

Larry Peterson Poses His Platform

Larry Petersen, an Athabascan Indian from Ft. Yukon, has filed for the Alaska House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket, Sixteenth District.

Petersen attended high school at Mt. Edgecumbe, enrolled in the University of Alaska, later attended Sheldon Jackson, and eventually completed an electronics training course in California, working on the White Alice System.

He has twice served as vice-president of Tanana Chiefs, is the president of DNH Development Corp., appointed by the Governor to the Health and Welfare advisory board, past-president of Fort Yukon Native Association and member of the city council.

Petersen said he feels this is "a crucial period in the development of the state - at a time that calls for serious in-depth thinking as to what direction we want to take in the future."

"Much attention is focused on Alaska these days due to the oil sale, Native Land Claims Settlement, and the 800 mile pipeline."

He objects, not to the pipeline per se, but to the fact "that we (Natives) are not being trained or hired for available jobs in the North Slope area or in the construction of roads leading to this area."

"The oil boom," said Petersen, "should profit all Alaskans", native and non-native alike. He urged local hire, not only in the oil industry but in the school system,

"Our housing," he added, "is substandard, sanitation facilities are inadequate and harmful. Our rivers and lakes are being polluted. Adequate medical facilities are not available."

"Our welfare system is one of the three lowest in the states, yet our prices are the highest. We do not have enough nursing homes, our elderly people often go without proper medical attention or are sent hundreds of miles to a nursing home. Here they suffer loneliness and estrangement from their families."

He spoke of the need for juvenile facilities both for delinquent children and those with special problems, for alcoholism programs and research, for legal services, better highways, vocational training centers, better transportation and communication.

In conclusion, Petersen said, "Yes, Alaska has oil, we have thousands of acres of resources,



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plentiful fish, game, and timber but we are still poor and still undeveloped."

"We must have more local planning and more centralized organization. I am deeply concerned about these problems facing all Alaskans. I do not believe we all have different goals but merely different approaches to this goal."

"It is my belief that we can work together and the result will be just for all concerned."