

Introduced: 3/5/71
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

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 State Legislature urges that this
29 lamentable editorial practice cease.

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A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Anchorage Daily Times.