

*Editorial—*

# Flubs Retard Progress

The native people of Alaska, the older ones at least, in their efforts to get education in the style of the Western Culture, were made to understand that civilization can do little wrong and that its ways were the best in the world. The native people believed this and with good reason in many cases. Those, especially the ones who

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got just a smidgen of the taste of education, still believe this with conviction. But those who managed to go beyond and got a pretty good idea what life and its ways in the Western Culture is all about, have found, and are finding, that some persons responsible in making the thing go can make colossal flubs—the kinds that hurt the people they seek to lead. This is disheartening to say the least.

These flubs are not always easy to see, especially by the native people, because they are somewhat camouflaged in the authoritative sounding agencies—the kinds that make one think they can do no wrong.

However, a flub seemed to have developed in the progress of the native housing program here in Alaska. Within the confines of the Alaska State Housing Authority, and other agencies, it seems that things like, "You do this," "No, I won't," have been going on and a provision that would have expedited the native housing program fell short. The indecision inspired "plans and standards for this program need further refinement.. no funds for this program are recommended at this time," as the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee concluded. That body, then, lopped off \$1 million from the \$10 million authorized last November to make improvements in the tragically inadequate housing of our native people.

There has already been an unpleasant drag in the implementation of the native housing program and the latest development will certainly not help the situation get any better. If there are ways to correct the miscue, then serious efforts should be in order and done quickly. If this is done, perhaps the U.S. Senate will be kinder to our people because housing in our rural areas is bad—abysmal—and the need to improve it is desperate.