

Gov. Hammond: New Commission To Have Natives

ANCHORAGE—Gov. Jay Hammond, in a press conference here Friday, indicated that his proposed commission to succeed the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission would have equal representation by Alaska Native landholders.

“We will have to consider all primary landholding interests when we set up the commission,” Hammond said.

Hammond also explained his proposal for a bond bank, which would allow first class cities and boroughs to borrow money over a period of 20 years for capitol improvement programs. While admitting that such a plan wouldn't make it much easier to pay the loans back, the governor said he expects it to at least make money available at a lower interest rate.

Most of the rest of the conference was spent in discussions of future oil lease potentials. Hammond said that the state might expect some \$3-\$4 million from lease sales in the Beaufort Sea if present litigation over leases in the lower Cook Inlet

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Governor . . .

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area favor the state. If not, the state may expect less than half the projected amount.

Hammond also responded somewhat favorably to a suggestion that the State of Alaska consider appropriating money to cover malpractice insurance for doctors presently having increasing problems obtaining such insurance in return for an over-all decrease in health care rates.