

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. - 09 - 89 (2) TABLED ON OCT 24 1989

ED SUN OCT 20 1989

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



3 1936 00004 927 8

Jan's fur ban pelted, praised

By PAUL RODGERS
Staff Writer

MAYOR SHUNS CHAIN OF OFFICE

Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer was both lauded and condemned yesterday for refusing to wear her chain of office at city council's swearing-in ceremony.

Reimer said she decided not to wear the gold and silver chain because it's mounted on beaver pelts — and she doesn't support the fur trade.

Retired Capt. Max Podluzny, who designed the chain with its 27 military and police badges, said the move showed political naivety and disrespect for those Edmontonians who died fighting for their country.

"She's going to kill herself politically if she keeps doing things like this," said Podluzny. "She should get some people to advise her on protocol."

Lt.-Cmdr. Wally West, who organized the presentation of the chain by the Edmonton United Services Institute in 1985, said Reimer's decision was a poor one.

"The chain represents thousands of citizens who gave their lives for their city and their country," he said.

Ald. Bruce Campbell said he saw no good reason why

Reimer wouldn't wear the symbol of her authority.

"It's appropriate for the mayor to wear the trappings of the office," he said. "And I don't see anything wrong with the beaver pelt being part of those trappings."

Former mayors Laurence Decore and Terry Cavanagh both wore the chain during ceremonial functions.

But Claire Flewitt, an animal rights group spokesman, said Reimer made an excellent decision.

"Trapping is killing animals for frivolous reasons," said Flewitt, from Albertans for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "People wouldn't kill them if someone didn't use the furs."

After council's inaugural meeting on the east patio of the Edmonton Convention Centre, Reimer said: "I do not support the fur trade. You see a lot of suffering animals."

Reimer said the chain is an item for display — not use. The chain sits in a case in the mayor's reception room.

• Reimer takes control, Page 28.