

Jackson says he heard Ramos discussion

By JEFFREY R. RICHARDSON

The possibility that a replacement for Elaine Ramos, removed as University of Alaska Vice President for Rural Education Affairs, was picked before her removal has been raised in court documents filed in her behalf.

An affidavit submitted by Gordon Jackson after Ramos took her case to Superior Court, states he witnessed a November, 1976 meeting between former University President Robert Hiatt and University Regent Sam Kito, at which they discussed removing Elaine Ramos from her post.

According to the affidavit, the two "decided President Hiatt would remove her from that position and offer her a bilingual

position."

Names for a replacement were discussed at the same meeting and "it was concluded that John Antonnen would be a good successor. Sam Kito placed a call to Antonnen to offer him the job," the affidavit states.

Antonnen is superintendent of North Slope Borough Schools.

Kito told the Tundra Times the meeting included Roger Lang and Emil Notti. He said the result of the meeting was a "decision to offer reassignment to Elaine Ramos."

Kito said it was agreed that Notti would convey the offer of reassignment to Ramos.

When asked if Antonnen was picked as a replacement at the meeting, Kito explained:

"When we talked about other people, I did place a call to John Antonnen. I also placed a call to Gerald Ivey. These were to find out if people were available and interested."

Claiming that the affidavit is misleading, Kito said Antonnen indicated he was available, "providing Elaine accepted a transfer." Ivey was unavailable.

Other names were considered at the meeting, including Jackson and Bill Haw of the Kellogg Project.

Although the selection committee appointed by Hiatt to search for a new rural education leader considered Antonnen's name, he was not on their list of three finalists.

The selection committee's finalists were: James Hall, superintendent of schools for the Kenai Peninsula Borough; Patrick O'Rourke, former director of the Kuskokwim Commu-

nity College, and John Peterson.

Antonnen was rejected by the committee because he lacked experience in college administration and teaching, but Hiatt added his name to the list anyway.

Antonnen, agreed with Kito's version of the story, that he was only asked if he would be interested in Ramos' job.

"I stated I would be honored and would be interested if it became open. As it so happens, it did become open and I did apply for it. I have received support from various people across the state, including Roger

Lang," Antonnen said.

He emphasized several times that he never felt the position was offered to him.

When Superior Court Judge Ralph Moody ordered the Board of Grievances to hear the Ramos case, he also ordered the univer-

sity not to name a replacement for her until the grievance hearing is concluded. He said the college could continue the process of interviewing the finalists in the event Ramos was not reinstated.