

Tischer assails forced session

To the Editor:

Some of your colleague newspapers and others have frequently and vehemently stated that they are opposed to the lawsuit recently filed by the House Majority Coalition challenging the legality of the June 8 Joint Session which allegedly confirmed many of Governor Sheffield's appointments.

Over and over, these vocal critics have argued the merits of the governor's interpretation of the Constitution and the statutes regarding the Joint Session, usually discounting or even ignoring valid legal arguments put forth by the House; they have described the cost of the lawsuit as wasteful; and they have even, on occasion, described the coalition's challenge as "foolish."

This public outcry has had substantial influence on the average Alaskan, even to the extent that today almost every citizen is daily exposed to a virtual deluge of charges, counter-charges, allegations, and misunderstandings con-

cerning the legal action filed by the House Majority Coalition. I feel it is necessary to respond to the one-sided treatment this important subject has received.

As one who was personally affected by the political activities in Juneau last session, I contend that the use of armed state troopers to enforce with intimidation and brute force the governor's highly questionable Joint Session was a shocking and outrageous example of misuse of official power and disregard for the spirit of the legislature's uniform rules, of the statutes, and of the Constitution.

The travesties committed by the governor and the Senate against the people of Alaska and their elected representatives are just as unconstitutional as the acts which have led in the past to lawsuits protecting the rights of other individuals or groups.

In fact, I believe that these actions by the governor and the Senate are in some ways worse and more dangerous

than any other recent action in state government.

I am afraid that the senseless and lawless bullying they have committed has undermined the basic separation of powers which ensures the continued integrity of our entire political system.

I believe that the maintenance of the fundamental balance of power between the governor and the legislature is infinitely more important than any petty political battle which the governor and the Senate may imagine they have won.

I join with my colleagues in the House Majority Coalition and a growing number of other Alaskans in asking that in your editorial comments you remember the importance of the legal rights of individuals (even state legislators) and recognize the authority of the House leadership to at least question the validity of the unfortunate actions by the governor.

Sincerely,

Mae Tischer

House District 11-B

Photo touched her

To the Editor:

The issue of Aug. 3, 1983 lower photo (by Bill Hess) is the best one you have had in long time.

Old Timers like Joe Field, we will always love and remember. Makes one remember the good old Kotzebue days when people really care for one another, giving, without asking anything in return.

I remember also sack of turnips from John Schaeffer every summer. Joe Field transported us from Sealing Pt., no charge.

I also appreciate each one who were there in my brother William Mendenhall's funeral. Who come in by plane to attend. I feel closeness to the Gregg family, Laura Davis and Pauline, George and Ben, who

visited.

Remembering how close our parents were, also George Kagoona, my cousins from Kivalina, the Hawleys.

AFN clarification

To the Editor,

We wish to clarify a reference included in your story on the ICC's Native Review Commission ("Study commission to be independent" Aug. 10, 1983).

Mention was made of an ANCSA study to be undertaken by AFN. There are no such plans in the works. The confusion may stem from our plans to undertake intensive work on 1991 issues. Although that work is certainly closely

related to an ANCSA study, it is different.

AFN will have an oversight role in the so-called "1985 Report" mandated by ANCSA and managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but our role will be mainly review and comment.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding.

Sincerely,

Janie Leask
President