

Publisher's Notes

THE INQUISITION IN JUNEAU

Anyone, in Alaska or elsewhere, who may have expected the impeachment proceedings currently underway in Juneau to be different from what they have been so far, has been sadly disappointed.

The entire sordid affair was billed through the media as an historic event, "solemn" and "grave," but the fact is, the special session in Juneau has thus far been nothing more than a grand inquisition.

The average Alaskan, whether in Spenard, Pelican City, or Tuntituliak, is confused by the politics in Juneau *a' la Watergate*. Most are still trying to find out what the governor did to deserve being dragged through all the political mud, to have his administration torn to tatters, to be called "unfit to serve."

The average Alaskan citizen is in awe of the Grand Jury system, probably because it operates or is supposed to operate in a cloak of secrecy, and because Grand Juries indict people. The Grand Jury that started the Inquisition in Juneau did not operate in the usual fashion. Although some of the members are still faceless, we know who the officers were. This particular Grand Jury did not indict anyone. This particular Grand Jury hung a few people.

The average Alaskan voter does not understand, and many don't have much interest in the role of the prosecutor, but we are learning, and learning more than we want to about the questionable role of the prosecutor. Did Dan Hickey, acting as the Prosecutor with this Grand Jury, play a leading role in bringing about the unusual business of impeachment?

And now the Senate Rules Committee deciding the parameters for an impeachable offense, in front of the television cameras, no less, is almost unbelievable. But the Grand Inquisition, folks, is the most perplexing of all. With Sam Dash, of Watergate fame and fortune, leading the pack, the show is dragging on to its most squalid conclusion.

The average Alaskan may come away from this latest episode of political flicks no less knowledgeable about our system of government and how it works and does not work, but certainly recognizing that being governor of Alaska is not an easy life of gladhanding and kissing babies. And working for the governor of Alaska carries some mighty powerful risks.

The average Alaskan voter, is, on the other hand, unusually astute when it comes to pulling that curtain, casting that ballot, and placing it in the box to be counted. We know where the political power is supposed to be, in the hands of the people.

So when the curtain finally comes down on the Grand Inquisition in Juneau, and the dust has finally settled, it will be our turn. We won't have to perform before the television cameras, and we won't have to hire Watergate attorneys. All we have to do is cast our votes.

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