

## ***Editorial Comment—***

# **The Plight of the Rights Commission**

Throughout its years of operation, the Commission for Human Rights has never enjoyed any serious backing. This fact has stifled the agency's effectiveness and the efforts it has made to improve the minority situation in the working community of Alaska has continually fallen short. This is a frustrating dilemma. The desired quality of minority human rights has not been allowed to infuse into the general good most Alaskans have enjoyed.

For those of us who were born in our own country, the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts, the externally stunted efforts of the commission have disturbed us profoundly. We seem to be sensing that a slow boil has become to develop on account of the commission's continuing frustrations caused by outside influences. We are feeling that we are being left out in the cold, and if this situation is allowed to continue, an uneasy atmosphere may develop.

We are also beginning to think of retaliatory alternatives in the form of Native politics and work hard to stymie the political efforts of some of the candidates. Surely, this effort can have far-reaching influences if we steadfastly decide to apply it on those people who have continually short-sold the efforts of the commission. If we did this, it would be a most effective way to deal with those who have stymied the honorable intentions of the agency.

The commission continues to suffer. Good men who have headed it have resigned in frustration. The latest to resign was Bill Vaudrin because of subtle roadblocks and lackadaisical support by people of influence. The treatment Bill received and endured was not subtle indeed. He was intimidated, harassed and threatened. If that wasn't enough, one of his husky dogs was shot and killed. The crass treatment he absorbed is pretty hard to swallow especially after he tried to do an honorable job to benefit minority people of Alaska.

We think it is about time the Native people, other minorities and women of Alaska make known their feelings against those people who have had influences in the braking effort on the humanitarian efforts of the Commission for Human Rights. There might be a good chance that this can be done through pooled political retaliatory methods. If it should be done, it can be a considerable clout against those people who have discouraged the progress of the commission and those who might likely do so in the future. Something along this line should be expeditiously considered perhaps by representatives of the minority people.

While mulling over it, it might be a good idea to consider Bill Vaudrin to direct the effort. The subject might even be posed before the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. so that body might consider the plight of the commission at its annual convention this month on Oct. 24-25-26 in Anchorage.