

200

ATTEND

BANQUET



**POLITICIANS IN MIRTH**—There was no sign of political rivalry between Governor William A. Egan, right, and Wendell Kay at the Tundra Times third anniversary Banquet last Saturday. The two men are laughing uproar-

iously at some of the comical remarks that were rampant throughout the evening. Both Gov. Egan and Kay are expected to run for the state's highest office.

—Tundra Times Photo

## Politicians Jest In Refreshing Event of the Year

About 200 Alaskans gathered in Fairbanks Saturday night to celebrate the third anniversary of Tundra Times and to witness the newspaper emerge from non-profit to profit-making status.

The banquet, which featured speeches by journalists as well as politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties, has been hailed this week in Fairbanks as "the event of the year" and one of the most refreshing affairs ever held here.

"I came ready to be bored," frankly admitted Chuck Hoyt, former news editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and now with the State Public Works Division.

"I've been to many a banquet and I thought this one would be heavy like the others. But this one was a good one; I really enjoyed myself."

### Comical Performer

The easy, informal atmosphere of the affair was set by its amicable master of ceremonies, Alfred Grant, president of the village council of Tanana. His wit and light-hearted sense of humor had the banquet hall echoing with laughter.

Guffaws were heard repeatedly from such personages as Governor William A. Egan, Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett, Dr. William R. Wood, president of the University of Alaska, and many other digni-

ties.

### Warm Praises

The Tundra Times, and its editor Howard Rock, came in for much praise for the work they have done in behalf of the Native people of Alaska.

In his address, Gov. Egan said, "I certainly welcome the opportunity for participation this evening with the staff and friends of the Tundra Times in celebration of its third anniversary of service to Alaska's Native citizens."

"As Governor of Alaska, it is frequently my pleasure and privilege to discuss our great state's growth and development, both fiscally and in the many aspects of human relations. It is in the latter category that I tonight take these few moments to commend the laudable purposes for which the Tundra Times stands."

### Develop Dignity

Gov. Egan recalled the Times editorial, "The Importance of Heritage," stating, "... This well-chosen message reminded Alaska's Native people that they need not be ashamed of their cultural aspects, but to continue to develop dignity and well-being that is native to themselves."

"And I am pleased of the noticeable progress of the past few years in this regard. For a lifetime I have enjoyed

(Continued on Page 4)

# Refreshing Times Banquet

(Continued from Page 1)

the privilege of close friendship with countless Native citizens of Alaska. Nothing has warmed my heart more than the considerable advancement in pride of inheritance, and proof of ability to compete on an equal basis in a society of all others, that has marked the endeavors of Alaska's Native peoples."

## Amazing Collection

Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett, who appeared to enjoy the affair immensely said, "This is the most amazing collection of politicians and statesmen that's ever been assembled under one roof at once."

Jovial Master of Ceremonies Grant commented, "If I had known Wendell Kay and Gov. Egan were going to be here, I would have come with my National Guard helmet on."

Fairbanks attorney, Mike Stepovich, who has been mentioned as a likely gubernatorial candidate next year, left the banquet early to attend a party hosted by the local judges for lawyers.

Before he left, however, he spoke to the group stating re-

gardless what others at the banquet might do, he was not announcing his candidacy for governor that night.

He went on to praise the Tundra Times for having a big economic impact on Fairbanks.

Perdue told of visiting the village of Kake in Southeastern Alaska this year, the site of the Alaska Native Brotherhood convention. He said the people there "were living like people should be living" pointing out they had running water, sewer, etc.

"And they weren't happy—they want things better," he said.

Perdue concluded by presenting to Governor Egan the sketch of a 500-student dormitory which the Fairbanks Native Association has been advocating for the past two years.

Bruce Kendall, Republican from Anchorage who has also been mentioned as a possible gubernatorial candidate next year, said the Tundra Times to him was an "interpreter."

"It speaks to me in a plain voice, telling me of ex-

periences, observations, the sentiments of complaint and hope that I gain from no other source. It gives me a small understanding of village life."

Kendall went on to praise the work the Church had done in Alaska, stating it had done more than the state and federal governments combined.

He went on to state that statehood had been "an empty promise" to the native.

"We cannot close our eyes—the promises of statehood have done nothing for our native people in the basic problems of health, jobs, and housing." As a result, he said, "We must now necessarily turn to the federal government."

Speaker of the State House of Representatives Mike Gravel said, "Alaska is enjoying a fantastic revolution. In this revolution, 'probably the most significant voice of all is that of Tundra Times,' he said.

Willard Bowman, executive director of the State Human Rights Commission, said, "Although we all may not have agreed with the Tundra Times at times, I think we all agree that at no time was the Tundra Times afraid to speak for what they thought was the right thing."

TO BE CONTINUED