

Editorial Comment—

Historic Crossroad

With the selection of Emil Notti to succeed the late Congressman Nick Begich is indeed a historic crossroad as far as Native politics is concerned in Alaska. Notti's nomination by the Democratic Party makes him the very first Native person ever to be designated to seek office in the Congress of the United States — a distinct, progressive step in the political arena of the state. It is also a distinctive sign of recognition of Native politics by the political system of the state as a whole. This is a sparkling achievement by the Native people who made their first real steps into politics scarcely ten years ago, mincing steps as they might have been.

A new era has come into Native politics. This means they must work for better refinement of their political endeavors. This is a desirable goal for more positive and convincing politics. It will also help to acquaint the Native public of the importance of it as well as clearing an easier path to cooperate in the statewide political efforts.

Emil Notti has a big job ahead of him to try to get elected. Many Native leaders are already behind him. The people behind those leaders must also get behind Notti if he is to have a chance of getting elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The desire to get him in should be there. If it is to become a positive action, the Native leaders must help their people to bring it out. This is an exceptional opportunity to get a Native person in the U.S. Congress.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to Pegge Begich who threw in her crucial block of votes behind Emil Notti that vaulted him into the lead and nomination. This was a demonstration of unselfishness shown by the courageous little lady who sought to succeed her late husband Congressman Nick Begich unsuccessfully. She has shown us courage seldom demonstrated by human endeavor. We also like to express our appreciation to Chaney Croft for his timely announcement to fall behind Notti which could elect him to Congress. His action was crucial in unifying effect to get behind the nominee because Notti could meet potent opposition in Donald Young the Republican nominee for the late Nick Begich's seat in Congress.