

the new social and economic institutions created by the native people of Alaska. (Analysis in a publication called "The Eskimo Administration in Alaska") "This sudden awareness on the part of the non-native Alaskan of the Eskimo and other native people, and the outburst of activities attempting to deal with their problems was no accident, but the culmination of a longer development process which raised the Eskimo from political importance to political power."

Traditionally living and functioning in small isolated groups, the Eskimo began to learn from the more politically experienced Southeastern Indians the importance of union. Regional Native organizations began to multiply around the rim of Alaska from the Northslope to the Gulf of Alaska and in the upper reaches of the Yukon and Tanana rivers for the purpose of protecting Native rights in land matters, protesting the adverse effects of the proposed two billion dollar Rampart hydro-electric project and demanding greater self determination for the residents of the Pribilof Islands.

But the land was a cause common to all and in October 1966 eight separate associations formed, consisting of Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians, joined together in a united front of the Alaska Federation of Natives. The self-determination of Alaska Natives has had recognition from the non-native community as a political force to reckon with. They are not only fully aware that they have a right to vote and otherwise participate in the political process, but they have found their political voice and an economic weapon which could prove more effective in advancing their causes than the economic boycott and violence used by the Negro minorities elsewhere.

The political and economic impact of the land freeze and the delay in the determination of the native land claims was immediate and far-reaching. The intent of the Alaska Statehood Act to provide the new State with income from the land resources during its critical period of initial development was thwarted. This is the answer to the problem "can the Native people manage themselves?"

WAR EFFORT AND JOBS

Let us examine the war effort and the role of Alaskan natives. We have experienced World War I and World War II and the Korean War and the War in Vietnam. The roll of the Native has had national significance. I would like to quote a letter from Defense Secretary Charles Wilson, to the Department of Health and Welfare in 1954. "Two battalions of Natives were organized for use as scouts throughout sparsely settled portions of the Territory of Alaska. The first battalion consisted of Eskimos from the Coastal plains between Barrow and Unalakleet and Dillingham. They are obviously the only military personnel who could in time of emergency live off the land and exist in this barren frozen territory. They have had considerable military training in camps and are considered the most valuable adjunct to the security of this entire area." Along with the war there was creation of service centers. These centers were at Barrow, Kotzebue, Unalakleet and Bethel. These centers were accessible by both land and air and in addition became hospital locations. This has had adverse effects on the Alaskan native. These adverse effects were a loss of traplines and a loss of 173,377 reindeer, which meant loss of livelihood. This was from 1941 to 1948. Other adverse effects were the introduction of liquor to the larger Native community and family breakdown of marriages because the Alaskan women were readily available to the white man. The war effort also had some positive effects, these effects were introduction of the native to the wage economy. In terms of manpower shortage during the war efforts, new skills were achieved by the Alaska native. I would like to quote *Eskimo Administration* Volume I by Dimond Jenness. "The Eskimo proved themselves steady laborers, cheerful in the face of hardships and willing to brave coldness and the stormiest weather. Some of them acquired new skills, they became proficient carpenters or they learned to operate diesel engine and heavy and light machinery." Native manpower was used in the establishment of military bases throughout Alaska.

Now let us come to 1968 and the role of Alaska Natives in our wage economy. What has happened to the cheerful hardworking native? I would like to quote from a publication called *Alaska Natives and Federal Hire*. "Their unemployment rate based on labor force estimates at about 16,500 is a staggering 60%. Being jobless these native Alaskans live in poverty and suffer its consequences."

Why did this happen? At the same time one good end would be served by increase of employment of Alaskan Natives. Another end would also be served by reduction of the enormous cost of transporting new employees and their families and household goods from other states to Alaska at an average of \$2,500 for new