

AFN Takes Steps Toward Unity . . .

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Tanana Chiefs' John Sackett withdrew an important amendment to the proposed resolution on per capita payment when it threatened the prevailing feeling of the convention.

Tlingit-Haida, second only to Calista area in population, admitted they felt reluctance to accept a per capita payment but finally weighed "what we might lose, compared to what we might gain. If the difference is to be measured in the gain of a healthy organization, we are willing to pay the difference."

As the convention drew to an end, Borbridge told the delegates, "We have reached the point we have been striving for, an organization with the direct involvement of the people."

Borbridge then offered his resignation as Chairman of the Board of AFN, Inc., a gesture against charges that the convention had been "a play for power on the part of a few people." He added that he hoped his resignation would

clear the air and "remove any implication that this movement was for anything but the people."

Frank Degnan of Unalakleet spoke about these people. "You know how many of us there are?" he asked. "65,000. You are the smartest people in the world, bar none. When we started, they told us, you won't get over 10 million acres."

"The only cockeyed thing wrong with this deal is 'fair and just settlement.' Congressmen tell you this: Flip a coin. Heads, I win. Tails, you lose. That's a white man for you."

Not only did they tell the Native people they would not get over 10 million acres, Borbridge said "It is largely anticipated by the people about the state that we were not capable of coming together and resolving our difficulties. We were not supposed to be able to talk, but in fact, we ARE."

"I have been here seventy-one years," said Frank Degnan, "I

Long Distance Renewal from Friend

Just at closing time on Friday, the phone rang. At first Lois Keating, Tundra Times office manager, thought it was a routine subscription renewal.

After giving the name and address, the caller, Marty Colby of Green Belt, Maryland, remarked casually, "By the way, I'm calling from Maryland . . ."

She then also ordered a gift subscription for a friend. Inquiring how the Tundra Times was getting along these days, Lois informed her we were still "just getting by."

Marty said "That's how I heard about you in the first place, you know. I read an article about the struggles you

were having. In that case, I'll send along a donation in addition to the renewal and new subscription."

Don Young Makes Statement . . .

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out, "that are encouraging a special election which would occur, if I'm not elected on November 7, would be first to incur the anger of Congressman Begich. He always prided himself on the attendance record realizing the importance of a strong voice for Alaska."

"The important thing to me," he added, "is not my election but representation of Alaska. I would do anything in the world not to have this thing happen (Begich's disappearance). But it is. And now I'm thinking of the State of Alaska."

Young said he has flown over 50,000 miles during his campaign. He has visited most of the major rural areas, a total of 115 places from Kotzebue to Ketchikan, from Nome to Egele.

"I believe right now that I understand the problems and opportunities in the bush better than any other candidate."

"Nick and I," he concluded, "were political enemies, but we were good friends. I'm sure he'd be the first one to understand and encourage what I'm trying to do to represent Alaska."

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