

Editorial Comment—

The Value of Alaska

Legal Services Program

The Alaska Legal Services Corp. program is young in years in Alaska. But even at that, its far flung services are being felt throughout the huge State of Alaska. And this in a most satisfying manner especially in the remote rural areas.

Before ALSC was established a few years ago, there was very little legal service done in the bush. No dedicated work was done for the Native people in the outlying areas. The people there were most ignorant what legal work meant. It was a dead area as far as this arm of service was concerned.

Now all this has changed. The Native people are finding out what great value legal work in their behalf has become. They are becoming educated to it to a pretty good extent in such a short time. They have seen the fruits of toil by ALSC in their behalf and this has been good. They want more of it and they are becoming involved in it, as they should.

Since the Native folks have become involved with the Alaska Legal Services, the interest in the work of the organization has grown by leaps and bounds — so much so that the workload of the ALSC has become overburdened. This means the Native people have awakened to the valuable rewards of legal work that has been done for them. They want more of this because they have found it good.

The growth of demands for the services of ALSC is becoming acute because of the personnel that is getting inadequate because of the greatly increased workload. The ALSC is asking for increased funding and modest increase in its personnel. We hope that its request will be honored by the powers that be because the services it is doing in Alaska has become extremely valuable. The Alaska Native people, as well as the poor among whites and other minorities, have a great need for it.