financial pressure, to slow down our rapid development."

Don Wright is the first Alaska native to ever run for a national office to represent Alaska.