

# Gov. Egan Responds To GOP Criticism

JUNEAU—Governor William A. Egan last week responded to a charge by Republican legislators that he acted illegally when he fired three members of the State Board of Fish and Game.

"It's utterly ridiculous—it's an attempt to confuse the people, and it has no substance whatsoever," Egan said.

"The 1959 statute referring to the removal of board members (As 16.05.280) states that the Governor may remove a board member for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. However, this statute does not confine the Governor's action to just those three reasons," Egan said.

Ten Republican members of the Senate and nine Republican House members made the charge

against the Governor in a statement distributed to newsmen by Senate Majority Leader Terry Miller of Fairbanks and House Minority Leader Clem Tillion of Halibut Cove.

"I did not break the law," Egan said, "In fact, I am completely on legal grounds consistent with the foremost experts in the field of statutory construction.

"A law created ten years later (Chapter 107, SLA 1969 (CSSB 25 AM)) clearly states that members of the Board of Fish and Game hold office at the pleasure of the Governor notwithstanding the member's term. Mr. Tillion should be familiar with this piece of legislation. He served in the legislature that passed it in 1969," Egan stated.