

# Specking: Polish Ecological Image

"If Alaska is to move forward with any of its various plans for industrial and economic development without continuing to be stopped cold in its economic endeavors by the varied national conservation organizations it is necessary that steps be taken to polish our ecological image," according to State Representative Keith Specking of Hope, Alaska.

In a policy statement to Governor Egan, distributed to legislators and news media, Specking calls for a concern for the "esthetics" of Alaskan Fish and Game policies.

"The Department of Fish and Game as well as the Board (Alaska Board of Fish and Game) have used cold biological criteria in their management programs with little or no regard or sensitivity to the public at large."

It is this area, he says, which should be Alaska's "show window" to the outside that Alaskans are capable of sound ecological management.

"Above all they (outsiders) see no Alaskan policy of concern about the aesthetics involved in the extremely permissive and liberal Alaska game and guiding regulations." Outside conservationists, he says, look in horror at authorized use of aircraft, snow machines and swamp buggies in chase and pursuit of animals.

"Alaskans often express contempt for "outside interference" he said. This interference has effectively blocked the pipeline project and the Berner's Bay pulp mill project.

If, he says, Alaskans convince

the public of their aesthetic management of game resources, "perhaps in this manner we can expect the public to place more confidence in our ability to manage other resources."