

Knowles changes stance, may sign anti-gaming bill

by Jeff Richardson
Tundra Times staff

In a blow to Alaskan tribes, Gov. Tony Knowles has backed away from an apparent pledge to veto a bill to block Native gaming enterprises.

"I am concerned about any possible expansion of casino gaming and gambling in Alaska, especially in the absence of thorough public debate. Alaskans have previously expressed their reservations about gambling, most recently in 1990, when 64.2 percent of those voting defeated an initiative that would have opened a wide array of gambling activities across the state," said Knowles in a May 8 letter to House Speaker Gail Phillips.

According to press reports, aides to the governor had previously indicated he was opposed to Senate Bill 172 and a similar measure in the House which would prohibit "Monte Carlo night" casino gambling. Although numerous non-

Page 7, please