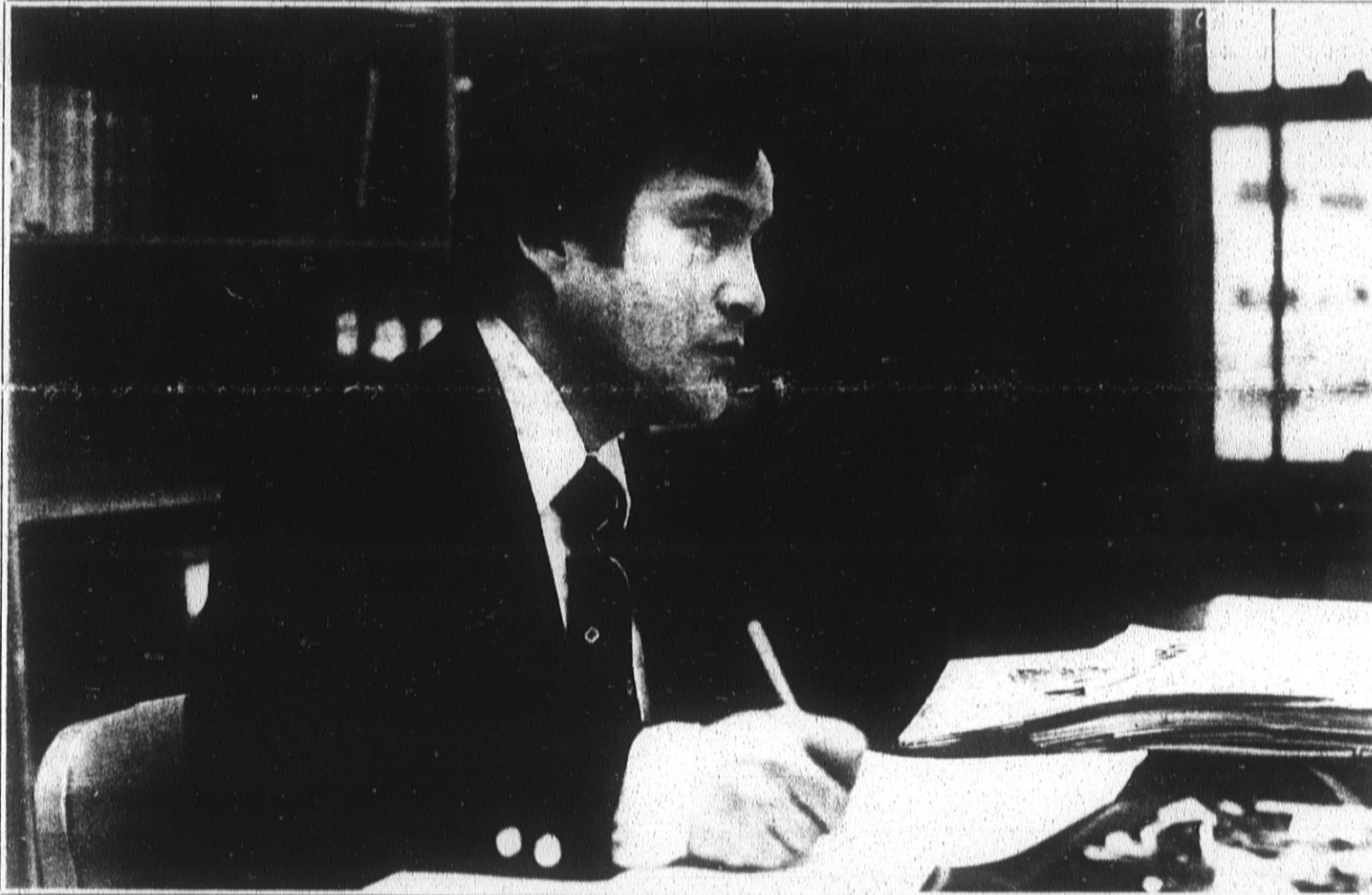


# Sen. John Sackett named AFN keynoter



*Alaska State Sen. John Sackett (Rep-Ruby) will be the keynote speaker at this month's AFN Convention. The convention, AFN's 19th annual event, will be held at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage.*

*Tundra Times photo*

Alaska state Sen. John Sackett, currently in his 19th year in the Alaska Legislature, will deliver the keynote address at this year's Alaska Federation of Natives Convention scheduled for Oct. 24-26 in Anchorage.

Sackett, a Republican from Ruby, will address the importance of education in meeting the challenges of the future, especially for Alaska Natives.

He is expected to note the 10th anniversary of the creation of Regional Education Attendance Areas in Alaska, which permitted the local education of Alaska Native children. Before that, Native children from throughout the state were uprooted from their communities and forced to attend federal Indian schools far from their homes.

Sackett, 41, will discuss the struggle to establish local educational programs in Alaska and the future of education in the state.

His speech addresses the focus of this year's AFN Convention — education. The convention theme is "Alaska Natives: Challenging the Future."

More than 1,000 Natives from

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# Sackett will be AFN keynote speaker

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throughout Alaska are expected to attend this, the 19th annual convention. Nearly 900 delegates representing the 13 regional corporations and 12 non-profit associations will hear presentations on the challenges facing Native people in the areas of education and 1991.

A series of education workshops is planned on subjects such as parental involvement, bridging the gap between high school and college, alternative educational opportunities and current state and federal education issues.

A host of dignitaries is scheduled to address the convention including Gov. Bill Sheffield, Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles and the state's congressional delegation.

The convention will be preceded by two other AFN activities: the second annual Youth Conference and the AFN Elders Conference. The Youth Conference is scheduled for Oct. 21-22 and the Elders Conference for Oct. 22-23.

A favorite part of AFN's Convention week is Quiana Alaska — an evening of Native dancing and entertainment featuring groups from throughout the state. This year's Quiana Alaska is scheduled for the evening of Oct. 23 at Anchorage's Sullivan Sports Arena.

The convention will be capped off by the traditional Tundra Times banquet, scheduled for Oct. 26. The banquet and most of the convention activities will be held at Anchorage's Egan Convention Center.

Sen. Sackett, who was born in Huslia, graduated from Sitka's Sheldon Jackson High School as valedictorian of the class of 1963. He attended his first year of college at the University of Ohio and then transferred to the University of Alaska where he received a

bachelor's degree in accounting.

As a businessman, Sackett has held a number of positions including board chairman of Doyon, Ltd., and board member of Alaska International Industries and Industrial Technology. He is currently a member of the board of MarkAir.

In 1966, Sackett was elected president of the Tanana Chief's Conference, the youngest chief ever to hold the coveted position. He was first elected to the state House at the age of 22, where he served two terms.

He has been elected to the state Senate for four consecutive terms

beginning in 1972. He is currently co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a member of four other legislative committees.