

NOTTI PREDICTS AFN STRENGTH

Conference Seen as The Solidifier for Native Organizations

The Alaska Federation of Natives conference of October 5-6 in Fairbanks adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Sunday night with some 275 delegates feeling that the meeting of the three-year-old organization was the most productive.

"I think we really achieved unity among the regional members of the AFN," said President Emil Notti.

Notti, who was re-elected unanimously a few hours previously, felt that the organization was moving rapidly toward its full potential and predicts that it will be a force that will be something to reckon with in the future.

"When they elected me unanimously it was a moving experience. I didn't expect it to come out the way it did," said Emil

Notti.

Notti will serve as president of the organization for the next two years.

One other man, Don Wright, president of the Cook Inlet Native Association, was the only other person nominated for the presidency of AFN. Wright withdrew from nomination a short while later at which time John Borbridge, president of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians, called for unanimous election of Notti.

Notti was nominated by Ralph Perdue of the Fairbanks Native Association.

Another significant development closely watched by major politicians of the state was the delegates' decision not to endorse any political candidate at this

(Continued on page 6)

Emil Notti Predicts . . .

(Continued from page 1)

time.

The move was seen as a disappointment for some of the major political candidates some of whom had actively sought endorsement of the organization.

The question was settled after lengthy deliberations and after hearing major political candidates.

The candidates who addressed the conference were Sen. Ernest Gruening, Mike Gravel, Elmer Rasmuson, Congressman Howard Pollock, and State Sen. Nick Begich.

Gruening, Gravel and Rasmuson are vying for the senatorial seat in the U.S. Congress. Gruening and Gravel are Democrats but a strange development has pitted them against one another. Mike Gravel had defeated Sen. Gruening in the primary election but Gruening decided to continue his campaign on a write-in ticket.

Elmer Rasmuson is running for U.S. Senate on the Republican ticket.

Congressman Pollock is being opposed by Sen. Begich for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The AFN delegates reasoned that if the organization endorses any candidate, that candidate would probably not come around to the regional areas after the endorsement.

"Give the politician a chance to come to us," said some of the delegates.

The conference delegates passed and approved some 37 resolutions and thrashed them out until about 9:00 p.m. Sunday night. The next half hour was dedicated to closing remarks including Iliff McKay of the Association on American Indian Affairs of New York who made a moving address.

The following are some of the resolutions in capsule form:

—The AFN proposed that the

oil companies hire available labor locally.

—That cooperatives be established where economically feasible.

—That rural electrification be accelerated.

—That the oil pipeline will be built in the future; that a winter road be constructed and in view of these definite possibilities that native workers be put on-the-job-training.

—That the National Congress of American Indians organization be invited to hold its next conference in Alaska.

—That the Marine Highway System be extended and expanded to include the interior waterways.

—That improvement of airfields in villages be expedited and that post office systems be improved as well. (During the deliberation of this resolution, Anatoly Lekonof representing the village of Atka on the Aleutian Chain, demanded of the conference that Atka be included for improvement of the airfield. This was approved.)

President Notti told the Tundra Times that copies of the resolutions should be available within ten days to two weeks.

The rest of the officers of the AFN elected were: John Borbridge, first vice president; Eben Hopson, second vice president; John Sackett, treasurer; Miss Margaret Nick, secretary; and Frank Degnan, Sergeant at

The new slate of officers brought satisfaction from the delegates who pointed out that they were representative of the native areas of the state.

President Notti is from Galena and Anchorage; John Borbridge, Juneau and Anchorage; Eben Hopson, Barrow; John Sackett, Huslia; Margaret Nick, Bethel; and Frank Degnan, Unalakleet.