

H78-42

Nuiqsut Dedication Festival

August 17, 1974

Introductory welcome is made by Thomas Napageak in Inupiaq and English. Lloyd Abvakana from the Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church in Barrow, Alaska delivers the invocation. Thomas Napageak introduces the choir "All the People" who sing several hymns. Thomas Napageak again addresses the crowd in Inupiaq and English. He thanks several people for their work in the rebirth of Nuiqsut. He talks about Jacob Adams who worked in Washington, D.C. and other places. He thanks Eben Hopson and Walter Lord for their leadership. He thanks Dave Heacock for fighting for recognition of Nuiqsut by government officials. He thanks Eben Hopson for his efforts in extending borough government assistance to Nuiqsut village. He also thanks James McGuire for his legal help over the years. He thanks the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He speaks in Inupiaq for several minutes without translation. He introduces Nanny Woods who addresses the crowd in Inupiaq. Thomas Napageak introduces Walter J. Hickel. David Brower interprets.

Walter Hickel thanks the crowd for being invited to the dedication. He thinks that the Eskimo people have much to teach because of the great co-operation that was needed to re-establish the village. He was told that in April of the previous year that nothing existed in the new village except the chosen land for the village. He said in just one year and three months they constructed forty homes, two school buildings, and a store. He thinks that Nuiqsut is an example of what the Eskimo people can do with their land and do it in a hurry. He said he will always remember this day because it is the day before his birthday. He hopes he can return to celebrate the birthday of the village again.

Thomas Napageak thanks Walter Hickel. He introduces Richard Tooglik. Richard Tooglik addresses the crowd in Inupiaq. Thomas Napageak introduces the mayor of the North Slope Borough, Eben Hopson. Eben Hopson speaks in Inupiaq. Thomas Napageak thanks the women for preparing the feast. All the People sing "How great Thou art." Thomas Napageak thanks James W. Dalton for traveling to the ceremony.