

tundra tattler

(Editor's Note: Depending on reader response, this column may become a regular feature in the Tundra Times. It contains items of interest which are made available from usually reliable news sources, which will remain unidentified. It is intended to provide some perspective into Native affairs which normally will be unavailable from regular news stories. Comments about the column may be addressed to Tundra Tattler, Tundra Times, 639 'I' Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.)

THOMPSON LIKELY AFN CHIEF — Former Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company vice president and BIA Commissioner Morris Thompson has been invited to meet with the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives this week to discuss the possibility of assuming the presidency of the statewide Native organization. Thompson has wide support among AFN directors for the position. B. Agnes Brown, president of the Tyonek Corporation, is another contender for the presidency. She was nominated by the Cook Inlet Region for the job.

GENERAL LESTENKOF? — (Cook Inlet Native Association President Jake Lestenkof, formerly a full colonel in the Alaska National Guard, is under serious consideration for the post of Adjutant General of the Guard. Lestenkof, an Aleut from Saint Paul in the Pribilof Islands, has thorough credentials and training for the position, and may receive a strong recommendation from key advisors of Governor Jay Hammond. Lestenkof had resigned his Guard position following a reported power struggle several years ago. He served as Executive Vice President of the AFN, and as a private businessperson after resigning his Guard position and before assuming the CINA presidency.

REPUBLICAN/BUSH COALITION — State Rep. Joe Hayes, a leader of the Republican House Caucus, says bush Democrats in the House may wish to join with Republicans to take control of that body. As an incentive for the marriage of convenience Hayes says the Republicans may offer Representative Nels Anderson, Jr. (D-Dillingham) the top leadership position of that body, that of Speaker of the House. Anderson says he has not been approached and that the coalition seems a remote prospect.

COMMISSIONER EATON — United Bank Alaska vice president Perry R. Eaton, a strong Hammond backer during the gubernatorial election, has asked the Hammond administration not to consider him for the Commissioner of Commerce although he was encouraged to consider the post by key advisors. He reportedly was concerned about personal family sacrifices associated with the job, as well as his continuing interest in management of the Native-owned bank as reasons for his reluctance. Now, we have learned, the Hammond people may ask Eaton to consider the post on an interim basis, until a permanent commissioner may be selected. Eaton, in addition to his bank responsibilities, is Chairman of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). He is an Aleut, and chairman of Koniag's finance committee.

ANGOON'S TROUBLES — Kootznoowoo, Inc. the Angoon village corporation, is being told of heavy losses in the construction company in which it has majority interest. Modular Pacific (Mod-Pac) is owned approximately 80 per cent by the Southeastern Alaska village corporation. Insiders say the firm is technically insolvent after a string of money-losing projects. The losses are said to be so severe that the viability of Kootznoowoo itself may be threatened.

A ROOM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, PLEASE — Doyon's Pioneer Inn, a historic landmark in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii has made nothing but money for the Interior Athabascan regional corporation. Doyon's board of directors, however, insisted on a first-hand report from one of its members. Reluctantly, board chairman Roger Huntington of Galena accepted the assignment and arrangements were made for a brief visit. The venture is so successful, however, that there was no room at the Inn for the chairman. A last minute cancellation at the hotel, which enjoys a near 99 per cent occupancy rate, opened a room and allowed Huntington to make the trip.