

Submitted the Fairbanks Daily News Miner:

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Dear editor,

I noticed a new and strange notice on the cover of this year's issue of the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend application. It informs us that as of January 1 next year (2004) males 18-24 must be registered for selective service (a federal requirement), or they could be found ineligible for next year's PFD. Most interesting, I thought. Why would anyone make this federal legal duty a requirement for receiving a PFD?

This deserved looking into. It definitely was a bit over the top. Moreover, some vindictive and meanspirited legislator went out of their way to introduce this legislation, and the rest of them obviously went along for the partisan show they always love to make. So I asked around as to which legislator had come up with this unnecessary smack up the side of the head to young men. (Women of course don't have to comply, since they don't have to register for selective service.) Lo and behold, it was USA MURKOWSKI!

I was at a loss for the right words when I discovered the culprit. I still am. This same person has now been put into the senate of our country. Before learning this, was trying to be compassionate about that papa Murkowski handout. But I now have no compassion left. This law is utterly silly, unequally requires something of young men while no other group is similarly affected, and has no relationship to anything having to do with qualifying or not for the Permanent Fund dividend. It is simply wrong and petty.

W, and I include myself here, were asleep while this craziness passed into law. What a country. What a state government. What a mockery of equal treatment. How do I explain this to my son? How can he respect such a government?

Rich Seifert