

# Other voices —

Ketchikan Daily News

There was good news and bad news this week. The good news is that Louisiana-Pacific negotiated an \$85 million loan and part of the money goes toward upgrading the Ketchikan Pulp Company's Ward Cove plant.

The bad news is that Rep. Morris Udall, representing the environmental lobby, introduced legislation that locks up a big part of Southeastern Alaska in untouchable reserves and knocks out any industrial development—jobs.

Udall and his supporters always point a finger at industry, such as pulp mills, as the despoilers of America. They imply that some big shots some place are ripping off the public.

It was interesting to note that four large insurance companies made the \$85 million loan to L-P so that it could put pollution controls in the KPC plant and keep the plant operating for the benefit of the community and its stockholders.

One of the insurance companies was Aetna, which does a sizable business in Ketchikan in retirement and life insurance plans. The 20 members of the staff of the Ketchikan Daily News are covered by Aetna plans and pay a lot of premium to Aetna each year that it can loan out.

The staff of the Daily News is quite happy this week to make its contribution to keeping L-P growing and KPC operating. We are sure a number of other local businesses and their staffs feel the same way—just so L-P repays that loan so we have our retirement checks.

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Earlier this week, this column was critical of the state court system for keeping a judge on the payroll and allowing him to vacation in Hawaii although he has been convicted of a felony. The excuse is that the case was handled in U.S. District Court and that the verdict has not been filed. So the state court system can do nothing about it.

We compared the vacationing judge with the situation of two Klawock men who have only been charged with burglary—not yet convicted. They are accused of stealing food and still are in jail in lieu of bond. Their problem, we have learned, is that they have no place to go if they are released on bond—no jobs or anything to eat. So they prefer jail. It isn't Hawaii but then they aren't judges.

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Getting back to the bad news, during the battle for statehood and for the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, Alaskans had some strong allies in the lower 48. One was William Randolph Hearst and the Hearst publications.

In the battle to retain enough land in Alaska to sustain the state, we have lost that support. Phyllis Battelle, a columnist for Hearst, recently urged a letterwriting campaign to Congress to encourage congressmen to create nine new national parks in the state. She concludes her pitch with "your congressman is only a 13-cent stamp away."

It is unfortunate that Phyllis and the Hearst people know so little about the state that they believe that all the park planners want is 32.2 million acres. The truth is that the Alaska Coalition of environmental groups is asking for about 120 million acres in reserves, one third of the area of the entire state. Also, Congressman Udall is proposing one-fourth of the land area of Southeastern Alaska, already entirely in a national forest reserve, be put in the untouchable wilderness status.