

Arliss' spending, Tony's taxes

Permanent Fund Dividend under attack

This year, the earnings of your Permanent Fund will put \$952 into your pocket, and into the pocket of every eligible Alaskan.

Cumulatively, the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) puts 100s of millions of dollars into Alaska's economy, the single-biggest infusion of state dollars directly into the economy.

But such a large pot of money is a tempting target for budget-building big-spenders in the legislature. They have successfully eroded part of your PFD each of the past four years. This year they will take about \$32 out of each check to pay for state bureaucracy that should be paid for out of the general fund.

This "taxation" of your PFD is without public approval and through the back door. It could easily grow, if the legislature thinks it can rationalize funding other new programs from the PFD. If it

does, the real value of your annual check will drop.

Even more ominous is the threat of income tax. There are liberals in the legislature who believe Alaskans should pay income tax, and they have introduced a bill to reimpose it in each of the past six years.

In their confused sense of justice, they believe "economic equality" is achieved by giving a dividend check to each and every Alaskan, and then taxing it away from those who are industrious, who work for a living, or who have any form of income (including PFD checks).

This is a simple example of giving with the right hand, just to take away with the left. And for what? The liberals in the legislature want you to pay an income tax to prop up their ever-growing state bureaucracy.

Wally Hickel believes the earnings of the Permanent Fund should be used

only to "inflation-proof" the Permanent Fund, and to provide dividends to the people.

He is opposed to the erosion of your dividend, either through legislatively-imposed deductions, or through the imposition of a state income tax, and as governor, he would veto any attempts to reduce your dividend or bring back the tax.

Where do Wally Hickel's opponents stand on these two issues that directly impact your dividend? Arliss Sturgulewski has voted four years in a row to take the deductions from your dividends, but says she is opposed to the income tax — for now. Tony Knowles — just listen to him talk.

It is your Permanent Fund, and your annual dividend check. The choice is yours — to continue the erosion under Tony or Arliss, or to put a stop to it with Wally Hickel as your governor.