

Native leaders support new Anchorage bar hours

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The Anchorage Assembly unanimously voted last Thursday, to close all bars and liquor stores from 2:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday, and at 3 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The vote compromised be-

tween the "8 a.m. to 5 a.m." ordinance supported by members of the Cabaret, Hotel and Restaurant Association and the "2 a.m. to 10 a.m." ordinance supported by members of the "Two to Ten" Coalition chaired by Ovid Nelson. The vote was also supported by Native business leaders Martin Moore and Jerry Ward who testified as

citizens before the assembly.

In testimony, Moore said, "Russ Meekins' task force on violent crime has learned that most of Alaska's rapes and assaults are caused by Alcoholism. Keeping the bars open will not help the problem. Juneau closed the bars at 2 a.m. and dramatically reduced crime. Therefore I support bar

closure."

Ward added his support but then went on to chastise the assembly for Lax regulations.

"I was there," Ward stated. "I lived on the avenue for eight months and nearly died. Don't just close the bars at a certain hour. Do your job!!! You have laws but there's no enforcement. Back in 1969, people used to

fear going to jail, but not anymore because they do not have to go to jail. Give everyone three days mandatory for drunk in public and everyone will be friends again."

The new compromise is strongly supported by the Moral Majority which turned out en masse for the hearing.