

*I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it."* - Voltaire

**Editorial—**

# **Lack of Native Hire on Federal Let Contracts**

There is a growing concern among the native people about the lack of native hire in government multi-million dollar contracts let in Alaska. One example of this is the huge Amchitka Island project of the Atomic Energy Commission where out of 252-man work force, only six native men were employed. Another one is the government contract at Tin City near Teller where only five native men were hired out of a work force of 80.

In a published report recently, office manager of the S. S. Mullin, Inc. has been heard to say that the company will undertake to hire locally so far as possible when that firm begins work on the big Snettisham hydroelectric program near Juneau. It is the hope of the native people that local hiring will include a goodly number of Alaska's native workmen. There are many of them who need and want jobs and many of them have the necessary skills for those jobs.

We hope, too, that the hiring percentage of native workmen by S. S. Mullen at the Snettisham project will represent a greater proportion of the work force than was reported to be true in the firm's subcontract at Amchitka Island. According to the Ad Hoc Equal Employment Committee there were only four native people out of work force of 177.

Owing to the fact that Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts live in widely scattered locales across the state, we do not expect every contractor's work force to be 20 or 25 per cent native—the ratio of native people to total population across the state—but we do think three or four per cent is appallingly low.