

Shively back on the job

JUNEAU -- Governor Sheffield issued the following statement: "Today, I have asked John Shively to resume his position effective May 31 as my administration's chief of staff pending the outcome of the current inquiry into the award of a state lease for the consolidation of office space in Fairbanks.

"John and I agreed he should go on leave with pay on April 24 when it was expected the inquiry would be completed in no more than three weeks. His leave time ran out last week and now it appears that it will be several more

weeks before the inquiry is completed. From the beginning, my administration has cooperated in every way with the Department of Law and the grand jury and we will continue to do so until the inquiry is completed.

"Today's action makes absolutely no assumption about what the findings of the grand jury will be; in fact, the grand jury should take all the time it needs to review all aspects of the matter before it acts, but I believe it unfair to relegate John to a state of limbo for indeterminate time. His expertise can be invaluable to

the review of legislative actions on issues in which he was deeply involved prior to April 24. Once the grand jury has completed its inquiry, I will re-evaluate the situation and take whatever action I consider appropriate at that time.

"There is no limit to the length I will go to assure that the public's business is conducted in a manner above and beyond reproach, but by the same token there is no limit to the length I will go to protect my staff members from punishment without cause. That's just the way I do business."