

**Editorial—**

# **The Most Critical Need**

The Alaska native land claims Congressional legislation seems to be girding for action in not too distant future in the nation's capitol and the designated native leaders and their legal advisors must be there to aid in any way they can toward the forging of the final solution that has long been awaited.

The action on lands matter has been developing so fast in recent months that it has a dizzying effect on the people concerned with its formulation. Under these conditions, preparations for the supporting needs tend to fall behind. One of these is the highly critical need for funds to finance the needed travels to Washington to help support the cause of the native people embodied in

(Continued on page 2)

*I may not agree with you but I will defend you right to the end*

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(Continued from page 1)

the compromise land bill—a measure that can spell a brighter future for our native people.

Finance committee chairmen in regional native areas have been appointed to help raise funds for the above purpose and our people, everyone, should give them all the support they need. The amount of \$72,000 has been set as a goal and it must be raised as soon as possible. The women in villages can do a great deal to help. Great many of them are good at conducting bake sales and other means of raising money. Villagers who can afford two dollars (\$2.00) should give that amount toward the fund. Some of them can afford to give more that would offset those who cannot afford to donate.

The money raised will be used to give necessary contacts with people of influence on behalf of the native people of Alaska. These contacts, or appearances before appropriate committees in Washington, D. C., and appearances within our State of Alaska, will be critical needs. They will be made all in the cause of our people. They will have to be made to counteract whatever opposition the natives will meet and this opposition could be a strong one as well as a well monied one.

We appeal to all the native people to help raise the money and we appeal to the friends of theirs anywhere to help the cause that can benefit all of Alaska.