

The Sharpening of Tempers

The Anchorage Daily Times and its columnist, W.C. Arnold, will, no doubt, succeed in fanning tempers against the native Alaskan people by their inflammatory writings about the Alaska Federation of Natives' land bill they dubbed, "The Goldberg Bill." The Anchorage newspaper and its columnist may also find that they are doing no less in fanning tempers of the native people who are seeking, at last, a justifiable solution to the lands they claim as their own and for which they hold, and held, deep reverence stemming from precious and constant use for sustenance since remote pre-history. The Anchorage Times and Arnold will find that this profound attitude of the native people toward their lands will be a hard one, if not an impossible one, to penetrate.

There is also a noteworthy occurrence, this time in favor of the native people that is coming to the fore at the present time. Through reasonable and well-thought out efforts, our

leaders and their people, with the help and interest of prominent Americans, have breached the conscience of the nation in seeking justice in the solution to their problems of which the land claims issue is the greatest. This is no small achievement and which should be a blessing if the impetus continues at the present rate.

In the light of this important development, the feverish accusations and attacks might tend to work against the State of Alaska, its officials, and those who scream and clarion ruination if the aims of the AFN bill are implemented. The sensible thing might be for prominent Alaskans and the fair-thinking Alaskan public to view the native peoples' effort for just resolution to land problems, would also aid in the overall development of the state into one of the finest in the United States of America. This can, indeed, be achieved if the land solution is done with justice.