

*'I may not agree with you but I will defend you right to the death'*

**Editorial—**

# **Timely Tyonek Loan**

With the acquisition of the \$100,000 loan from the Native Village of Tyonek, the Alaska Federation of Natives and its President Emil Netti now have the means that should provide the native people of Alaska an effective representation in working on land matters in Washington, D. C.

The Tyonek loan was timely and it may have come at the nick of time because the AFN had been in dire need to finance the needed representation—the kind of representation that would press for the strictly native side of the picture in the land situation. This is the side the influential members of Congress should know because the native spokesmen, we believe, can best present the true situation of Alaska's native people who are seeking just solution to the long standing land problem.

The natives of Alaska within the last few years have been responsible for the surprisingly swift progress toward affecting land legislation now pending in Congress. Within those few years, they had courageously taken on a sticky problem that had lain dormant for over 80 years. It had been a thankless job—difficult job.

The leaders met with unreasonable opposition that their people had no right to the lands they had always lived on since the remote past. In spite of these difficult obstacles they hung tough on what they thought was the right thing to do—what they thought was the reasonable thing to do.

We think the native leaders should be commended for their courageous efforts toward solving a problem that could be a milestone for brighter lives in the future if just solutions are provided.

These are the goals the native representation will work towards in Washington, D. C. and we are grateful, indeed, that this has been made possible by the amicable willingness of the Native Village of Tyonek to loan money that was needed badly.