

CANDIDATES AROUND ALASKA TOSS HATS

With primary elections for state and federal offices less than five months away, candidates around Alaska are tossing their hats in the ring to gear up for one of the most important elections in the state's history.

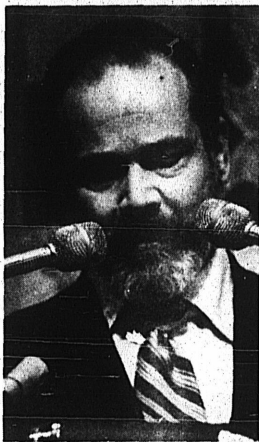
Beginning construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, decision on a gas pipeline, settlement of the Native land claims, formation of the Native corporations and nearing federal action to withdraw 83 million Alaskan acres combine to make 1974 the start of a new era in Alaska.

At stake are the vital governor's and lieutenant governor's seats, one U.S. seat, the state's only U.S. House of Representatives post and numerous Senate and House seats on the state level.

Following are thumbnail sketches of some of the candidates who have already announced their decisions to run:

Jay's Hat in For Governor

Jay Hammond, 51, is a fisherman, poet, pilot, guide, mayor and former State Senate presi-



SEN. JAY HAMMOND
... Poet, legislator

dent. Now he would like to add the title of governor of Alaska.

The bearded Naknek resident has announced that he will seek the Republican nomination

for governor in the primary. He'll do battle with two former governors — Walter J. Hickel and Keith Miller.

"We've no illusions but that it will be a hard run uphill all the way," said Hammond. "I'm always more comfortable as an underdog anyway," he said.

Hammond is looking for support from the "grass-seed" rather than grass roots level. He'll accept campaign contributions, but explained that contributors must realize they get nothing but the best of abilities in return.

The candidate said his approach to development would be limited to those activities that provide a broad spectrum of benefits to a great number of Alaskans rather than a selected few.

Hammond was originally an Independent and, with 53 per cent of Alaska's voters being Independents, has been encouraged to run as such. But the candidate wants party support.

His approach is to offer voters a choice beyond Hickel and Miller on the GOP side and Gov. William A. Egan on the Democratic side — all three whom he sees as displaying no great distinction between their developmental plans for Alaska.

Hammond's press image reflects a colorful pioneer Alaskan. Willing to discuss the issues with his opponents, Hammond says, "I will engage in any kind of confrontation, be it debate or arm wrestling." The candidate is mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough.

problems.

An electronics technician with tracking station and White Alice work experience, Peterson sits on the special committee on communications in Juneau. He has also served on committees for community and rural affairs health, education and social services, rural schools and housing.



REP. LARRY PETERSON
... One of 9 Natives

Peterson was influential in returning education and airport maintenance programs to a slashed rural budget and once told the House speaker from the floor: "You're not doing a job for the (rural) people, but on the people."

He has introduced legislation

calling for taxing the oil companies, electing instead of appointing magistrates, ensuring oil and gas preserves for Alaska and giving all Alaskans with five-years residency 160 acres of land.

Born and raised in Fort Yukon, Peterson was first elected to public office as a city councilman in his home town.

He was twice elected to vice president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, attended the University of Alaska and Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka, and completed 18 months electronics study in Los Angeles, California.

He was employed as a White Alice electronics technician from 1965-1972.