

Tanana Chiefs' Traditional Chief Refuses Secretary

Andrew Isaac of Dot Lake,
Traditional Chief of the Tanana

Chiefs Conference, proved to be a patient, careful listener at the TCC convention in Fairbanks.

The Chief sat silently for a half-hour while the young delegates debated whether he should be provided with a secretary to help answer his voluminous mail.

When a small disagreement arose between a couple delegates, the Chief took the microphone and said, "Don't fight over me . . . I don't need a secretary, that's for sure!" That was the end of that.

It was a light moment in a three-day convention bent on business, and there were other similar moments. One tipsy gentleman, who was obviously not a delegate, insisted on shouting out "Point of order," "No (when all delegates voted yes)," and "Keep talking, Mitch," in apparent support of President Mitch Demientieff. No one got excited, but there was laughter.

The clincher came from Jim Huntington of Galena who advised that the convention do something about drug pushers who bring drugs to the villages.

"If it was up to me, I'd just ring their necks off like we used to," said Huntington. "I guess some people think that's against the law."