

Fish and game question provokes charges

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The issue of regionalization of fish and game management in Alaska took a new twist last week when an Anchorage senator made

impeachable charges against several Bush legislators.

Sen. Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage, accused Sens. John Sackett, R-Galena, Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, and Rep. Nels Ander-

son, D-Dillingham, of breaking their oath of office. The three Bush lawmakers had telegraphed lobbyists for the Alaska Federation of Natives in Washington D.C., and urged them to push for regional management and oversight of fish and game on federal land in d-2 negotiations.

The action came in the wake of a move by the House Resources Committee to bury a bill that would have accomplished regionalization by the state. Dankworth charged that the telegram was contrary to the state constitution which mandates state control of fish and game.

According to Attorney General Avrum Gross, Dankworth was wrong. The next day, Dankworth, former head of the Alaska State Troopers, publicly apologized to Sackett, Ferguson, and Anderson. But, both Sackett and Ferguson took the floor to admonish Dankworth for making such serious charges, and Sackett said if Dankworth had not apologized Sackett would have requested he be expelled from the Senate.

A bill granting a six per cent increase to the 1981 school foundation program

was approved by the Senate late last week. The foundation formula is based on "instructional units" within each community and funded a year in advance. The 1980 appropriation passed last year was 10 per cent higher than what is being spent now. So the total for 1981 will be more than 16 per cent over current spending levels.

However, a portion of the bill that might have funneled rural students into local correspondence study programs was deleted. Two correspondence programs operate in Alaska. One is centrally administered by the state and the other is run by local school districts which receive state funds for that purpose. Some senators felt the bill would channel kids into the local program, thus giving districts a reason to seek more state money. There is a continuing controversy over which is the best program.

At least one Bush senator says he will have to reassess his position on state funding of public television programming. The announcement by Sen. George Hohman, D-Bethel, came following a decision by the

Interim Rural Television Network Council to drop the prime time airing of the nightly legislative news program, "Capital '79" in 51 Bush communities. "Capital '79" is funded by the legislature. While the show can still be viewed at 3:30 p.m. AST, the council agreed to cancel the 5:30 p.m. AST airing "due to a lack of rural interest."

In other business this week, the Senate approved a six per cent tax on commercial fisherman and processors, approved a resolution urging the judicial council to follow up on a study which indicated a pattern of harsher sentences for nonwhites, and passed a bill exempting communities of less than 4,000 persons from the state plumbing code. These measures must be approved by the House.



ROSITA WORL testifies at joint fish and game board hearings in Anchorage. Ms. Worl was one of a number of persons who testified on proposed subsistence hunting and fishing regulations at the five-day meeting.