

# UDALL LAUDS TUNDRA TIMES

(Editor's Note: Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall in his prepared speech to the audience at the Tundra Times Sixth Anniversary Banquet at the Switzerland, paid tribute to the late Dr. Henry S. Forbes and the Tundra Times last Saturday

night. The following are excerpts from the speech:)

...While I welcome the opportunity to be with you, I regret that there must be a vacant chair at the head table because of the passing of Dr. Henry S. Forbes. We share warm memories

of Dr. Forbes and deep appreciation for a man who accomplished more in his avocation than many people accomplish in their chosen professions.

Moreover, Dr. Forbes continued to pursue his work with

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remarkable vigor at a stage in life when men are usually content to reminisce about the past.

We owe him a great debt and it is fitting that you have chosen to honor his memory on this occasion.

Since the TUNDRA TIMES was so dear to the heart of Dr. Forbes, it is altogether appropriate for me to take a few minutes at the outset to reflect on the paper's accomplishments in its brief six year life span.

During the recent Congressional Hearings on the proposed Native Claims legislation, your leaders received many plaudits for their excellent performance.

I wonder, however, whether that leadership would have been so effective without the job the TUNDRA TIMES did in communicating the issues to the Native people.

It was instrumental in creating a recognition of the need for leadership, of the need for organization and, yes, even saw fit to take the leaders to task when it felt they were not effectively discharging their responsibilities to the people.

Sometimes we tend to think of the TIMES' role only as a channel of communication among the Native people, but it has also served as the vehicle for communicating the needs and aspirations of the Natives to the people "Outside," including those of us in Washington who are charged with the responsibility for doing something about them.

In its short life span the paper has effectively championed causes in which the Native people have a vital interest. Setting aside for a moment the land claims issue, which I will discuss later, I would like to cite a few of these.

Were it not for the TUNDRA

TIMES' role in relentlessly calling attention to the serious deprivation of the basic rights of the long-neglected Pribilof Islanders, these Natives would not have had the opportunity to assume an expanding role in business or government.

The TIMES also alerted the conscience of the Nation to the potential consequences of reckless experimentation by stressing the dangers of atomic fallout and the plight of the Native people involved.

Despite the deplorable conditions of Native housing to which the TIMES repeatedly called our attention, the benefits of the Indian housing program could not be realized by the Alaskan Native.

However, finally the persistent efforts of Senator Bartlett led to the passage of a \$10 million Alaska housing program for which a million dollars to construct 200 houses will be available this year.

In addition, the combined efforts of several agencies led by the Economic Development Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will lead to the construction of over 200 new homes in the Bethel area within the next two years.

The TIMES, with a forceful assist from the Federal Field Committee, has focused the Nation's attention on the problem of Native unemployment. At long last we in the Federal Government, the largest employer in the State, have stopped giving lip service to the problem and are finally mounting a concerted effort to do something about it...