

ONE VIEW

By BYRON MALLOTT
Yakutat, Alaska

POINTS TO PONDER:

"A people can be confronted by more difficult, critical and fundamental decision than to contemplate the complete abandonment of its native land.

"No people may hope to retain that vitality which alone can preserve their essential qualities as a people once their development has become totally dependent upon a borrowed culture.

"The Indians being the prior occupants, possess the right of the soil. It cannot be taken from them unless by their free consent, or by the right of conquest in case of a just war.

"To disposses them on any other principle would be a gross violation of the fundamental laws of nature, and of that distributive justice which is the glory of a nation...

"The principle of the Indian right to the lands they possess being thus conceded, the dignity and interest of this nation will be advanced by making it the basis of the future administration of justice toward the Indian tribes." (Secretary of War, Henry Knox, 1789 report to President George Washington on Indian rights.)

The statements quoted above are from Dale Van Every's history of the American Indian, **DISINTERITED**. Subtitled **"The Lost Birthright of the American Indian,"** Disinherited is a well documented, moving account of some the least known and shameful episodes in American history.

Available in hard and paperback, I recommend this book to all Tundra Times readers. Indeed for anyone who is to gain a balanced view of the history of this nation, it is a required reading.

A comment on testimony presented during hearings on the State Land Claims bill HB672 before Representative Carl Moses, House Resources Committee.

House minority leader, Jalmur Kerttula, in his favorable testimony on HB672 stated that he was not in full agreement with the provision in the bill that required 75 per cent of royalty moneys be spent on capital and physical improvements and other similar public purposes.

Kerttula felt that some of the real problems in the native areas were of a social and cultural nature therefore making human resource development as great a need as economic or physical development.

I agree. There is no question that physical improvements and economic development are vitally needed if our rural communities are to develop properly. However, the human resource development problems of our communities must be solved as well; and jobs, playgrounds, community halls, new fire engines, streets, etc. are not the total answer to this problem.

Many people scoff at their "textbook theories and ivory tower pronouncements," but the social scientists, anthropologists, psychologists and others who study various aspects of human behavior, development and relationships are as necessary to the human resource development problem as are laborers, contractors, painters, and foremen to physical and economic development.