

# Freeman shoots for governor's job

Oral Freeman, the conservative shoot-from-the-hip representative from Ketchikan, last week announced something that surprised no one — he is running for the job of Alaska Governor.

Standing in Suite 1417 of the Sheffield Hotel, an operation owned by Freeman's only Democratic opponent for the job, Freeman told a small group of reporters and a group of supporters that outnumbered the reporters, that he was running to provide strong leadership to the state.

Freeman's wife of 42 years, Fay, was at his side as he made his announcement.

Freeman, a Ketchikan boat and marine shop operator for 26 years, was elected to the first state legislature in 1959 but was not re-elected because of his stand on paying legislators.

He was voted out of office during the next term but elected to the Ketchikan City Council in 1960. He was elected mayor in 1967 and to the House of Representatives in 1972.

Freeman said his main campaign thrust will be arguing for stronger leadership in Juneau.

Freeman criticized the federal-state relation and said that Alaska is being imposed upon and not being fairly treated by the federal government because the governor, who is in charge of most dealings with the state, has not stood up for the state's rights.

Freeman said that his record as a strong leader will help provide that new leadership.

He criticized without naming Lt. Gov. Terry Miller, who announced he is seeking the office, for a lengthy slick television advertisement promoting Miller's campaign.

"I look at a good television ad and I don't think of the candidate, I congratulate the writer and director and producer."

Freeman said that he won't place a limit on the amount of contributions he will accept from persons and businesses "because I don't think I'm going to have that problem. The big money boys know I make my own decisions. I'm my own boy and I can't be bought."

He added "I don't think I'll have to match the high rollers



Oral Freeman

but then I don't have to. I don't have to build an image." He was obviously referring to hotelman Bill Sheffield, his primary opponent who is fairly unknown by the general populace throughout the state.

He said he will campaign in favor of fiscal conservatism and fight to save some of the state's oil wealth for the future.

Freeman had no view on the subsistence controversy that is welling up in the state other than to say that "We don't have that problem in Southeast" and he would talk with representatives from both sides before making a stand.

He also had no opinion on the matter of the planned federal cutbacks in the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools throughout the state or on the closing of Mt. Edgecumbe. Freeman said if people were able to convince him that the majority of people wanted Mt. Edgecumbe to remain open he would perhaps make his support for that avenue known but he was reserving action until he is convinced.

Freeman said he has "looked back and I don't see anything in my record that would alienate me from support of the Alaska Native community."