

Sheffield orders ethics code

Juneau—Governor Bill Sheffield today ordered the drafting of an ethics code for executive branch state employees, as well as a study of government procurement practices "to determine what must be done to protect the public interest."

Commenting in the wake of the impeachment proceedings against him, Sheffield told his Cabinet officers that "nobody who occupies this office should ever have to go through such a thing, and I want to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Development of a strong ethics code for the branch "will be a good start," the Governor said. "I also have ordered that a hard look be taken at procurement practices and procedures to determine what must be done to protect the public interest. If legislative remedies are necessary, they will be proposed in January."

The Alaska Legislature adopted an ethics code for its members in 1984, but no formal law has been enacted for the executive branch. Governor Sheffield first propos-

ed an executive ethics code to the Legislature in 1983, but it never reached the floor for a vote in either house.

Attorney General Hal Brown and Commissioner of Administration Eleanor Andrews were named by Sheffield to head a working group drafting the ethics code and studying procurement practices.

At his first cabinet meeting since the Alaska Senate adjourned its impeachment inquiry on August 5, Sheffield also ordered each of his 15 commissioners to review their department's procedures on public information "to

guarantee they are consistent with the spirit and intent of the law."

"From this point forward, this administration will be the most closely watched state administration in the country. I believe this close scrutiny will be an opportunity to prove beyond a doubt that we have a state government that will be a source of pride to everybody who lives in Alaska," Sheffield said.

"We have absolutely nothing to hide, and I'm convinced the decisions we make and the processes we use to get there will earn the public confidence," he said.