

State Secretary Relents—

Ferguson Gets in Race by Whisker

When the list of those filing for the House of Representatives seat in District 17 was published, one candidate's name was missing—Frank Ferguson.

Ferguson, a Democrat from Kotzebue filed on the deadline, June 1 according to instructions supplied him by the office of the Secretary of State, he said in the Tundra Times office last Tuesday.

However, on June 10 he received notification that his application was not valid. Ferguson said the reason given him was that his filing fee was not properly submitted.

With assistance from Sen. Ed Merdes of Fairbanks, he contacted the Attorney General's office, which ruled that the application was valid.

Thus, Ferguson is now officially running but feels that the other candidates have a two-week head start on him. Also, running for the seat are four from Barrow and two from Kotzebue.

He said that he feels the incident had something to do with

the fact that he is a Democrat and the State administration is Republican.

Ferguson is known for his work as the regional director for RurAL CAP in the Kotzebue area. Having filled the position for two years, he resigned June 1 to run for office.

Born and raised in Kotzebue, he added that the decision was a hard one to make, but that he feels serving as a legislator would be another step in working for the people.

The young native is also president of the Community Enterprise Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation that provides assistance to village co-ops, president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Camp 69 in Kotzebue; 2nd vice president of the Northwest Alaska Native Association, secretary of the Kotzebue area fisheries co-op; treasurer of Kotzebue Athletic Association, secretary of the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee and a four-year member of the Kotzebue City Council.