

LAST WEEK IN ALASKA

**A weekly summary of Alaska News prepared for
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THE ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION has voted to oppose a federal proposal establishing a licensing system for whaling captains. Under the proposal, a captain would pay \$100 for a license. The commission will ask the federal government to establish a registration program instead of a licensing fee.

FOLLOWING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LOWELL THOMAS' withdrawal from the lieutenant governor's race several other Republicans have either filed for that office, or made known their intentions to file. They include former Lt. Gov. Bob Ward of Anchorage, State Sen. Brad Bradley of Anchorage, Rep. Mike Beirne of Anchorage, Kathleen "Mike" Dalton of Fairbanks and Sen. Clem Tillion of Halibut Cove.

A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE New Homesteaders," along with Rep. Mike Beirne of Anchorage, has filed a complaint with the Alaska Public Offices Commission against Trustees for Alaska. Trustees just last week filed a suit against the initiative petition sponsored by Beirne and supported by the homesteaders. The homesteaders now say the trustees group is violating state laws requiring registration with the APOC for any group that seeks to influence a political issue.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS taken legal action against an Anchorage man who was advertising to sell information about jobs on the Northwest Alaska gas pipeline. Barry Logan was asking \$5 for information, but he was doing so without a license from the Department of Labor Wage and House Division. A cease and desist order against Logan requires him to return \$4 of each \$5 he received through the advertisements.

ALASKA'S TWO SENATORS TOOK OPPOSING sides in the vote ratifying the Panama Canal treaty last week. Democrat Mike Gravel supported ratification. He says the vote may have an effect on the balloting for the second treaty... "I hope it will give us a little momentum. The second treaty is a little tougher..." Republican Ted Stevens voted against ratification. He says the vote on the second treaty, which deals with payments to Panama, is very significant to Alaska, "because those payments...can only come out of tolls, and they will force an increase on the tolls for Alaskan oil."

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE VICTOR CARLSON has reaffirmed his recommendation that an 87 percent interim rate increase requested by RCA Alascom for instate long distance telephone rates be granted. The State Supreme Court had requested the more detailed recommendation from Carlson after an appeal of an Alaska Public Utilities Commission ruling turning down that request. The only APUC commissioner to approve the interim hike, Marvin Weatherly, said of Carlson's recommendation, "Judge Carlson's review of the record totally vindicates the criticism that was heaped upon the commission's staff in their support of that...request."

THE STATE COULD LOSE AS MUCH as \$1.3 billion over a 25 year period by taking its royalty oil in kind rather than in value. That is the finding of a report prepared for the state legislature by the Battelle Corporation. The chairman of the House Royalty Oil and Gas Committee, Bill Miles, says the legislature is taking the report very seriously. "We've not only contracted with Battelle, the originator of the report, for additional specific work on the AlPetCo contract, but we also have a benefits study underway with the University of Alaska."