

"I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it" -VOLTAIRE

LEGAL SERVICES IN ALASKA SHOULD BE SAVED FROM THE REAGAN AXE

We live in a litigious society, and no one knows that better than Alaska Natives. Individuals, corporations and village governments have had to fight for every bit of ground we've gained, and much of that has been accomplished through the courts, with the aid of the Alaska Legal Services.

President Reagan stated in his budget message that "private attorneys should do more to provide the services now provided by the Legal Services Corporation." That's true; they should, and probably could, but for a bigger price that anyone we know can afford to pay.

It is not easy to argue in favor of keeping the funding intact for the Alaska Legal Services because that organization has not always enjoyed a good record in this state and sometimes they are blamed for "meddling" in affairs they could have left alone. Overall, it is not difficult to state that the services they have provided Alaska Natives during the past decade have been much needed, and without that assistance, we would simply have done without the "Molly Hootch" decision which made changes in the school system; without the allotment cases that were won; and on and on.

Half the funding for the Alaska Legal Services comes from the federal government, and right now they have been scheduled for the Reagan Axe in the 1987 budget process. This would mean that the offices in Alaska would probably have to fold.

We hope that the demise of a valuable service will not come about in this way. If federal funding cuts cannot be stopped, perhaps other funding can be found to save the Alaska Legal Services.

FUR RONDY DAYS WILL GO ON WITHOUT SNOW AND DOGSLED RACES

Last week, the Greatland Eskimo Dance Group performed in downtown Anchorage calling upon the "weather man" for snow, but nothing happened. And the citizens of Anchorage have been asked to "think snow" for sometime now. The head guy over at the Fur Rendezvous office has been optimistic, telling everyone that we'll have our mid-winter holidays as usual. And we will, but without snow and the popular dogsled races.

Never mind, we'll have the fur auction, the Miner's and Trapper's Ball, the carnival, a parade, and lots of fun and games. But unless a miracle takes place, don't bring your mukluks or parkas, because it's warm here and probably will stay that way.