

Green Party candidates put focus on environment

Times staff

Green Party candidate for governor Jim Sykes and Jeanmarie Larson Crumb, who is running for lieutenant governor, would like to be elected, but they'll be happy to settle for 3 percent of the vote Nov. 6.

Getting at least 3 percent of the vote would give the Greens official recognition by the state, allowing them even more of a voice in offering an alternative to voters.

Sykes, 40, who was born in Rapid City, S.D., has lived in Alaska since 1976. Crumb, 45, an Athabaskan from Fairbanks, has held leadership positions in state and local Native organizations such as the Alaska Native Foundation, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Cook Inlet Native Association and the Fairbanks Native Association.

Sykes is an independent radio producer who lives in a remote cabin northeast of Talkeetna with his wife and two children. He says both he and Crumb "recognize the common values of Alaska Native spirituality and concerns for a healthy Alaskan environment and healthy Alaskans as guiding forces for good government."

He said that despite his slim chances of actually getting elected, he worked hard to find a running mate who would be able to do a good job as lieutenant governor.

Sykes said the Green Movement is characterized by looking at the "deep interconnection of people and the environment."

He stressed that problems and issues cannot be examined in an isolated fashion, but that the total environment must be considered.

"It's all part of the same world. We've adopted the Native concept of considering the effect of any decision on the next seven generations," he said.

Sykes also said the party focuses much attention on making Alaska as self-sufficient as possible and that he supports creation of a product development corporation.

Sykes has strong feelings on the sovereignty issue, having traveled

ELECTION 1990

throughout Alaska with Canadian jurist Tom Berger, who headed up the Alaska Native Review Commission and is the author of *Village Journey*.

Sykes recorded the proceedings for Berger.

The candidate praised Gov. Steve Cowper for his recent executive order, recognizing tribal governments in Alaska.

Sykes said the state should work with villages on a "government to government" basis.

In addition, he suggested that it would be helpful if village governments could work closely with Native village corporations and Native regional corporations.

Although the Green Party puts much of its emphasis on environmental issues — focusing on the long-term as opposed to the bottomline — Sykes

continued on page twenty-two

• Green Party's Sykes explains views on issues

continued from page twenty-one

and Crumb have taken positions on a number of issues, including:

- Opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and development — "No. It's not needed. Sustainable economic development and environmental values mandate no development should take place in ANWR. Adding ANWR to other untapped large fields near Prudhoe would create a huge boom, followed by a disastrous bust, and the non-renewable oil and gas would be forever gone."

- Subsistence priority — "Absolute-

ly. Subsistence users with critical knowledge have never become an important part of fish and game management. This must change. The valid existing rights of Native peoples must be recognized by the state, as well as rights of non-Native subsistence users."

- Environmental quality improvement — "Establish an alternative energy pilot project. Fund weatherization and other energy saving programs. Create an Alaska Environmental Quality Act. Propose a bottle bill for non-rural areas. Fund other incentives for recycling other materials.

Give the Department of Environmental Conservation power to require best available technology. Create a DEC education division for public and industry."

- Reapportionment — "The next governor will redraw election districts for the next 10 years. A Republican governor would redraw lines to benefit Republicans, and the Democrats would do the same. Jim Sykes, as governor, will have citizens advise on how they themselves want to be represented in districts.

- Oil — "Re-examine oil leasing and oil development practices. Most countries develop their oil and get 20 to 90

percent of the profits. We should increase our share and hire oil industry experts to ensure the state's interest is protected."

- Drug and alcohol abuse — "Intervention and treatment for users, education for non-users. Reconnect families, rebuild communities and encourage people to get in touch with their own spirituality. This is a long-term process, but it has to come from within the community."

- Health care — "Establish a health care system so all Alaskans can be insured and medical costs can be reduced. Community-based preventive health care is a key."