

# Tundra Times

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## AFN MOVES TOWARD UNITY



A NEW AFN IS BORN — Alaska Federation of Natives, unincorporated, is dissolved by the 1972 Convention in Anchorage overriding former President Don Wright's protests. State Sen.

Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, takes over the reins of the new AFN, Inc. to be structured on the 12 region concept.

Photo by JACQUELINE GLASGOW

### Steps to Be Reviewed By Regional Corporations

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW  
Staff Writer

The Alaska Native people have had a long struggle toward a "fair and just settlement" on lands they have owned for thousands of years. In their fight with the Congress of the United States, they did something unprecedented in their histories. They united.

Last week in Anchorage, October 26-28, the organization into which they formed, the Alaska Federation of Natives, met in convention to restructure itself in order to enter what newly-elected chairman John Borbridge called "a renaissance, if you will, as the Native people take another step forward."

The step was not taken easily and politics at the convention resembled more the French Revolution than the Renaissance. Bringing a suit against members of the board of directors of AFN, Inc., Don Wright revived such terms as "loyalists" and "usurpers" to define his supporters and dissenters and fought to retain control of the organization.

In late September, Wright was displaced as president and chairman of both the old AFN and the more recent AFN, Inc. which had been generally understood would supersede the unincorporated statewide association which had its birth back in

1966.

Transition from one organization to another has been expected to proceed smoothly until Wright's ouster. Between that time and the October convention set by the board of AFN, Inc., Wright has insisted that the official convention would be held in Wildwood, Dec. 15-18.

The Anchorage convention resolved early into a credentials fight, as to who would be represented and what the voting structure would be.

It was decided that voting would proceed by the rules of the old association until such time as it was resolved by the body present that the association should or should NOT be dissolved.

Hanging over the convention was a cloud of financial difficulties, \$600,000 to \$700,000 debts incurred by AFN in lobbying for the Land Claims Settlement and in the operations of

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### Statement by Secretary-Treasurer of Alaskans for Begich

By MARGARET POHJOLA

"Throughout this difficult period, it has been the agreed intention of all those associated with the re-election campaign for Congressman Nick Begich to refrain from public statements

regarding the campaign.

"Unfortunately, the Republican nominee has now seen fit to make certain statements seeking to take advantage of an unfortunate situation.

"Because those statements were ill-timed and extremely misleading, it is necessary for me to make a brief reply. Alaska law is precise and complete in providing for the present situation.

"In plain terms, it provides that if no definite report is received regarding Congressman Begich before midnight, Satur-

day the 28th, then his name WILL remain by law on the election ballot, regardless of what occurs in the final 10 days.

"Out of respect for all those concerned, our campaign intends to make no further statement until this deadline has passed, at which time, complete statements will likely be made.

"Still, Alaskans should be told that political promises made recently by the Republican nominee have no relationship to the law and do no credit to a fair campaign."

### Young: There Should Be No Special Election

On October 16, Congressman Nick Begich, D-Alaska, disappeared on a campaign flight from Anchorage to Juneau along with Congressman Hale Boggs, majority leader of the U. S. House, Russell Brown, Administrative assistant to Begich, and Don Jonz, pilot of the plane.

Under law, the workers for Congressman Begich have reopened Begich's campaign ten days before the general election on November 7.

In the meantime, State Senator Don Young has been conducting a low key campaign for the seat of Nick Begich.

Looking somewhat anguished Young this week said, "We have to have representation in Washington. There is no way that we can have representation before 15th of March. Let's forget partisan politics and just think of Alaska."

Young said that his campaign has been difficult, different and crucial for the State of Alaska. And he would rather not have the special election if he does not win on November 7.

"Those people," he pointed

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## Valuable Questions, Answers—

### ASRC Pt. Hope Meet Brings Out Fine Information

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW  
Staff Writer

On October 17, 1972, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation held a meeting in Point Hope to assist the village in making a decision about the formation of their village corporation, under terms of the Alaska Native Land Claims Act.

The villagers asked many questions about the way corporations function. The questions were answered with the help of a legal consultant, James Wickwire of Seattle, and members of the board: Joe Upickson, President; Eddie Hopson, vice-president; Oliver Leavitt, treasurer; Jacob Adams, regional land chief; Brenda Itta, secretary; Herman Aishana, Barter Island; Noah Ahguk, Anaktuvuk Pass; and Samuel Agnasagga, Wainwright.

Also assisting were Eben Hopson, mayor of the new North Slope Borough, and John

Oktollik, mayor of Point Hope.

Many questions were asked both in Inupik and English.

Q: What is a stockholder?

A: A stockholder under the Alaska Native Land Claims Act is anyone of at least ¼ Native blood born on or before Dec. 18. That's a stockholder. It's very important to get your name down. That's how you share in the corporation as the population of Point Hope.

Q: How soon will money be coming into Point Hope?

A: No money can be given out until after everyone is enrolled. This was set by the Secretary of Interior for sometime in 1973.

Q: How is it going to help the village if they organize NOW?

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### Barrow Beach Road Gets Funds from BIA

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has informed Senator Stevens that they will provide sufficient emergency funds to repair Barrow's beach road, which was washed out by high seas.

Stevens requested emergency financial assistance from the federal government when he was advised by the Mayor of Barrow that the road wash-out has left Browerville without fire protection and that the well-being of citizens travelling the road to and from work was in danger.

### Brenda and Frank Vying for Election

The lone State House seat in District 19 is still very much up for grabs. Brenda Itta of Barrow beat the incumbent, Frank Ferguson, of Kotzebue in the August 22 primary election by a

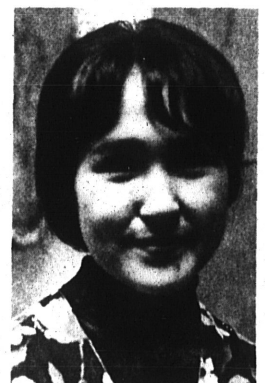
very narrow margin.

Itta, as the Democratic candidate, is the only name to appear on the ballot, but Ferguson is running a strong write-in campaign, as an independent.

Brenda decided to run after working for the State Legislature last session. When she returned home, people were asking if she would run. "I don't like to turn down requests from my own people," said Brenda. If she wins, she will be the first Eskimo woman to be elected.

Ferguson has a good record for his two year term. Working

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BRENDA ITTA