

Tax Legislation Labelled Unfair

By **EMIL NOTTI**
Alaska Federation of Natives

An unfair tax to the Native people was passed at the special session of the Legislature. I think people who study taxes would say that the burden of taxation has been shifted to those who can least afford to pay.

A ten dollar head tax to many people will never be missed but to many Native people who have limited income, ten dollars taken off the top could mean an awful lot.

It shouldnt surprise anyone too much when our big business dominated, urban oriented legislature does such a thing. It is right in line with past actions where the Native is concerned.

Take the subject of unemployment compensation. The seasonal cannery worker or fire fighter or other seasonal worker who does not work the required number of weeks in any quarter and therefore does not qualify to receive unemployment compensation.

So we see the rural Native on the short end of the stick not only by not having steady employment and low income but by paying an unfair tax for disasters and every year kicking into the unemployment kitty and never getting any money out.