

Editorial Comment—

The Campaign That Was Far from Fair

Since the recent election in our State of Alaska, this editor has been feeling quite ill at ease because of revulsion of what he had experienced in the course of some campaigns. Some of the spiels that emanated from some candidates and splayed to much of the general public left him saddened as well as unsettled in his sense of relationship with the rest of the populace of this northern land. This is so, more than any other fact, that he is an Eskimo. His pride in his people has been invaded whether those people were Eskimos, Athabascans, Tlingits, Aleuts or Haidas. He has been hit with a grievous blow that stunned him and left him with a realization that he is, indeed, just one of the minority people in his own homeland. He has been made to think that those individuals who have been elected to various offices will not give him much of a consideration in dispensing those things that would enhance his wellbeing.

The United States Congressman Donald Young has succeeded, whether he really meant to or not, that this minority member is just what he is — a minority member who is destined to be just that as long as such men as Young are allowed to serve the public. He (Young) has clarified an omen that had lain, more or less, dormant to come to the fore. If this is to be the situation in our future, it is a sad thing indeed. It is a sore that could fester in the days to come.

Don Young conducted an alarming, racially tinged campaign against an Eskimo candidate, State Senator William L. Hensley. It was a calculated campaign designed to cut down a minority candidate. And what is alarming is that he succeeded. Is there a chance that such a thing will be repeated in the future. The Native people of Alaska had better realize that there can be a possibility of repetition and start to think of some ways to counteract it. There should be no such things that would splotch our pathways into our future. There should be no room for that in Alaska.

— H. R.