

# Atty. Gen.'s Column— Consumer Protection

*This weekly column is prepared by the Consumer Protection Service of the Alaska Attorney General's Office with the objective of helping prevent, through public information, unfair and deceptive acts and practices in trade and com-*

*merce.*

*It is presented in the interests both of Alaskan consumers and of the honest and reputable businesses serving them — which are, of course, the vast majority.*

*The column offers explanations of the obligations of consumers and businesses under state and federal laws, as well as guidelines for consumer transactions.*

*Reader comments and observations, as well as consumer complaints, may be mailed to the Consumer Protection Service, Office of the Attorney General, in Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage. The addresses are Pouch K, Juneau, Alaska 99801; 360 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; and P.O. Box 1309, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.*

**Norman C. Gorsuch**  
Attorney General

## POSSIBLE DANGER SIGNS

When thinking about making a purchase, be cautious and find out more about the company if the following occur:

- a large cash payment is required before anything is required;
- there is pressure to make a quick decision;
- the only way to contact the company is by writing to a post office box number;
- you are called on the phone or approached on the street by a stranger;
- spectacular returns or profits are promised;
- you are told that you were specially selected to receive a special bargain.

**H O M E IMPROVEMENT GUIDELINES.** Get written estimates from several different contractors.

Be wary if you are asked to pay in advance or to pay cash. The usual procedure is to pay upon completion of the work or in installments as portions of the job are finished.

Make certain that the contract completely describes the work to be done, and includes both a starting and completion date.

If there is a guarantee, be sure the guarantee is in writing, is clearly spelled out, and includes the length of time the guarantee will be in effect.

Read any contract before you sign it. All blank spaces should be filled.

If you have to use credit to pay for the work, shop around for the best possible credit deal. You will save money if you get the lowest "annual percentage rate" of interest.

Sign a completion certificate only if the work is completed to your satisfaction.

Beware of any representation that your home will be a show home so that you will receive a bargain price. Beware of any sales presentation that you will receive compensation for the referral of friends and neighbors.



Garlie has been recommended as being able to ward off plague. It probably works by keeping anyone, infected or not, at bay.

# Turnkey Housing Authorized

Nine southeast Alaska Native Communities will benefit from authorization for 200 units of Turnkey III, homeownership housing, signed on September 18 in the Seattle Area Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The authorization was in the form of an Annual Contribution Contract signed by Robert Loescher, Executive Director of the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority of Juneau and Nile Paull, Acting Director, Seattle

Area Office, HUD.

The 200 units approved on the 18th are in addition to 160 units previously approved by HUD.

The 200 homes will be constructed by two joint-venture contracting teams. Each team consists of a Seattle-based contractor and an Alaska Native contractor.

The Joint-Venture of Boyd and Dalton/Wick Construction Company will construct homes in Angoon, Hoonah, Hydaburg,

Kake and Klawock while T.O. Paddock Company/Riley Please, Inc. will build in Craig, Haines, Klukwan and Yakutat. It is believed that construction will begin almost immediately.

Signing of the contract culminates many months of work and planning. Of particular significance is the extent of Native involvement in the project. Natives and Native businesses will be closely involved with all phases of home construction.

## Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

and a part of my duty to write this letter as the Community Development Coordinator of the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, 1974, the Kotzebue Public Health Service Hospital, the Alaska State Building, the United States Air Force Site and a number of private subscribers lost contact with local, statewide and "Lower 48" residents due to the malfunctioning of the telephone exchange.

It is my understanding that Mr. John Gilbert of the North State Telephone Co., Inc. was approached by Mr. Murlin Day, Acting Service Unit Director of the Kotzebue PHS Hospital in regards to the situation. Mr. Gilbert verbally agreed, on the telephone, with Mr. Day to travel to Kotzebue to correct this situation. This conversation took place ten (10) days ago, and to this date, Mr. Gilbert is no where to be seen.

There is no local repairman available in the city, as he has apparently resigned. To worsen matters, we have to call the Fairbanks Operator long distance, for assistance in obtaining a local number, as we do not have access to local information.

I am also aware that there is a misunderstanding between the local PHS Hospital and the North State Telephone Company, Inc. concerning a settlement over a line being cut a year and a half ago. If this is the case that is holding up repairs, this matter should be duly dealt with.

Due to the fact that the telephone service is not available to the local hospital, if an individual should lose his life because of this, who will foot the "cost" of that life? What happens if a resident needs an ambulance to get to the hospital? Too many lives are at stake.

Your assistance on this matter will greatly enhance the well-being of the people involved.

We will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Luke D. Sampson  
Community Development Coordinator

Kotzebue Area Health Corporation  
cc: William A. Egan, Governor, State of Alaska  
Roger Lang, President — AFN, Inc.  
Gordon Jackson, AFN, Inc.  
John Schaeffer, Executive Director, NANA  
John F. Lee, M.D., Director AANHSA  
Murlin Day, Acting SUD — Kotzebue PHS Hospital  
Jay E. Caldwell, M.D. — Kotzebue PHS Hospital  
City of Kotzebue  
Ted Stevens, Senator for Alaska  
Mike Gravel, Senator for Alaska  
Don Young, Representative for Alaska  
William Hensley, Senator  
Frank Ferguson, State Representative  
Jay Hammond, Senator  
Howard Rock, Editor — Tundra Times  
James R. Hendershot, APUC  
John Gilbert, North State Telephone Co., Inc.

September 26, 1974

The Honorable John Butrovich  
Alaska State Senator  
1039 Fifth Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear John:

Please consider this letter to be my hearty endorsement of your candidacy for another term in the Alaska State Senate.

Your record with the Alaska Legislature is one of the most admirable and the people of the rural communities have found you to be a strong supporter of our rights, an important point especially in the midst of pipeline impact. It is obvious from your record in the Senate committees on Finance and Resources, in which I have had the pleasure of serving with you, that you have and will continue to put the people of Alaska's economic, social and political problems at the top of your list of priorities.

We need in the Alaska Senate more people of your caliber; people who can look at a number of important issues facing our state today intelligently, knowing what important questions must be asked and answered. To that, may I add, we need people who recognize a number of traditional values and needs of Alaskans and who will not compromise these values in the face of growing pressures. Your record as a legislator shows how well you meet these demands.

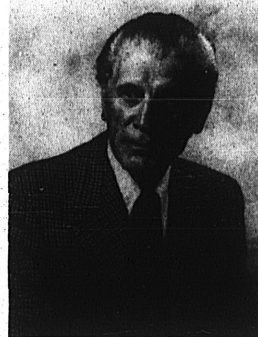
With kind regards,

Very sincerely,  
John C. Sackett  
State Senator

## SENATOR JOHN BUTROVICH

*Fairbanks' Most  
Valuable Voice  
In Juneau*

(Paid for by The Committee to Re-Elect John Butrovich, Lesley Almquist, Treasurer, Box 3192, Fairbanks, Ak.)



My kids -

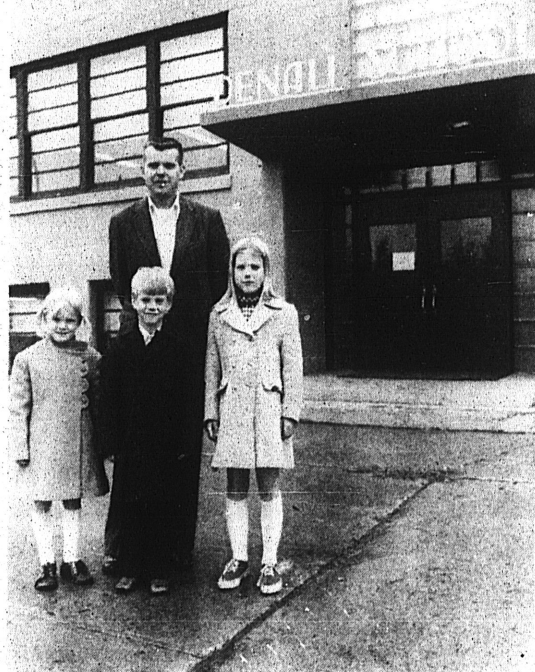
3 of 9000

reasons why

**JIM  
MOVIUS**

is running for

School Board



I think that if we spend more time being concerned with the one reason the school system exists — To educate our kids — there will be a lot less hassle over personalities and personnel.

**VOTE FOR JIM MOVIUS**  
School Board Seat D

(Pd. pol. adv. by Jim Movius, P.O. Box 372, Fairbanks)