

Editorial—

Who Will Speak for Us?

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Much dissatisfaction has been expressed in recent months over the constitution and leadership of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Both were established at an Anchorage meeting that could not be attended by many groups. As a result, many persons, both friend and foe, are attempting to discredit AFN completely. This dissention must delight those who would like to tune down the native voice so

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that it is too weak and ineffectual to be heard. Destroying AFN does not help the native people in any way.

We must mend our fences and strengthen ourselves as quickly as we can. Rather than write off the AFN, we should call for another meeting immediately. Next fall's scheduled meeting may be too late. At this special meeting we should review and amend the constitution so that it truly represents a majority opinion. We should either hold new elections or add officers that balance the slate.

If we discount AFN, we have nothing. At least AFN is established. Its machinery would take many months—too many months—to duplicate. Let's attempt to save it from becoming just another organization. Only by pooling our strength do we have any hope of saving our lands.