

Other Voices—

THE SMELL OF SECRECY

Two newspaper reports, one in the Anchorage Daily News and the other in the Tundra Times, say Lavina Wallace Young Community Center in Nome may be the recipient of a \$640,000 federal grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The Anchorage Daily News quoted Ruby Tansy as saying the Rural Alaska Development Corp. has applied for the funds. She says headquarters for RADDC will be in Anchorage, but that the LWY Center would be the grantee for the federal plum.

Pete Hahn, president of the LWY Center Advisory Board, says he has no comment on the matter, and that all publicity was to be held up until details were worked out. We asked why the news was released to other papers when the main scene of activities is supposed to be in Nome. Hahn had no explanation.

We have heard rumors of the proposed grant for several weeks. In fact, we have been told that Ester McCoy, a dedicated, 17-year-employee of the center, resigned because she could not stand the smell beginning to surround the project. Miss McCoy, herself, would not comment to the press.

There are serious doubts in our mind about some of the aspects of the proposed program. How can a Nome based organization closely supervise and manage an office in

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 2)

Anchorage? Why the secrecy on one hand and an apparent grab for publicity on the other?

We have no objections whatsoever if the federal government wants to ante up more than a half million dollars to help native peoples in rural Alaska, but we are going to object vociferously if it looks like most of the money is going to be spent on administration and travel, as has been the case in innumerable poverty war instances.

We pledged to Chairman Hahn that the Nugget would get, and make public each financial report on this project. We intend to keep that pledge.

—THE NOME NUGGET