

Editorial—

Significant Meeting

The importance of the upcoming conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage on October 19-21, should be noted seriously by the native people all over Alaska. It should be viewed as the arena in which the vast problems of our native citizens will be discussed in a progressive and imaginative manner by our leaders. We should also like to help stress that it must be the area in which they should seek to mend fences of differences so that the organization can function more smoothly than it had heretofore. Strong and positive efforts should be brought to bear to achieve this because it is one organization, if unified, that can truly represent our native people as a whole.

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'I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it.' - Voltaire

SIGNIFICANT MEETING . . .

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Whatever mistakes there are in its organizational structure should be eliminated.

The native people of our state are entering a critical milestone in our long history and the problems encountered therein can make or break us depending on how we conduct our efforts toward their solutions. We need positive approach to them. We need strength and unity because everything we do from here on will reflect in the future and that future should be the inspirational goal to do the utmost for the people that will come after us. Good jobs we do today can be comfort and salvation for our future generations.

We are finding out that little can be done for us when we do not exert efforts toward attaining those things that will benefit us. This fact should be foremost in the minds of our leaders at the AFN conference in Anchorage. This fact should also be the inspirational point from which concerted drives to arrive at goals by using what we have available to us. One of these is our political status—a potential that cries out for improvement so it can be made to work more smoothly. If this can be achieved, it is one tool that can give us vast beneficial returns and the results would be solely a native effort.

We feel that the AFN has been negligent in not making provisions for the development for the political action by the native people. It should, at least, establish a political committee within the organization that would work toward grooming our existing political potential.

That the importance of the annual AFN meeting in Alaska's largest city cannot be questioned. We should make every effort to make it the true arena to voice our needs and ideas. We should attend with ideas to make it a strong and effective organization. We heartily agree with President Emil Notti of the Federation who made the following appeal:

"It is extremely important that the various organizations and villages select their representatives for this meeting. There will be many important issues discussed at this conference and it is important that all areas of Alaska be represented."