

Editorial—

The North Slope Suit

One of the most heated subjects at the moment is the Arctic Slope Native Association's suit against the State of Alaska and the Department of the Interior in connection with Arctic Slope natives' position on the land claims.

We will say at the outset that this subject has, at last, been posed before the public although it had been held at abeyance by the leadership of ASNA for quite some time. The action by the Arctic Eskimo group, we believe, is one that has been a necessary step in the course of the battle for equitable solution of the native land claims. To have left it out of the battle would have been a mark of indecision on the part of the native people of Alaska as a whole. It needed to be said because it is a fact as it stands on its own. If ASNA had not acted on it, or any other native group, it would have been a dereliction of duty by the present leadership as it would be viewed by the future generations. It is fact now as it has been acted upon. It would probably be viewed by our future generations that it was a step to insure a more stable position in the resolution of native land claims. ASNA's action could be a unifying force for all parties concerned with the land claims issue.

The White element of the battle for the solution of the claims issue has been one of defensive attitude on the ASNA suit. This, we believe, is the desired result by the North Slope leadership and leaders of other native areas because there is a definite ring of justice behind the action.

We believe the ASNA suit will bring about more understanding, and sense of justice, among the parties concerned.