

## *Editorial Comment—*

# **AFN Should Continue**

The need for a central, or statewide, native organization to coordinate major matters in the Alaska native areas seems to be a very serious need during the post claims times in the future. The years after the claims settlement will offer problems that will try every native talent and ability. There will need to be major decisions involving matters of major proportions. This will take man-sized decision-making qualities.

To us it seems unthinkable to entertain dissolving the Alaska Federation of Natives. The AFN, or its facsimile, needs to continue in some major capacity. It can be a pool of talents that could be looked to for coordination, technical assistance, financial consulting, and other important matters, by the regional native corporations.

It is our considered opinion that the regional areas, although there is unquestionable talent there, are not that sophisticated to venture forthwith into highly complex situations the post claims era will offer. They will need a friendly hand understanding their peculiarly native situations. Only AFN-type organization can offer this unique understanding and assistance.

We think the AFN, after its brilliant performance in helping to affect the settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims, should change its spots into another powerful but sympathetic central or statewide organization dedicated to help guide the complex courses of the regional corporations.

While doing this, the new organization should take a hard look into native politics, refine this potent force into working for Alaska's native people. This power will be a continuing need, perhaps even more so, in the post land claims era.

We think Alaska's native people will continue to need a strong statewide representative organization designed to aid the native people of Alaska in every way.