

# Rep. Hensley Tells Experiences At D-Convention

State Rep. William L. (Willie) Hensley, D-Kotzebue, came through Fairbanks this week and told the Tundra Times some of his experiences he had at the Democratic National Convention. It was the first time he had ever attended such a convention.

Hensley was one of three native members of the Alaska delegation. Others were Emil Notti and Frank Peratrovich. Hensley is Eskimo, Notti, interior Athabaskan, and Peratrovich is southeastern Indian.

"In contrast to the Republican Party convention in Miami, Florida, the Democratic convention has minority representatives from Alaska while the Republican Alaska delegation did not," said Hensley.

He said that the Alaska delegation went right to work and had the native land claims issue put into the Democratic platform at the Chicago convention.

"It was the only specific portion of the platform that the Alaskan Democratic delegation sought during the platform committee hearing," Hensley said. "It means that if Humphrey is elected President, he's got an obligation to see that it's acted

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upon. In fact he's already agreed to it."

The Kotzebue legislator said he attended some of the platform committee hearings before the convention started and listened to some of the well known figures in the American political scene today.

Some of these persons were Mayor Alioto of San Francisco, Mayor Cavanaugh of Detroit, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP and George Meany of the AFL-CIO.

"I also met chairman of the platform committee, Hale Boggs. Don Pruhs introduced me to Boggs and Fishbait Miller, Sergeant at Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives."

Don Pruhs, Fairbanks, was the chairman of the Alaska delegation at the Chicago convention.

"I also met with Philleo Nash, who is active in Humphrey's campaign, and with one of Humphrey's assistants, Bill Carmack," said Hensley.

Philleo Nash is the former Commissioner of Indian Affairs under President John F. Kennedy.

Hensley said the convention seethed with a lot of political pressure from every source in American life.

"In this convention, there were the liberal and conservative

forces—there were the young and old; there were representatives of machine politics and there were those who are proponents of the New Politics who are not particularly party oriented and they were the hawks and doves on the war in Vietnam.

"Overriding all these issues, perhaps the concern in the Democratic Party for the Negro and his place in American society—I think it made for a very exciting convention," Hensley said.

Willie Hensley commented on the demonstrations that erupted in the City of Chicago:

"The demonstrations in Chicago accompanying police action—the elaborate and extensive security on and around the convention floor seriously affected every delegate attending the convention."

On Vice President Hubert Humphrey's acceptance speech after he was nominated for Democratic presidency of the United States on the first ballot:

"I feel that Hubert Humphrey's acceptance speech was the real Humphrey speaking. I feel that the delegates were impressed by the speech. I also feel he will have a very difficult task of welding the Democratic Party before the November election."