

Editorial Comment—

The night of December 17, 1973 will ever be a day remembered as long as this writer's blood flows through his veins through whatever time ahead his life has been allotted to him. It was a night that sparked with brightness of warm praises and evidences of affection that touched his heart profoundly. It was a memorable evening that no mortal would forget - - that no mortal would view as just another event of honoring someone but that of an honor of great magnitude that came from the expressions from the general population of the unique State of Alaska.

It has been true that the trudge of the Tundra Times has been a difficult one through a rough road it had traversed since October 1, 1962 whence it began to voice its deep concern for the betterment of a morass of profound Alaska Native problems - - the dangers of loss of lands without awards - - the Priblof Islands situation - - the bitter and largely untapped Native unemployment - the still seething sanitation problem - - the improvement of health - - the miserable and grossly inadequate housing - - the need for specialized rural school textbooks better suited to the environments - - the resurgent awareness of Native cultures - - the need for self-determination - - as well as other Native oriented problems. Many of the above areas of concerns of the newspaper have yet to be solved.

Along the difficult road of effort, there was a glittering emergence of Native leadership that blossomed from bright buds of promise from all corners of Alaska Native cultural regions. This development was a needed impetus - - a Godsend - - in the efforts to inform the Native general population of the great problems at hand. Almost to the man, the individual leaders were appropriately vocal. The newspaper pounced eagerly on their quotable, knowledgeable and fit remarks on complex matters current unto the times. Tundra Times rejoiced on this timely eventuality and welcomed the greatly needed assistance - - a real shot in the arm in the effort to dispense needed information on pertinent issues of the times.

The leadership emerged with critical remarks by Hugh Nicholls', Charles Edwardsens, Sam Taalaks, Willie Hensleys, Emil Nottis, Don Wrights, Alfred Ketzlers, Richard Franks, Alice Browns, Andrew Isaacs, Eben Hopsons, Joe Upicksouns, John Borbridges, Nick Grays, Margaret Nicks, John Sacketts, Sam Kitos, Flore Lekanofs, Byron Mal-lots, Laura Bergts, Philip Guys, Ruby Johns, Roger Langs, Al Kaloas and many, many other Native men and women who made important contributions to the overall efforts. Without these people, Tundra Times' work would not have been effective. These were the people who made the fruition of improvements possible.

On the non-Native side of the effort, we greatly applaud and thank the dedicated assistance of such people as the late LaVerne Madigan, Dr. Henry S. Forbes, the man who financially and unselfishly backed the Tundra Times until his death four years ago, and Bill Byler, all of whom dispensed their assistance through their organization, the Association on American Indian Affairs. Bill Byler made great contributions in the lobbying process during the land claims fight in the Congress of the United States along with his counsel Art Lazarus of the AAIA. There were many other non-Natives who contributed greatly.

We have worked long and hard for the concerns of this newspaper and have made contributions in some areas because of the support of the friends of Tundra Times. They showed gratitude for my efforts on the night of the Tundra Times Banquet and now I wish to sincerely thank them for their.

— H. R.