

Introduced: 3/5/71  
Made Special Order of  
Business

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to certain editorial  
6 practices.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS representatives of the press this session have reported legis-  
9 lative activity in a commendably fair, factual and competent manner; and

10 WHEREAS upon occasion their copy has undergone editorial revision which  
11 so distorts the actual circumstances that the public is denied news to  
12 which it is entitled; and

13 WHEREAS such distortions tend to further polarize into extremes those  
14 vitally concerned with issues crucial to the well-being of Alaska; and

15 WHEREAS it is especially important at this time that Alaskans evidence  
16 consensus to the maximum possible degree on these issues if we are to  
17 persuade the nation that we are competent to handle our own affairs; and

18 WHEREAS a major consensus cannot be achieved unless Alaskans are  
19 exposed to all facts related to issues rather than only those supporting a  
20 predetermined editorial position; and

21 WHEREAS attempts by legislators to respond to false charges, clarify  
22 distortions or supply omissions have upon occasion been negated by editing  
23 or failure to print legislative letters to the editor; and

24 WHEREAS an independent press, free to make vigorous criticism is the  
25 foundation of our way of life and the Legislature welcomes such criticism,  
26 but that fact does not warrant the distortion of news other than on the  
27 editorial page;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature urges that  
29 this lamentable editorial practice cease.