

Handwriting on the Wall

Advance notice of the kind of treatment Northwest Alaska will get from big city legislators was given when the lawmakers had an opportunity to pass a resolution favoring a constitutional convention to change the Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote decision. The action came near the close of the first session of the Sixth State Legislature.

Those senators voting against—and killing the measure which would have given this sparsely populated area a fair chance for representation at future state legislatures—were: Cens: Begich, Bradshaw, Koslosky, Lewis, Brad Phillips, Thomas and Waugaman.

We were particularly disappointed in the action taken by Sen. Brad Phillips. Consistent rumors are that the handsome Anchorage Republican has designs for statewide office. If the rumors are true and he does decide to try to get votes in this larger-than-California region, we should remember he is only interested in the big cities—where the majority of the votes are.

Another disappointment was Lowell Thomas Jr., who twice campaigned for votes in Northern and Western Alaska. At that time he displayed an attitude sympathetic to the problems of this vast and sparsely populated area. It is evident now his sympathies lie only with the majority of voters.

If the lawmakers voting against the constitutional convention resolution had any conception of the differences in customs, climatic conditions—and even in languages—in this region they would certainly have tried to give us a voice in Juneau.

The next election is still two years away and all eligible voters in this remote region should vow—right here and now—to forget party lines and begin to think in terms of candidates who lend an ear to our vastly different problems.

If all voters in this region stick together we can form a block of votes strong enough to make any political candidate wish he'd given us a little consideration in the past.