

# Huntington Praises Care At ANS Hospital

All patients at the Alaska Native Hospital are treated as special patients, says Jimmy Huntington, who has just spent 40 days as a patient at the Hospital in Anchorage.

Huntington reports that the majority of patients at hospital are given a thorough check-up to detect any ailments other than the one that caused him to enter the hospital.

For all ailments, he says, patients are assigned to doctors who are familiar with the particular ailment and specialists are called in—from outside the staff if necessary—to handle problems in their fields.

Noteing that food is the biggest complaint of many of the patients, he praised the idea of "hot food carts," which carry the main course of the meal from the kitchen to the assigned floor and wing of the hospital without allowing it to cool off.

He also praised the variety of food, saying "no two meals are alike throughout the week." When patients find certain foods disagreeable, they are able to discuss the problem with a dietitian, he says.

Huntington felt the staff was "forever working with patient foremost in their minds." Nurses and nurses aides keep the beds and rooms clean, and doctors sometimes work "10 to 16 hours a day" because of the many patients to be cared for.

His advice to patients was to look at themselves and try to be a good patient. The hospital provides a friendly atmosphere and activities to make the patient forget his loneliness; it is up to the patient to make his stay as happy—or as miserable—as he wants.