

# Metcalf Tells Reason Of Gavel Authority

A tall, genial man with graying hair talked happily and laughed with the Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians at a reception given in his honor and that of his colleagues in Anchorage a week ago.

As he conversed easily, wittily, he showed nothing of the toughness he wielded at the land claims hearings earlier that day.

The man was Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana who served as acting chairman at the hearings during the absence of Senator Henry Jackson of Washington who had been delayed due to a commitment at the nation's capitol.

When George Moerlein of the Alaska Miners' Association gave a dissenting testimony against the compromise bill, some of his language rankled the native people and their friends in the Sidney Laurence Auditorium.

Catcalls began to erupt but they were suddenly silenced by a booming impact of the gavel that reverberated throughout the auditorium. The loud snap of the impact was amplified by a series of microphones.

"I will not allow any demonstration from the audience while a witness is testifying!" roared Senator Metcalf.

Later in the proceedings, Metcalf told the Tundra Times:

"When I was elected to the

House (U.S. House of Representatives) many years ago, I became a good friend of Speaker Sam Rayburn—as you know he was from Texas.

"He told me one day, 'Lee, if you ever have the occasion to use the gavel, use it with authority.' I have never forgotten that."