

# ***Croft knocks Republicans on rural schools***

State Senator Chancy Croft, Democratic candidate for governor said he was shocked at the state Republican party position against rural school construction.

Part of the official platform adopted by the Republican convention advocated a legal challenge against the settlement of the Molly Hootch case, in which the state agreed to upgrade rural education facilities.

"I was shocked that the Republican Party has decided to try and stop rural school construction," Croft said.

He added that he was "amazed that Governor Hammond did not object to the resolution at the party convention.

"It's time we had a Governor who will stand up for our children. I want people to know the Democratic Party supports rural schools and as Governor, I won't

try and set aside the Molly Hootch case."

The Hammond Administration has agreed to support financing of rural school construction as part of an oil taxation package worked out with the legislature. The Governor has not yet stated whether he would accept the anti-Hootch plank of the Republican platform.

Hammond may have some difficulty also reconciling the

part of the platform which calls for unrestricted public use of the north slope haul road, opposed by Native villagers, legislators and leaders such as Eben Hopson, North Slope Borough Mayor.

Hammond and Croft both relied on rural support in the primary election. Such support was critical to the success of both campaigns.