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Subject: "Trifecta of Absurdity"

Amen! This guy has hit the nail on the head! Of course, I am only sharing MY personal opinion.

Enough!

Ramras hits a trifecta

In the Legislature's debate about fixing Alaska's corruption-tainted oil tax, Fairbanks Republican Rep. Jay Ramras is providing unintentional comic relief. From his perch on the House Oil and Gas Committee, he has committed a trifecta of absurdity.

First, he suggested that Gov. Sarah Palin was the second coming of Joe McCarthy, the anti-Communist witch hunter of the 1950s. Ramras seemed to be saying that with mean ol' Sarah pushing so hard for a new oil production tax, legislators like him who dared resist the change faced McCarthy-style political persecution.

Next, Ramras compared himself to the famous unknown protester in China who stopped a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square during a brief uprising in the late 1980s. If necessary, Ramras said, he'd do the same -- meaning, presumably, he'd stand up to the oppressive power of the state Legislature and governor and defend the poor, powerless oil companies of Alaska.

Finally, Ramras complained about how hard it is to be an oil company in Alaska. Those poor companies, he said -- the masses of Alaskans just don't understand how hard it is to scour the world looking for oil and try to keep making more money so your shareholders will be happy.

Memo to Rep. Ramras: Oil company shareholders aren't the ones you're paid to worry about. Check your Alaska Constitution. You're paid to worry about Alaskans, who are shareholders in Alaska's oil wealth. Your job is, as the Alaska Constitution says, to get Alaskans the maximum benefit from the development of those publicly owned resources. There's plenty of room to disagree about what "maximum benefit" means when a legislator is making oil tax decisions. In that debate, Alaska's oil companies and supporters have no trouble making their voices heard, without the rhetorical excesses of Jay Ramras.

BOTTOM LINE: Some legislators don't know when they are hurting their own cause.

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