

# Sheffield picks up endorsements in re-election bid

A number of Native leaders around the state are endorsing Gov. Bill Sheffield in his bid for re-election. They cite Sheffield's support of subsistence and 1991 amendments, economic development and attention to rural needs as key reasons for supporting him in the Aug. 26 primary.

The most recent endorsement, from the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians, was issued July 31, after a survey of its members.

A statement released by T&H President Edward Thomas praised Sheffield for his long-standing support of the subsistence priority, his stand on the proposed 1991 amendments, effective opposition to BIA cuts — which resulted in less severe cuts than were originally planned — and the Sheffield administration's affirmative action and minority recruitment efforts.

John Schaeffer, mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough, said Sheffield "has been a good friend to the people of rural Alaska."

"He's helped us in a lot of ways, but most important has been his stand on subsistence," Schaeffer said.

Charlie Johnson, former president of Bering Straits Native Corp. and past chairman of AFN, credits Sheffield with "doing a good job of looking after development in the rural areas, with services like water and sewer projects, and other things that have been a great help to the people of rural Alaska."

Sheffield has also received backing from Matthew Iya of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission; Caleb Pungowiyi, president of Kawerak; and NANA officials Willie Hensley, Robert Newlin and Sarah Scanlon.

The governor has also been endorsed by the state's largest labor organization, the AFL-CIO, representing 50,000 members in 80 affiliated unions.

Executive President Mano Frey said the AFL-CIO is breaking tradition by endorsing a gubernatorial candidate in a primary election, but stated, "Bill Sheffield is a strong and effective advocate for all of the working men and women of this state."

In other campaign news, an APOC report shows that nearly 2,000 individuals and groups have given a total of \$566,523 in monetary and in-kind contributions to Sheffield's re-election effort. More than half of the contributors gave less than \$100.

## Hickel urges nuclear freeze

Walter Hickel has reiterated his support for a freeze on nuclear weapons and will vote for the nuclear freeze initiative, proposition -1, which will appear on the Aug. 26 primary.

Hickel was among a number of nationally recognized leaders who announced their support for a nuclear freeze in an advertisement which appeared in the Wall Street Journal last year.

The proposition before the voters this month would officially recognize that prevention of a nuclear war is the greatest challenge facing the earth.

"I am an advocate of a strong national defense," Hickel said. "I also believe deeply that the continued proliferation of nuclear weapons is dangerously increasing the risk of a holocaust," he said.

Under the proposition, it would become the policy of the state to promote a mutual and verifiable freeze followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles and other delivery systems.

## Cowper seeks council

The way to ensure that Alaskans are hired for jobs in Alaska is by convincing government agencies and companies both in and outside the state that hiring Alaskans makes good business sense, according to gubernatorial candidate Steve Cowper.

To do that, Cowper said he would create an Alaska Labor Council to meet potential employers and educate them about the Alaska workforce.

The council, to be composed of contractors, labor officials and others familiar with the Alaska economy, would provide data about Alaska workers, their abilities and specialties.

"Alaska has the youngest, best educated and most versatile workforce in America," Cowper said. "Those are qualities desired by any employer."

Cowper said he is sceptical of efforts to pass laws mandating resident hire because in order to pass constitutional muster, such laws are usually too weak to be effective.

Two Alaska local hire laws have already been ruled unconstitutional by the courts in recent years and a third

passed by the Legislature this year is too limited in scope, according to Cowper.

## Randolph attacks opponents

Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick Randolph has accused his opponents Joe Hayes and Wally Hickel of trying to "buy the governor's office with their personal wealth."

Randolph has received more donations from Alaskans than either Hickel or Hayes. But he said Hickel and Hayes are making up for their inability to raise money by underwriting their own campaigns.

So far Hayes has contributed \$631,000 to his own campaign, while Hickel has contributed \$346,000, according to Randolph.

"Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hickel are personally contributing nearly three out of every four dollars they spend," Randolph said.

## Richards opposes cuts

Gubernatorial candidate Bob Richards is "appalled" with the "meat-ax approach" he says the governor has taken regarding school funding.

(Continued on Page Six)

(Continued from Page Four)

At this late date, requiring school districts to operate with 10 percent less monies is both illogical and irresponsible, says Richards.

“With the school year fast approaching, the confusion which the governor has created could cause this fall to be an utter mess for an awful lot of our children who are seeking an education,” Richards said.

Richards went on to say that the simplistic 10 percent cut reflects a lack of understanding of education.

“There are certain school districts in this state that have no alternative sources of funding, and if the state cuts back on them, they could be wiped out entirely,” said Richards.