

***Editorial—***

# **Need for Readiness To Meet the Issues**

At any time in the history of Alaska's native people has there been so much said about them, nor has there been so much opposition to the issues they are projecting to improve their conditions in everyday living. Their political status is being belittled as something not ~~so~~ serious to be concerned about by the office seekers. Their land claims attorneys, specifically the renowned American, Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, are being dragged through

(Continued on page 2)

# Need for Readiness . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the mud by the land claims opposition.

These are serious matters. Our native people had better think deeply about them and seek ways to offset them with good counters. This is where the native leadership should apply their talents and battle against what may be the rising tide of opposition. That opposition is tough and it has its powerful press. They don't give a hang about what the native people are. They don't give a hoot how they do it as long as they think they can get their greedy fingers into the precious pie of Alaska resources. The Alaska native people must realize that they don't count much as far as this element of the population is concerned.

There is a lot of work to do. The native people had better buckle down and do it. One of the most potent means to counter the opposition to our land claims efforts will have to be our politics. The native leadership knows this and it should be a matter of paramount importance upon which to think hard and let their public—the native people and their friends—know what these thoughts are. All of this effort should be aimed at the most thorough effort of political strategem the natives ever attempted. Our people will have to be unified politically. The achievement of this should be aimed at getting at the roots of the opposition after making sure that those roots are the proper targets.

Recently, lawyers in Anchorage had a party. One of them sent out invitation cards which read, "Satan, Satin, and Goldberg, Attorneys for the Devil." The man said he was counsel for the firm.

The inference is very unfunny. It is base—assinine. It was probably funny to the lawyers. The native people had better evaluate the lawyers' sense of humor because some of those attorneys do get elected and some are aspiring to get elected. There are ins and there are those who want to get in. When we vote, we had better consider them as they are—assinine—because they are of the present crop. The better element of Alaska's lawyers could perhaps weed out the "weeds" and boot them out of the state. We don't need them because they spell trouble for the native people with their racially tinged attitudes.

Justice Arthur J. Goldberg deserves honor, not ridicule. We say this with firm conviction. He is a great American who has served his country well through services considered some of the highest offices in the land. He is serving the native people well. His great prestige and ability as a lawyer are assets in the effort of trying to win equitable settlement of the native land claims. He has the respect of the nation. This was not earned without skill, talent and strength to persevere. As a man of great established deeds, he far outshines the base lawyers and those people who go along with those lawyers.

In the meantime, the native leadership must sharpen the politics of Alaska's native people. We must make this work to the best level of achievement possible. We must show the state that native politics is nothing to be poohed at.