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Volume 16, Number One

Anchorage, Alaska

January 5, 1979

Twelve Pages

## Bush gears for legislature

By NANCY HARVEY

With the start of the 1979 Legislature only a week away state lawmakers are drifting into Juneau with their thoughts focused on legislative priorities for this year's session.

And, when the call to order takes place on January 15, many familiar rural legislators will be returning to take their places in the first session of the 11th Alaska State Legislature.

Kotzebue Senator Frank Ferguson, (D-Kotzebue), the only rural senator to face re-election this year, will be returning to Juneau after defeating his opponent Tony Schuerch of Kiana.

Senator George Hohman, (D-Bethel), who made an unsuccessful bid for the lieutenant governor's position in the August primary, and Senator John Sackett (R-Galena) also return to the State Senate this month. If the current Senate organizational structure holds, Sackett will once again chair the powerful Senate Finance Committee for his third consecutive year.

In the House, veteran legislators Nels Anderson (D-Dillingham) and Leo Schaeffer (D-Kotzebue) ran unopposed in November and won by heavy margins. Incumbent Representative Al Osterback (D-Sand Point) defeated Stanley Mack for the lone seat in District 15, and in a close race Phillip Guy will once again represent District 17 after narrowly defeating Bethel resident John Malone.

Three freshmen legislators will add their names to those aligned with the "Bush Caucus" this session. Fred Zharoff (D-Kodiak) won an unopposed election in District 14. In the Yukon River District 18, Vern Hurlbert (D-Sleetmute) defeated incumbent legislator Billy Akers, and a little further north Jack Fuller (D-Nome) a long time resident edged out Bob Evans to re-

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