

RDC to hold Conference

The head of a major Canadian economic development authority and an internationally-recognized economist will deliver the keynote addresses at the Resource Development Council's Fifth Annual International Conference on Alaska's Resources February 13-14 at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel.

Rural participation is being encouraged.

Allan G. Bleiken, General Manager of the Edmonton Economic Development Authority and Jude Wanniski, founder and president of the

Pennsylvania-based firm of Polyconomics, Inc. will join 31 other speakers from across Alaska and the nation in discussing Alaska's economic priorities.

The conference will focus the dilemma of declining state oil revenues, state spending practices and the need for economic diversification. The two-day event will also report on state development planning and present recommendations of other states.

Bleiken's Wednesday address will pertain to diversification of the economy through petroleum revenues. Bleiken has more than

20 years of experience in the field of corporate marketing and business management with the oil industry, the telecommunications industry and in economic development.

His experience has been at the senior level of industry and government, and on a local to international basis.

Thursday's keynote address features Jude Wanniski spotlighting "Gold, Oil and Economic Growth in the Decade Ahead."

Since 1978, Wanniski has been advising both corporate and financial clients on political, economic and communication strategies. He was in the forefront in popularizing "supply-side economics" in a 1978 essay in *The Public Interest*.

Wanniski assisted in the formulation of the Kemp-Roth tax reduction bill that was enacted in 1981 as a centerpiece of the Reagan economic program. He drafted the monetary plank in the 1980 Republican Party Platform and was an advisor to Reagan during the Presidential campaign. He appears frequently in the broadcast and print media as a commentator on economic and political developments.

In 1977 Wanniski was a Fellow of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington D.C., where he researched and wrote *The Way The World Works: How Economies Fail -- and Succeed*, which was published one year later. A general theory of the global economy, the book received critical acclaim in the national

press and in the business and political communities.

Governor Bill Sheffield will open the conference with a presentation on his administration's strategy for economic development.

Mary Nordale, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue and Harold Heinze, President of ARCO Alaska, Inc., will follow with a discussion on a five-year revenue forecast from the public and private perspectives.

A major part of the 1985 conference will be devoted to presentations by Alaska community and borough leaders who will discuss elements of their present economies and contingency plans for adjusting to declining state revenues. Up to 19 speakers will present their community or borough's recommendation for the single most important action or project that would allow their economies to strengthen or diversify in the next five years.

Since it is expected that projects proposed for state funding will far exceed the state's financing capabilities in the next five years, other presentations will focus on the question of resolving regional demands for capital.

As a result, the conference will also feature a panel of neutral development specialists from other states to share their views as to which projects can best stimulate regional economic diversification.

RDC will also ask the audience to rank, within budget constraints, projects it believes would

best meet the five-year economic diversification goal.

J. Bonnie Newman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce of the U.S. Economic Development Administration in Washington, D.C. and William Mulligan, Vice President and Senior Technical Advisor, Chase Manhattan Bank will join Bert Wagnon, Executive Director of the Alaska Industrial Development Authority, in focusing on alternate means of funding projects and leveraging capital.

Paul, Kelly, Vice President of Rowan Drilling Company, will discuss the impact of OCS development on rural economies. The conference will include numerous other presentations relating to legislative spending proposals, the creation of wealth through local training and employment and community allocations of state revenues.

To register for the conference call or write the Office of Continuing Education at the University of Alaska - Anchorage at 786-4779, 3211 Providence Drive, Room 103, Library, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Firms interested in participating as a sponsor should call Becky Gay at RDC at 276-0700.