

# Bush sets legislative priorities

## Anderson and Gardner in showdown for House speaker

From Our Juneau Bureau

JUNEAU — Sen. John C. Sackett (R-Galena) and Sen. Frank Ferguson (D-Kotzebue) have announced that their priorities for the Eleventh Alaska Legislature are education and jobs in rural Alaska.

Sackett has been appointed to serve a second session as Chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee. Senator Ferguson, recently reelected to his second term, has been appointed as Chairman of the Senate Labor and Management Committee and as Vice Chairman of the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

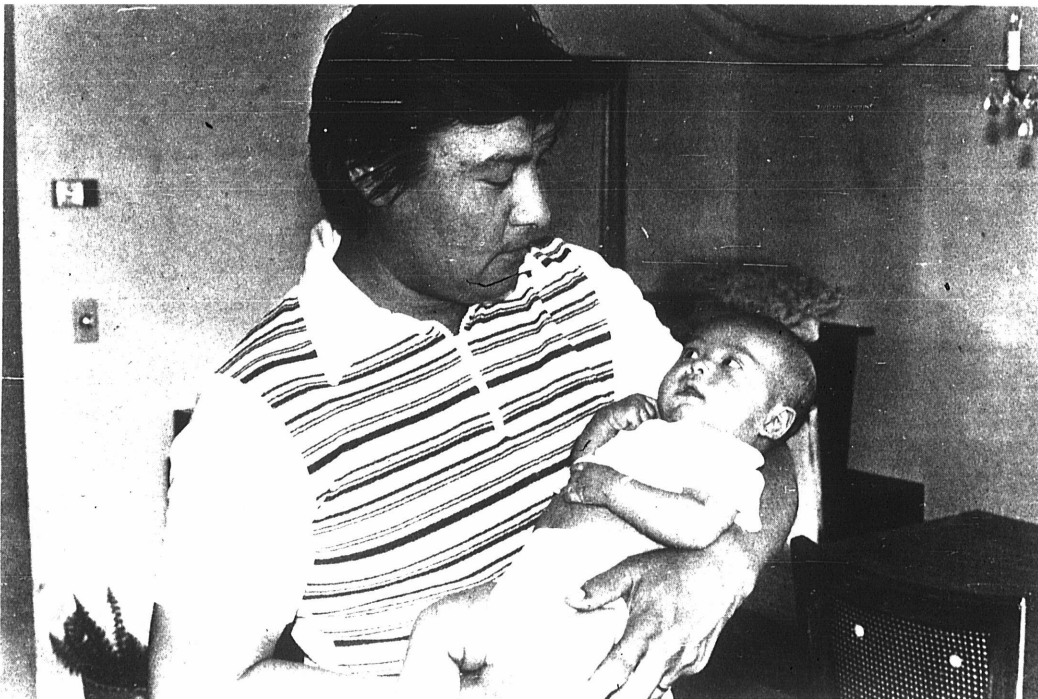
In order to achieve the priorities, Sackett and Ferguson said they are considering the possibility of using tax incentives to encourage the growth of private enterprise while promoting more jobs for rural Alaskans.

Both senators say they plan to work closely with Sen. Bill Sumner (R-Anchorage), Chairman of the Senate Employment Opportunities Committee and the Senate Resources Committee.

Senators Sackett and Ferguson say they are confident that funds available will be used to the best benefit of all Alaskans and will "once again ensure that the much needed bush priorities will be given the emphasis they want."

At press time, the House of Representatives has still not yet organized its leadership. An apparent showdown is developing for the top post of Speaker between Rep. Nels Anderson, Jr. (D-Dillingham) and Rep. Terry Gardner (D-Ketchikan).

The caucus of bush legislators (See BUSH, Page Five)



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY — Rep. Leo Schaeffer (D-Kotzebue) and his wife Robbie will have plenty to keep them occupied during the 11th Alaska Legislature. On the floor of the House, Schaeffer will attend to bush priority items. At home, Leo and Robbie will have other priorities, including the care and feeding of their latest arrival, Todd, seen here with the legislator late last summer in Kobuk. Todd was born in June.

Thomas Richards, Jr. Photograph

# ● Bush

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lators "appears to be hanging together well" according to close observers, but, if they fail to maintain unity, it could spell defeat for their leadership plan.

The organizers have not made any comment on a reported offer from House Republicans to join with bush legislators to control the House leadership. The Republicans have reportedly offered Anderson the position of Speaker and agreed to make concessions on bush priorities in order to create the coalition.