

Also Raps Sending Off of Firefighters—

Fred Notti Announces He Will Run as Write-in Candidate

Fred Notti, who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for the State House seat in District 15, announced last week that he is running as a write-in candidate for that same seat in the November general election.

He lost to Leslie E. Swanson of Nenana in the Aug. 25 primary by 172 votes.

In a letter to the Tundra Times editor (published on page 2), Notti explained his reasons for not giving up.

An Athabascan Indian from Aniak, he charged that he was denied much of the possible native vote by the preregistration law and by firefighting activities that took many natives out of the state on the day of the primary.

He asked why the voters could not have been given the opportunity to vote and register the day of the election?

Officials at the Fairbanks election office explained that State law requires everyone to register in person at least 14 days before the election or by mail at least 30 days before.

The law was voted into effect at the 1968 election, making the Aug 25 primary the first election in which preregistration was a prerequisite for voting.

Notti also asked why the native labor force of about 900 men was required in the state of Washington the day before and the morning of the primary election.

According to Bureau of Land Management officials, about 800 Alaskan natives from about 40 villages were called to Washington State Aug. 25 to help extinguish a series of uncontrolled forest fires there.

Since the polls opened at 8 a.m., the BLM official in Fairbanks said, many should have

had time to vote before leaving.

The firefighters were called all during the day of the 25th, he added, and most were in Anchorage by that night.

No provisions were made ahead of time for them to vote, he continued, as has been done in previous years with similar situations, because the BLM did not know until about 2 or 3 a.m. the morning of the 25th that the Alaskan firefighters would be going.

Also, Notti called for political education on the "grass roots" level right now by a political arm of the Alaska Federation of Natives.