

SE businesses oppose capital move

To The Editor: The following letter was sent to The Honorable Jay S. Hammond recently.

Dear Governor Hammond:

Sealaska Corporation sponsored a business information conference May 13-15, 1981, to which all ANCSA village and urban corporations in Southeast sent principal officers and directors. Representatives of Sealaska shareholders in the communities of Wrangell, Petersburg, Haines, Seattle and Anchorage also participated. Some 150 persons in all attended the conference.

The enclosed resolution was a spontaneous result of the conference. While not an item on the conference agenda the capital move issue was seen by all participants as divisive, needless and extremely counterproductive to public and private efforts to develop a state in which all regions and communities may reasonably and fairly participate in public policy formulation.

Although the majority of Sealaska's shareholders reside in Southeast Alaska, our concern extends beyond our own personal interests to that of the welfare of all Alaskans and the future of our State. The true costs of a capital relocation cannot be justified when many communities in rural Alaska lack the fundamentals of decent living. Safe water and sewer systems; adequate educational facilities; basic health and medical care; reasonable transportation sys-

tems; acceptable justice and correctional facilities; acceptable public safety and fire protection; reasonably priced energy or a satisfactory communication network are taken for granted in urban Alaska but are yet unmet in much of our State's rural areas. To disregard these needs and use our wealth for less warranted objectives is not in the best interests of the State or its people. There is no question that many community development needs of Alaska's urban communities also remain unmet.

The State already experiences issues which tend to divide it but none will have anything close to the impact of the capital relocation in creating and sustaining bitterness and divisiveness among the residents of our State. To relocate the capital in an era of rapidly expanding communications and transportation technology and capability on the pretext of public access to government is patently fallacious. A state capital should reflect the unique Alaskan environment, rich cultural heritage and varied history of our State. Such can never be duplicated in a new capital city built solely as a seat of government. The soul of Alaska will be missing. Its people will be divided. Huge economic disparities will separate regions one from the other.

Certainly this has all been said before, but the tyranny of avarice, uncaring insensitivity and political fear thrust all ra-

tional thought and reason aside. This resolution is a plea from a group of Alaskan citizens that courage and reasoned consideration be reasserted.

Byron L. Mallott
Chairman, Sealaska

SPECIAL RESOLUTION -

Southeast Alaska Village and Urban Corporation

Conference Sponsored by Sealaska Corporation-May 13-15
WHEREAS, The people of Alaska have been too long involved in the divisive debate over the location of the Capital of our state; and,

WHEREAS, Moving the Capital from Juneau will provide no public policy benefits to Alaska residents, but in fact will divert governmental effort and substantial public dollars from beneficial public policy.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that the undersigned Alaskans, representing the named communities in Southeast Alaska assembled in Juneau May 13-15, 1981 urge all members of the Alaska legislature to end this matter once and for all by recognizing the public policy folly of moving the Capital, terminating all legislative action on the matter and stating forthrightly that it is not in the public interest to move the Capital from Juneau.

Copies of this resolution shall be mailed to each member of the Alaska Legislature, the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

Write us a letter

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The newspaper reserves

the right to edit or omit letters for questions of libel or slander or other legal liability.

Persons writing to letters to the editor should send them to the Editor, Tundra Times, 639 "I" Street, Anchorage, 99501.

All letters should be signed and, if possible, a telephone number or return address should be included. The Tundra Times will withhold signatures if requested but no letter without a signature will be printed.