

Nels Anderson appointed to state Senate

Nels Anderson, a former state representative from Dillingham, was announced last week as the man who will replace Alaska Sen. George Hohman in the state senate when Hohman's expulsion from the senate becomes permanent.

Anderson, the representative who authored the 1978 subsistence statute and who is now the Alaska Federation of Natives paid co-ordinator for the campaign to fight against the drive to repeal the subsistence initiative, was named Feb. 16 by Gov. Jay Hammond to replace Hohman.

Anderson was among three Alaska Natives being considered for the senate seat. The others were Bethel representative Tony Vasca, and former

State Sen. Ray Christiansen, a director from the Calista Regional Corp.

When he accepted Hammond's appointment to the senate seat, Anderson vowed that he doesn't intend to seek re-election to the job in the November election and that is viewed as one powerful reason supporting him.

He also had the firm backing of powerful State Sen. Frank Ferguson of Kotzebue, who is the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Backing from Ferguson and Sen. Bob Mulcahey of Kodiak was crucial to Anderson's appointment and his election-time intentions were important because of the recent re-districting decisions.

The district Anderson will

represent is being divided between Mulcahey's district and the district represented by State Sen. John Sackett of Ruby.

If Anderson chose to seek re-election, he would face Bob Mulcahey. If a Bethel-based man were chosen, he would face Sackett in the November election.

Hammond said he announced Anderson's appointment before he intended to because he wanted Anderson to become aware of the issues in the district he will represent.

Hohman who was convicted of bribery last month, was expelled from the senate three weeks ago. The expulsion was to take effect when he was sentenced for the conviction but until that time he was suspend-



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ed from the senate, leaving his district with no Senate representation.

Ferguson said he had been watching over the concerns of the Bethel district as best as he could.

Anderson was elected to the state House in 1974 and was

an influential member of the Bush caucus.

He also was executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp. for two years and has served as chairman of the Board for the AFN. He also is a member of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.