

AFN, INC. PICKS OCT. CONVENTION THEME

Theme Originates From Famed Warrior Wise Tushunka Witka

Picked for the theme of the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. is the quotation "One does not sell the earth upon which the people live."

The quote is from a famous Indian who was named Tushunka Witka, which translated into English as "Crazy Horse". Beyond the obvious wisdom of the quote, there are several inferences and new interpretations which make the theme timely.

In this day of development, it is possible to sell the land by completely destroying the resources that the land provides.

In this day of ecological concern, it is possible to pollute the land to a state in which it cannot provide the resources on which Natives depend.

In this day of a new approach to solving Indian, Aleut and Eskimo social inequities, it is possible to simply sell the land which is deeded to the various corporate entities.

In this day in which Alaska Natives are assuming a posture of influence, both in the finan-

cial and political world of Alaska, it is possible to sell the land through delinquent taxes.

In this day of attempting to meet very immediate and short term goals, it is possible to sell the land without beginning to meet the hopes and aspirations of the very young and the very old.

Hopefully the wisdom of the elders and the ambition of the young can be melded into a viable and working plan for lands which fits Native needs, promotes the Native with pride into a search of his traditional land use, and finally which fits both short and long term goals of the stockholders of each of the many Native corporations.