Disdain greets circular

By LAURY ROBERTS Juneau Correspondent

Lawmakers from rural areas have reacted with disdain to a campaign directed against Alaskan Natives and subsistence users.

The Alaska Outdoor Association sponsored full page inserts included in recent editions of the two Anchorage newspapers. The yellow tabloid is headlined:

"Fishermen and Hunters! You-can stop your rights from being given away to the Alaskan Natives and/or the so called subsistence users."

The ad then warns of state and federal attempts to preempt urban Alaskans from using fish and game resources in remote areas by allowing subsistence as the priority use of the resource.

"I guess that explains the term "ugly American"," said Sen. George Hohman (D-Bethel). "Some people are not willing to understand other ways of life."

"Once again people are iumping at something they're not totally informed on," said Rep. Jack Fuller (D-Nome), chairman of the House Special Committee on Subsistence, "If those people had attended the Fish and Game Boards hearings, and heard the testimony of the new subsistence section chief, they would see that things are pretty much the way they were in the past. We're not zeroing in on any particular group of people."

"It's a bunch of crap," said Rep. Leo Schaeffer (D-Kobuk).

"It's not even worthy of a response," said Sen. Frank Ferguson (D-Kotzebue). Rep. Fred Zharoff (D-Kodiak) agreed with Ferguson's assessment.

House Majority Leader, Nels Anderson (D-Dillingham) said he had not read the ad and probably wouldn't. Rep. Vern Hurlbert (D-Sleetmute) had not read the piece, nor had Sen. John Sackett (R-Galena).