

Editorial—

Too Many Scientists And Not Enough Chiefs

The highly publicized science conference at the University of Alaska this week discussed the native people and their social changes. As any high level confab, there was little room for the natives to take any appreciable part in it. Someone realized this lack perhaps and the conference partially redeemed itself by having some native folks take part in the audience participation portion of it. This might be viewed as a face-saving effort by the conferees after some static developed based on a sore thumb that spelled that there were too many scientists and not enough chiefs.

Such conferences should always have a good cross-section of the people being discussed. We believe sciences developed, on peoples especially, don't always get to the bottom of things because scientists who study a race don't always reach the real depth of the philosophies of life of those they study. As far as we know, scientists, such as anthropologists, have had no working knowledge of the languages of their subjects which is a real key to the understanding of the intricacies of life of a particular people. Man is not like a piece of stone whoever he is. He is a complex piece of machinery or mechanism. Based on this, we believe that no foolproof evaluation of any people, especially Eskimos and other races, has been produced to date.

Under this situation then, conferences such as the one held at the university this week should always include people being evaluated. Through this manner of doing things, scientists, especially those who delve into human behaviors, can perhaps learn a lot more than they know now because there are native people who can enlighten them.