

LAST WEEK IN ALASKA

**A weekly summary of Alaska News prepared for
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THE "MOVE IT TO WILLOW" Committee has been resurrected after a successful drive to gain voter approval of the Willow site as the spot for the new capital. The group held a meeting last week and decided to send questionnaires to legislators to find out exactly where they stand on the move issue. The group plans to publish the responses in newspapers around the state.

WASHINGTON STATE CONGRESSMAN LLOYD MEEDS told an Organization for Management of Alaska's Resources (OMAR) conference held in Anchorage that progress must be made on Morris Udall's HR-39 D-2 bill. Meeds said that while the bill's wilderness acreage had been reduced from 147 million acres to 74 million acres, that is not enough. Meeds also characterized the bill as an imbalanced approach to resource development, which Meeds said must consider the scenic as well as the development potential of any area.

GOVERNOR JAY HAMMOND HAS RESPONDED to comments Republican gubernatorial candidate Walter Hickel made to a Homer audience recently, concerning the buy-back of Kachemak Bay oil leases. Hickel says he would have allowed development of the bay. Hammond says Hickel's position reflects what Hammond called Hickel's "development for development's sake philosophy." Hammond said some areas' values are higher than the mineral content. And he said, "Realizing, as do I, these higher values, a Democratic Legislature overturned the leases made by a previous Democratic administration."

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATORS HELD A MEETING to discuss ways of hastening the capital move. The lawmakers discussed reducing the planned community from the 37,500 being used as a population by the Capital Site Planning Commission, and they discussed the so-called split move concept. Senate Republican Leader Mike Colletta of Anchorage says the legislators are agreed on one goal. "...they were unanimous in the stance to band together to do everything possible to see that the people's initiative is implemented, and that's moving the capital."

THE CAPITAL SITE PLANNING COMMISSION has agreed to study a so-called "basic" capital move, as proposed by the Southcentral legislative caucus. Senate State Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Willis of Eagle River says the difference between the basic move and split move is semantic, but not minor. "They (the caucus) thought the word basic would more nearly express what we are attempting to do. We are moving the seat of government to Willow." Commission member Arliss Sturgelewski says one thing bothers her about the basic move: "We do not have the funds really to take a look at what's going to happen to this whole area of regionalization and reorganization of state government."