

What others say...

Hickel gasline a deception

To the editor:

It is difficult to determine if the supposed newspaper anti-Hickel ad was designed to hurt Hickel or be a helpful strawman to gain sympathy and give credibility to the Hickel gasline.

Quoting from the ad, "either gasline could have created 10,000 jobs and billions for the state economy." That backdoor support of Hickel's gasline is simply not true. The gasline simply fell apart of its own economic infeasibility. Artic gas spent \$120 million, El Paso \$60 million and McMillian \$600 million; when McMillian's gasline died, Hickel et al pleaded with El Paso to give it another try, this time Japan. El Paso refused, because not only did the gaslines require massive state subsidy by the State of Alaska, but also the excessive cost of the gas had to be added as a surcharge to the cost of the most of the gas in the rest of the south 48 states. When Congress finally figured out how much it was going to cost in subsidy, Congress just would not allow it.

Japan only subsidizes gas from the dock (Japan) to the burner tip. While it is a very large subsidy, it was just grossly inadequate and El Paso knew it.

Hickel then produced his state-funded \$55,000 pipeline study which when read with great difficulty chasing down the ifs, ands, buts and references to other sections, the study emerged as little more than a mock document meant to deceive the reader. The original legislation was for a grant of \$250,000 and I've often wondered where the \$195,000 went. I've never gotten a straight answer.

There was also a partly state-funded study of \$5-10 million by Dow Chemical and a raft of Japanese and Korean companies. They studied the gas line, liquid gas and petrochemicals. They concluded there was a lack of feasibility no matter which way they tried to make it work.

Twenty some years ago, Jaapan subsidized the construction of LNG and chemical plants at North Kenai that are now shipping to Japan. It was Japan's entrance into the LNG and petrochemical world. It was a learn-

ing experience for their engineers. Those Kenai plants continue to operate today because they are already in existence.

If they had to build today, and compete in today's market they would not be built. Even though nmore Kenai gas is available, there has been no expansion of the LNG plants because it is not economically feasible.

Pacific Lighting, a large gas company, tried for years to develop Cook Inlet gas to ship to the south 48, but they could not get enough subsidy to make it feasible and they never really tried the Japanese market because they knew they couldn't compete.

Since the first Hickel study, the Japanese dropped the subsidy for gas and now gas must compete all the way to the burner tip.

Steve Cowper and Dick Randolph are correct for attacking Wally Hickel on the gasline. With so many voters that are in desparate straits and willing to grasp at anything that offers hope, Randolph's and Cowper's honesty is probably costing them votes.

Randolph has bought television time and offered to debate Hickel on the Hickel gasline. As of this writing, Hickel has steadfastly refused to debate Randolph on the gasline.

If our tidewater Cook Inlet gas cannot compete with the tidewater gas of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia and others, how is it that Hickel is going to bring North Slope gas through 820 miles of the world's most expensive gasline to Cook Inlet and be competitive. Hickel's gasline is a fraud.

Ten to fifteen percent of the people in this state are in desparate straits, many of whom are willing to grasp at anything that offers hope. That may not seem like much, but when there are more than ten candidates running, that's enough to influence the outcome of the election.

The Hickel gasline isn't just campaign rhetoric, it's a cruel deception. Candidates like Hickel and Hayes are preying on those who are in financial difficulty and should be shunned by those who can be more objective.

Jerry McCutcheon
Anchorage

Aleut recipe book available

To the editor:

I would like to offer your readers a chance to buy a copy of a Port Graham cookbook that is called "Suget Neg'et" which means People's Foods in Aleut language. The book was put together so that I could order supplies for our pre-school, which is funded through the Johnson O'Malley program. As many of you know our funding was cut in half this summer. So, through this fund raiser I will be able to get the supplies that our pre-school needs without digging into our small budget.

The book contains many excellent

seafood recipes — from fish pie to braided seal intestine. The pre-school children's picture is in the book along with each individual's own recipe. The recipes are all written in English.

To obtain a copy send a check or money order for \$4.90 (includes postage) to:

Deborah McMullen
Pre-School Teacher
General Delivery
Port Graham, Alaska 99603
Thank you!

Deborah McMullen
Port Graham