

POLITICAL ACTION CONCEPTS

The Arctic Slope Native Association headquartered at the 'Top o' the World' City of Barrow recently proposed that a new political party comprised of Native people of Alaska be formed. Although the establishment of this party idea might be feasible, some of the ASNA officials are also thinking that instead of forming a political party, they might organize a political action committee.

Our view at the moment, although it might not be necessarily correct, is that the establishment of a party could be a little cumbersome to handle at the present time and it should be thoroughly explored before an attempt is made at organizing it. On the other hand, the establishment of a political action committee since it would, we presume, be made up of members of different Native organizations, would be more flexible in that it would enable the members to discuss trends in political matters in their particular geographical areas. This could, perhaps, be the easiest route toward working on affiliation basis of the different organizations.

At any rate, the party idea brought up by the ASNA has certainly generated more than a little interest all over Alaska. The thinking of the officials of that organ-

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CINA President Lauds Times; Announces New Organization

P. O. Box 3-408
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
February 21, 1966

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
P.O. Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Howard:

For months, the Cook Inlet Native Association has been working to advance the cause of the Alaska Native people, and in turn we have gained strength and dedication to our avowed purpose through the examples set by other Native associations throughout the State. We have noted with particular interest the growing sense of pride and the active participation in current events of the Alaska Native people in the past 2 years. No small part of these changing attitudes and this sense of pride can be attributed to the "voice" of the people, the TUNDRA TIMES.

Your paper has supplied the necessary ingredient so long missing; a platform where our people can voice their concerns and protests and expect to reach a responsive audience. At the same time, we can learn what other Native organizations and associations are doing to help in the general cause.

Aside from congratulating you on the excellent job you as editor are doing, I also wanted to tell your readers of the formation of the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association. This latest Native Association was formed in Bethel on January 28, 1966. Its reason for forming is obvious, and one to which any person would subscribe. However, for our part in its making, I would like to say that it started when people from Bethel and surrounding villages requested assistance from the Cook Inlet Native Association, who sent Mr. Nick Gray to Bethel to find out how we could help. Mr. Gray, who was instrumental in helping the Fairbanks Native Association to form a number of years ago, and the Cook Inlet Native Association to form 2 years ago, was very successful in Bethel. After various meetings and speeches before different groups, a general meeting was called, and the people decided to organize. The name chosen was the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association. Voted in as officers were: Mr. Fred Notti, President; Mr. Joe Pike, Vice President; Mrs. Mable Pike, Secretary; and Mr. Phillip Guy, Treasurer.

As you well know, Howard, historically Bethel has been, and is, the supply hub of the Kuskokwim Valley, and has a long history of disregard for the rights and welfare of the Eskimo and Indian people of that area. Today, as we look closely at the plight of the Natives in the Valley, we see rife evidence of intimidation and exploitation by greedy promoters and so-called "friends" of our people. It is high time this was put to a stop. Though the people have earnest and able legislators from this District such as Representatives Christiansen and Johnson, they cannot fight the battles alone. The people must help them, and this takes organization. It was from the success stories of the other Native associations outlined in the TUNDRA TIMES that the people of the Kuskokwim Valley decided to organize so as to help their representatives and leaders achieve some of the vital and necessary services which we in larger urban areas come to take for granted.

We of the Cook Inlet Native Association take justifiable pride in the creation of this Association, and look forward to our working closely in affiliation with our brothers and sisters of the Kuskokwim Valley. While I am sure the Association is well able to speak for itself, I did want to share with you and your subscribers, news of its formation and the hope that all will join us of the Cook Inlet Native Association in our salute to the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association.

Sincerely,

Emil Notti, President
Cook Inlet Native Association

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ization is in the right direction whether our people establish a new party or whether a political action committee is formed. In the event of development of either concept, the leaders should vigorously try to make it function in a strong, positive direction so that our Native people will benefit from those things the exercise and use of concerted political action can bring.

We, of this newspaper, have always contended that the Native people of Alaska have a great political power potential and that it needed to be developed for the good of our people. Now that the ASNA has come out with the desire to do something about it, the rest of the Native people and their organizations should get behind the idea and effort and work toward realizing a political force that would do great good for the Native people of Alaska.