

Editorial Comment—

Hensley's Knowledge Of Alaska an Asset

State Senator William L. "Willie" Hensley's thorough knowledge of Alaska, both urban and rural, can be a very valuable asset as he serves the state as a congressman in the U. S. House of Representatives. He is one of us (Native) of course, but we have a full understanding that once he is elected, he must serve all of Alaska. As Natives, we would not be feeling left out because as elected servant of the state, he must work for Whites as for us. We, of course, would be watching whether he would do enough for us. We would also be watching whether he would be doing enough for our fellow state residents — the White folks.

His knowledge of cities and rural areas can be a vital asset for improvements in general. We have a unique country and it would be a great help if a man like Willie who has a wide understanding of his land is allowed to serve. We are not edgy that he would tend to serve more favorably for Whites or the Natives. He must perform his duties for the general good of Alaska.

One of the qualities Willie has is his thorough knowledge of Alaska land matters. He has gained this asset the hard way during the furious fight for lands by Natives of Alaska. His contribution, along with great many others, resulted in gaining 40 million more acres of land for the State of Alaska. He also has a very good knowledge of the Interior Department's desire to withdraw huge areas of Alaska for the national government. He would join to protect all Alaskans if this withdrawal would pose some harm on the general good of our state. His knowledge of land matters would be an effective tool to right impending harm. Willie needs serious consideration because of his talents that he could put to bear for the common good in our unique land. Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens would gain a valuable ally because they, too, have good knowledge of land matters in Alaska.

Let us help Willie get into the United States House of Representatives. The time to do this is on November 5, 1974.