

# tundra tattler

**WHO'S THE VEEP** — Now that Morris Thompson is the unanimous choice of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors for the post of president, speculation turns to the number two position at the statewide Native organization. Thompson will make a choice soon on selecting an executive vice president for human resources. Clifford Black has had the job for the last two years and has resigned to devote more time to private business affairs. The Tattler has learned that the two finalists for the job are Mitch Demientieff and Frank Peterson. Demientieff is an Athabascan from Nenana, a former president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and currently employed by AFN. Peterson is president of the Kodiak Area Native Association and a member of the Koniag board. He has had extensive Alaskan and Washington experience in Native affairs.

**THE DAILY BEE** — The Tattler has learned that the Anchorage Daily News may shortly receive a life-giving injection of cash from a California-based media group which holds extensive interests in newspaper and electronic media in that part of the world. The Daily News, emerging well from its divorce proceedings with the Anchorage Times, must now assemble a complete printing facility, advertising and circulation system and business staff by April 1. In order to accomplish this, the News may allow the media group to assume controlling interest in the Anchorage morning newspaper.

**NOT COMMERCE** — Last week, we said United Bank Alaska vice president Perry Eaton was being urged by the Hammond Administration to consider a commissionership on an interim basis until a permanent commissioner was selected. We all know that Chuck Webber of Anchorage was selected Commissioner of Commerce. The Eaton Commissionership would be at Revenue, a post the Governor is taking great care to properly fill.

**INDIANS FOR ALPA** — Spirits are high this month among the members of the striking Wien pilots, Council 35 of the Air Line Pilots Association. The optimism is due to indications that President Carter's Wien investigative panel may develop positive recommendations for ending the strike which began in May of 1977. The recommendations are due to the President by February 15, a month's extension over the original deadline. The pilots, however, are covering all bases to keep the momentum moving. Two senior Alaska Native members of the Wien pilot group are meeting this week with Indian leaders in New Mexico and then with the leadership of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C. NCAI has expressed interest in complaints from Alaska Native corporations and groups about the strike and rural air service in general under the Wien monopoly. They have reportedly offered their powerful Washington lobbying mechanism to the pilots and Alaska Native groups to keep congressional interest focused on the Wien situation. Meanwhile, Wien President James Flood has declared the settlement of the strike to be his highest personal priority for 1979. While the Washington situation is warming up, the Wien pilots are touching base with key state legislative leadership in Juneau to explore possible legislative relief to conclude the strike.

**ESKIMO SUMMITS** — The NANA and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation boards of directors have found a unique method in which to informally meet to discuss areas of common concern. It is actually not so unique, as their ancestors have used the system for hundreds or thousands of years. The two boards gather for a traditional Eskimo feed periodically — and dine on delicacies such as frozen fish and meats with seal and whale oil, dried fish and caribou, roots and greens and Eskimo ice cream. And, of course, muktuk. It is reported that ASRC Treasurer Oliver Leavitt describes the sessions as light and informal, and with occasional substance. "Mostly we just get together and chew the fat," he is said to comment.