

As Juneau turns

Is it a twist of irony that Sen. George Jacko is in the situation he is?

When people have been calling from Nuiqsut, Nenana, Kodiak, and Wrangell, among other places, we've been taking random samplings of how they feel about Sen. Jacko - - - should he resign, is it commendable he's sought evaluation or possible future treatment, is it a waste of time and politics?

It's still about split into even thirds: Some callers don't care, some think he is ineffective, some support the state senator. But one of the most thought provoking comments was if he does succumb to media pressure and local party demands, the Governor would have to appoint a Democrat to replace him, and he should appoint a Native woman, at that. (Jacko's a man who has been labeled as a sexual harasser, a man who joined the Republican majority dodging attacks from the Bush Democrats.)

(After Don Young, then a state house representative from Juneau won a special election over missing congressman Nick Begich, Laura Bergt, a Native Republican was appointed by then Gov. William A. Egan. Her appointment was rejected and more time was lost. Let's not imagine scenarios now, but the ironies make plenty of coffee break chatter. *Georgie Porgie kissed the girls and made them cry*, a caller chanted.)

With subsistence, power cost equalization, the longevity bonus, school funding, ethics appointments and other issues not addressed, we see another special session in the forecast this year.