

Publisher's Notes

LISA RUDD

Lisa Rudd was a friend to many, many Alaskans, and her sudden death this week brings sadness.

Lisa was a strong advocate for human rights. She was also a fair-minded and decent individual who devoted most of her life in Alaska to public service. She was the first woman appointed to Governor Sheffield's Cabinet, and she led the Department of Administration with the same style she exhibited in all the posts she held; that is, with fairness.

During her term in the Alaska Legislature, Lisa was a forceful backer of the Coastal Zone Management Law and the prime sponsor of the Alaska Women's Commission.

Alaskans have lost a true friend.

PRIBILOVIANS' PLIGHT

Larry Mercurieff is "right on" in warning us about the potential danger of Animal Protectionist groups. Those who know the legislative process better than the rest of us should recognize that the battles being won by the Friends of the Animals and their ilk will not stop at the Canadian border, nor will they be halted in the halls of the United State Congress.

If the Fur Seal Treaty is defeated in Congress next month, we'll be in for some trouble from those groups who are pulling out all stops to stop the harvest of fur seals in the Pribilofs.

Our Subsistence Law, such as it is, is vulnerable for an attack by the Animal Protectionists. For that reason, we should all get behind Larry and the Pribilovians in their fight to continue a way of life.

Next month, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be holding hearings on the Fur Seal Treaty. We should be sending our messages to the Congress now that the Treaty must stay intact.

The annual harvesting on the Pribilofs will take place on July 8, and this year a gain, there will be a media blitz that will focus world attention on the little islands of St. Paul and St. George. Hopefully, the media will be sensitive to the plight of the Pribilovians as they wage their battles to maintain their right to live.

LOCAL HIRE IN ALASKA

As long as Alaska is considered "oil rich," we will probably be unable to convince the courts that a "Local Hire" law is necessary. For some unknown reason, we've always ended up on the losing end of the battle just to ensure that Alaskans have a priority in working.

Even with a law, we'll probably still have cases such as the Alaska Railroad where the majority of the jobs went to non-Alaskans. But we have to continue to find the formula that will be upheld by the courts which will give Alaskans, particularly those who live in the rural areas, a first cut at jobs.