

Will Hurt Native Fishermen Says Rep. Naughton

By NORMA BOWKETT
Staff Writer

Democratic Rep. Edward Naughton of Kodiak believes Governor William A. Egan's reapportionment plan will "diminish" the voice of the native fishermen of Alaska.

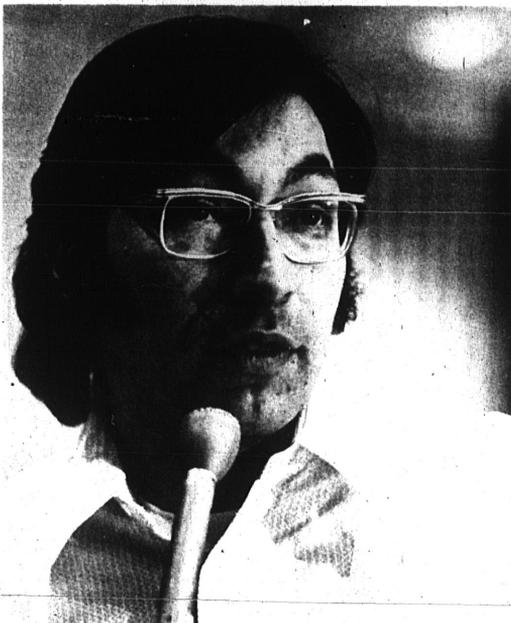
"What the governor has done," said Naughton, "is to reduce the number of legislators by one seat in each house. He reduced the number of the House of Representatives who come from fisheries districts by one and he reduced the number of senators who come from fisheries districts by one...so that the voice of the native fisherman is significantly diminished."

"This is a sad commentary on the attitude of this administration on the basic industry of our state," Naughton said. "Fisheries employ more people than timber, mining and petroleum" and "90 per cent of the fishermen in Alaska are natives."

The Alaska native is the "historic fisherman in Alaska—the backbone of the fish catching phase of the industry. He is here every year. He lives in Alaska" at the end of the fishing season, Naughton said, and the governor's plan for reapportionment has reduced the native's "influence to do what's necessary to develop the fishing industry."

According to Naughton, the

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WILLIAM L. HENSLEY, KOTZEBUE



HITS REAPPORTIONMENT—Rep. Edward Naughton, D-Kodiak, claims that the reapportionment announced by Gov. Egan recently, will diminish the voice of native fishermen in

Alaska. Naughton pictured, center, is of Aleut extraction. He runs a bakery business in Kodiak.

—ROBERT KOWELUK Photo

Reapportionment Irritates . . .

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fisheries industry in Alaska has been losing ground for some time with "fisheries mismanagement to the point of pure folly."

"We were about to embark in bottom fisheries in Alaska," he said, "but research funds for basic information were pulled from the budget on the governor's orders to reduce spending."

Naughton added, "as old as the crab industry is in Alaska, we don't have basic information on the crab and shrimp industry" to carry out wise management.

In recent years, after diminishing in numbers, the king crab have been returning to Alaskan waters, Naughton said, "but we don't know where they came from. This makes for an unstable industry."

Now, Naughton said, reappor-

tionment, "by diminishing the voice of the fisheries district, will accelerate the trend in which the fisheries industry is losing ground."

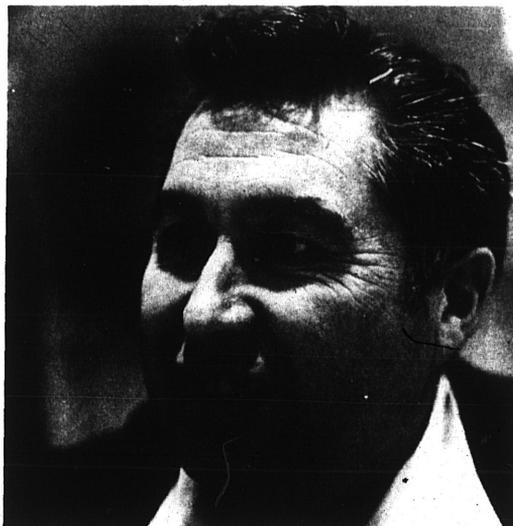
But, Naughton continued, the reapportionment plan appeared to present "hardly any detrimental effects, other than this one" for the Alaska native.

"What is striking," he said, "is that reapportionment follows very closely the 12 regions concept of the Land Claims Bill...That bodes well for the native people of the north."

He said, "the ridiculous part is that Southeastern Alaska was left untouched by reapportionment on the argument that Southeastern Alaska has a stable population."

If that argument is sound,

Naughton said, then "Kodiak and the Aleutians should be untouched, since there are just a few tens of differences in the population there from 1960 to 1970."



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