

Hickel Would Veto Pay Raise

Walter J. Hickel, Republican candidate for Governor, stated that he would have vetoed the legislative pay raise had he been governor during the last session.

Hickel's statement came as part of his question-and-answer appearance before the Alaska General Agents and Managers Association meeting in Anchorage.

"If Governor I would have vetoed it. This is not to say that at some time they should not have a raise, but I think the timing was bad and the raise was entirely excessive.

"Although the legislators were overwhelmingly Democratic—17 out of 20 in the Senate, 30 out of 40 in the House, it was the Governor's responsibility to maintain a check and balance, and that check and balance is his veto power.

"You can discuss all day what a 60-day session is worth. With their per diem they are now drawing \$8,000. I think if the lady in Fairbanks is successful in getting enough names to put this pay-raise question on the ballot, that the people will vote it down."