

# 'Crossroad in Time' Documents Athabascan Indians on Radio



RURAL SCHOOL CHILDREN—The rural education of Athabascan children is one of the issues discussed in the KUAC-produced Crossroad in Time series.

—Photo courtesy of Alaska Rural School Project

KUAC, Alaska's only educational station, has produced a radio profile on the Athabascan Indians in a series of thirteen half-hour programs to be aired Thursday nights at 8:30.

The series, called Crossroad in Time, documents important issues facing the Athabascan Indians of interior Alaska can capture the sounds of Athabascan life—a life that is in transition between old and new ways.

The first program of the Crossroad series has this to say about the Athabascan Indians: "In less than one hundred years, a free and self-sufficient people have stopped roaming the interior—not because of charging cavalry or restrictive treaty, but because of far more subtle pressures.

"Pressures like education and economy, mission, school and trading post—most of the problems now confronting the Athabascan Indians are part of this social and economic frustration—the future for these people is unclear, they are at a crossroads in their history."

Production of the series by KUAC involved many trips into Alaskan villages and the collecting on tape of interviews with Athabascans from the villages, University of Alaska, and Fairbanks.

In addition, interviews were taped with personnel from the various native service organization. Issues discussed in the Crossroad series cover the Athabascan village life, acculturation, rural education, education at the high school level and beyond, employment, alcoholism, wel-

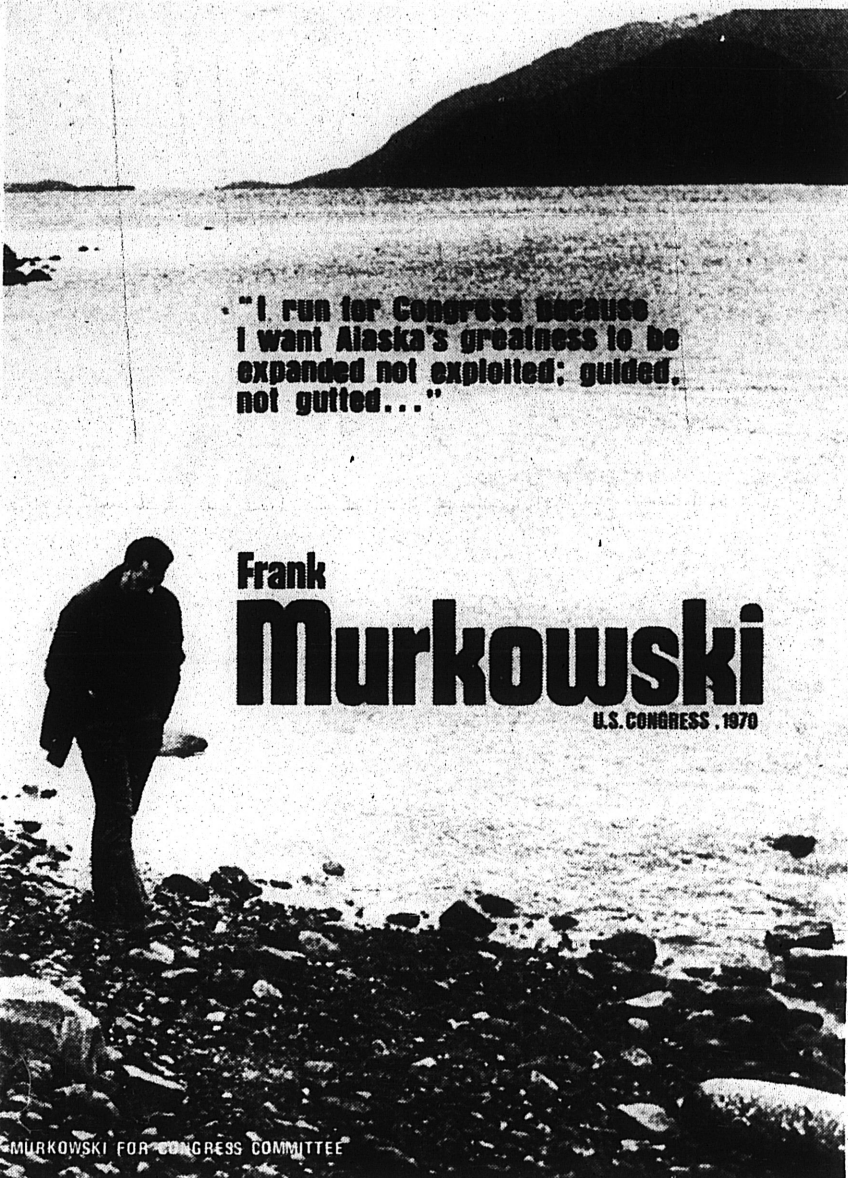
fare and social services, native organizations, and non-native organizations affecting Athabascan life.

Miss Pittman is also considering statewide distribution of the series if the terms of the CPB grant will allow it.

Commenting on the Crossroad in Time series, Miss Pittman

said, "It was a tremendously exciting as well as frequently frustrating project. The most exciting aspect was the willingness of the people we interviewed to take the time answering many questions as carefully and as thoroughly as they could."

"The frustration came in knowing when and where to stop; everyday that we worked on the series brought new developments making us acutely aware that there's no such thing as complete programs on a subject such as this."



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Frank  
**Murkowski**  
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