

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A farewell to Richard A. Guthrie.

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

7 During the final days of the 1976 election campaign, Richard A. Guthrie
8 died quietly in Bellingham, Washington.

9 Rich was born in Lewistown, Montana in 1939 and graduated from the
10 University of Montana with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education
11 in 1961 and 1968, respectively. During the 1960's he taught music and super-
12 vised music programs in secondary schools, first in his native state, later
13 in Oregon and Washington, capping this career as a department head in the
14 Spokane public school system.

15 Rich came to Alaska in 1969, not to teach music, but to try some other
16 line of work. That summer he put in a dusty stint at a Southeastern sawmill.
17 Arriving in Juneau that fall, Rich took the first open job, which happened
18 to be in the State mail room, and quickly moved through jobs in various
19 agencies to Budget and Management. Here he had his first assignments dealing
20 with the Legislature.

21 In his July 1971 application for employment as a legislative analyst,
22 Rich cited two personal objectives in seeking the job. He saw the Legisla-
23 ture as somewhat disadvantaged in the budget process and wanted to do what
24 he could to "re-establish a more realistic 'balance of power' between the
25 legislative and executive branches in matters of fiscal importance." He also
26 planned to use his background and experience to provide "more comprehensive
27 and 'common sense' analyses." Those of us who worked with him and knew him
28 well during his five years of legislative service know he achieved the
29 latter; the other will take time.

1 It is not appropriate to discuss Rich separately from his family or the
2 family from the community--they were all closely joined. Rich and his wife
3 Bonnie gave up teaching as a career but spent countless hours on local school
4 music programs. Church music was enriched with their talent. And those who
5 saw and heard will never forget the joyous Guthrie family musicals that
6 graced Juneau's stage.

7 Rich was a fine person, devoted to his work, his family, his community--
8 to life in general. We cannot help but wish he could have been with us
9 longer. But that was not to be and thus the condolences of the Legislature
10 and the staff are respectfully extended to Mrs. Bonnie Jean Guthrie, son Tod
11 and daughter Jodi, all of Juneau.