

# ***Hammond Pushes Transportation***

Though largely concentrating on the state's urban centers, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jay Hammond is campaigning for improved transportation and education in the rural areas.

Hammond and his lieutenant governor running mate, State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. are running on a platform supporting 100% local control of schools.

Hammond is proposing increase of state funding for construction for basic education needs because under the present foundation program, schools only get half as much as they need.

"By increase funding, we decrease state involvement and increase the involvement at the local level," he explained.

"Local people want a greater say."

"To do something to or for yourself is easier to take than when somebody else does something to or for you," he added.

The cost of living differential

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# Gov. Candidate Hammond . . .

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would play a major factor in the state funding of construction. "For example, Allakaket would be paid more than Anchorage, of course."

His critics, claim Hammond, argue that his administration would be building schools just for one or two students if that's what the people want but said if there are 10 or 15 students,

there is a reasonable basis for need.

"We would be providing basic classroom space not gold foil schools with crystal windows," he explained. "Basic education is written into the state constitution," he added, "on the first page."

Hammond also favors the reorganization of several state departments and their services and "putting them all into a Department of Transportation."

This step would save millions and provide more effective services. "Right now there is a lack of planning."

He would also like to see this Department of Transportation expand to include to improve and provide more marine and airway routes.

Hammond would like to provide more local service roads to rural areas but not without public hearings held within 50 miles of proposed roads. A report to the legislature after the hearings would be in order, and then only the legislature must approve the local roads he added.

His reason for this plan was when Bruce Campbell, commissioner of highways, told the Bristol Bay Development Corporation last fall that area was

not going to get \$150,000 appropriated by the legislature for them in 1972 for road improvements.

The money was put in a \$500,000 study of a road to Goose Bay and Lake Iliamna. "We want substantially greater public input," he said.

Hammond served in the State House from 1959-65 originally as an Independent than Republican. In the House he served as chairman of the Resources Committee, and as minority whip, then majority whip.

From 1965-67 he was manager of the Bristol Bay Borough, the first in Alaska, in a largely Democratic district.