

# Time to reason

By George Gardner

There has been much written in the press recently concerning the battles going on between the governor and the legislature in what appears to be a power struggle over the monies of Alaska and how they should be spent.

Charges and counter-charges have been issued virtually on a daily basis and what bothers us is that a chasm is forming and widening that, if not mended, and soon, such will be the situation that little will be accomplished in real terms concerning the welfare of this state and its citizenry.

Certainly the balance of power between the executive and legislative bodies will always create some friction which to an extent is healthy and necessary. Historically, the foundation of strength in our democracy has been the balanced sharing of power among the three branches of government, and a tip toward any one branch has created forms of government repulsive and repugnant to Americans from all walks and stations of life.

However, we feel that the recent controversies between the governor and the legislature are turning into a spitting contest from which will emerge no winner, and the losers will not only be the principals involved but all the people of Alaska.

We stand with Senator Ferguson, Representative Adams and others in their efforts to insure that rural Alaska is not forgotten by an administration that was so dependent upon that segment toward its election into office. Their vigilance and commitment for their constituencies are exemplary and honorable.

Governor Sheffield, however, has admitted his error in seeking oil company campaign contributions so soon after meeting with the Secretary of the Interior. And in a recent editorial we expressed our concern that 'appearances' play an important role in the trust this state has for its elected leaders.

But it is time now to create dialog that is something other than a shouting match, full of sound and fury, helping no one. We urge that the governor and the legislative leaders sit down and hash out some of the differences before both become so caught up in a battle of wills that the purpose of their offices becomes lost from view.

For it is such dialog and sharing of viewpoint that separates the 'politician' from the 'statesman.'