

Editorial—

Air of Expectancy

The new year has always been welcomed with great fanfare and celebrations and the entrance of 1971 was no exception. The reason for this is that people expect better things in life during the incoming new year.

The natives of Alaska are also in a state of great expectancy as 1971 came upon them. The greatest event in their life history could happen within the next few months—the settlement of the Alaska native land claims. How that will come out for them is hard to tell at the moment. They, above all else, want a good settlement knowing they are about to give up forever great expanses of land they have lived on through the ages in the past. There is no rejoicing on the impending event. There is only hope for a good, fair settlement. They want this settlement to be just so they can have room for a good life in the years ahead and far into the future.

The air of expectancy is upon this great north land. Apprehensions and doubts are rampant. There are also hopes that Congress of the United States will be fair in its dealings with the natives of Alaska. The future of our native people, whether good or bad, is in the hands of the congressional members. We are counting on their good conscience.

We are waiting. We are worried. We are hopeful but we do not know what the outcome will be.