

Editorial—

A Strange Turn of Events

What seems to us a strange turn of events last weekend was the meeting of the Alaska Federation of Native Associations in Anchorage. Its planning was done so quietly that some native leaders, whose areas are of the utmost seriousness in the affairs of our people, were not even notified of the impending conference. Furthermore, it conflicted with another important meeting, the Tanana Chiefs Conference held in Tanana the same weekend.

Perhaps the Anchorage conference might have been productive in that it adopted the federation constitution. We only hope it encompasses all areas of concern, even without the key people that should have been there on its deliberations. We also heard that momentous problems, such as the land claims, were mentioned—again without the key people who have profound interest in the matter.

What about the election of the officers? Will they be satisfactory to the statewide membership of the federation? Although some of those elected are men of unquestioned ability, there seem to be a top-heavyness in the slots filled by Anchorage area native leadership. If we are correct in our assumption, the federation might tend to become urbanized. That would nudge aside the rural areas for which, we believe in most part, the organization was formed in the first place. The manner in which it was conducted has made us wonder whether the meeting might have created a pegleg in which its future steps might not maneuver quite normally.

The die is cast, however, and the consensus of the native leaders outside of the Anchorage area seems to be: "We will go along with it, otherwise, it might fall to pieces."