

Ebona to NCAI

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), meeting in convention in South Dakota last month, has selected Andy Ebona, a Tlingit Indian from Juneau, to be the organization's executive director. Ebona has been the director of the United Indian Planners Association until accepting the NCAI post. He has also served as an official of the Economic Development Administration in the agency's Seattle office. The convention also chose AFN executive vice president Clifford Black as an NCAI area vice president.

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Croft endorsements likely

A group of rural Alaska legislators is likely to provide a strong endorsement for the candidacy of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chancy Croft next week, the Tundra Times has learned.

The same usually reliable source said that it was very unlikely that any rural legislator would provide support for incumbent Governor Jay Hammond. Other Native leaders, enroute to Anchorage next week for a series of meetings preceeding the annual AFN convention later in the month, are also expected to endorse the Croft candidacy.

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Hammond dissatisfaction

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Some members of a group of Native leaders who provided endorsements to the primary campaign of incumbent Governor Jay Hammond are said to be angered by recent activities of the Hammond administration, so much so that many are reconsidering their endorsements, the Tundra Times has learned.

An informed source told the Tundra Times that the Hammond endorsements were provided because of great fears that former Governor Walter Hickel might defeat Hammond in the primary and that Hickel would be the favorite in the general election.

The source said that, as a condition of the endorsements, the Hammond administration agreed to keep certain key members of the administration away from Washington, D.C. during congressional deliberations on the D-2 bill. "The Native leadership asked Hammond to keep Commissioner (of Fish and Game) Skoog out of the state's lobbying effort in Washington because of Skoog's 'negative' attitude on subsistence," the source said. "Hammond promised to do this, but he couldn't control Skoog, who went to Washington anyway. The Natives are furious and may leave the Hammond camp," our source added.