

Campbell's views on subsistence

Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of articles the Tundra Times will be running on candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

by Geoff Kennedy
for the Tundra Times

Jim Campbell doesn't have a subsistence position, but he knows how to get one.

"The governor should tell the federal government we need a year to appoint a commission with representatives of the federal government, state government and citizens to bring the issue into the open in a forum to make a decision," he said. "Subsistence has not had a full hearing around the state."

Campbell wants the commission to see if it can solve the state's subsistence problem by regulating such matters as bag limits, hunting seasons, and so forth.

"I think there might be some refreshing ideas coming out of the

commission," he said.

Campbell proposes that the commission represent urban and rural Alaskans equally.

Campbell disagrees with Gov. Cowper and the state's congressional delegation, who propose amending the state constitution to provide a preference for rural subsistence hunters when fish and game become scarce.

"If we force a vote on a constitutional amendment, it will do nothing but pit Alaskan against Alaskan and region against region," he said. "Too many decisions are made in the back rooms in Washington, D.C. and in the cloak rooms in Juneau."

Besides a legislative solution won't work, he said.

Every time the state enacts a subsistence law, he said, "The courts keep shooting us down."

Campbell doesn't believe in letting the Board of Fish and Game try to solve the problem. The present ad-

ministration isn't providing enough money for the board to travel around the state and seek views from Alaskans on how to solve the problem, he said.

The state needs a traveling forum because subsistence needs differ in different areas of the state, not only among Alaska Natives, but among everyone, he said.

To solve the problem, the state needs the federal government as a partner in the deliberations process, not as an overseer threatening to take over if the state does not conform to federal law, Campbell said.

But last month, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan told the Alaska Federation of Natives Subsistence Summit Conference in Anchorage that federal law would require him to take over management of federal lands in Alaska if state law does not conform to federal requirements.

• Subsistence commission may solve problem

continued from page one

Asked how he would balance the budget as state revenues decline, Campbell responded, "Income isn't the problem, spending is the problem."

Campbell said he's the only candidate who has devised a specific plan to cut the state budget from \$2.3 billion to \$1.8 billion in four years.

Spending money from permanent fund earnings would be his last resort. But he admitted Alaskans sooner or later will have to consider that as an alternative.

Before tapping the permanent fund earnings, he would impose a state income tax.

Campbell would reduce the budget by limiting the \$250 monthly longevity bonus payments to present recipients and by allowing an option for future recipients to enter the system through an annuity program.

He would not single out the Power Cost Equalization Program for budget cuts.

"The bush has done a good job in reducing or holding state subsidies with alternative energy programs, energy efficiency and bulk fuel contracts," he said.

PCE has done a better job than the Rural Alaska Television Network, Campbell said. He's disappointed with some of the RATNET television programs.

"At least a percentage has to be set aside for other than *Dallas*," he said.

"The state is so vast, if we're going to subsidize or provide this kind of communication, let's do it to help Alaskans understand each other and bring us together. How many people have never been to Southeast, Barrow or Kodiak. If we have one way to get together, it's RATNET."

The state should give RATNET as much priority as public broadcasting, Campbell said.

To promote economic development in rural Alaska, the state should provide the technology and the pool of information rural Alaskans need, he said.

Campbell proposes a "shared executive program," in which urban Alaskans would provide plant managers, technicians and other skilled workers to help rural Alaskans businesses take advantage of state technology and information programs.

He said government and the private sector should share equal responsibility for rural Alaskan development, Campbell said. Native profit-making corporations, in particular, should assume the responsibility for providing jobs for all Alaskans, not for just shareholders.

He praised the Chugach Alaska

Corporation for building a mill in Seward. He said that venture was a "huge risk and the state ought to help them in every way they can. That's what it's all about."

Campbell criticized the way the state spends money on programs to eliminate Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, alcoholism, and drug abuse in rural Alaska.

He compared social programs with houses in rural Alaska.

"They have a pretty good structure, but a poor foundation. That's the problem in many of our (social) programs. We're not addressing the family as the foundation for these programs. The programs I've seen work were those that involved the men and women in those communities," he

said.

Campbell offered this final statement: "I'm convinced Alaskans are looking for someone who was here before oil, who isn't always running (for political office) and someone who's made a payroll."

Campbell, 57, is married with one son, one daughter, and three grandchildren. A resident of Alaska for more than 37 years, he studied at Olympic College in Washington and graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

A retired businessman, he's served in municipal government in Anchorage and chaired both the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Alaska Railroad Corporation.