

CARR WARMING UP FOR RACE

Larry Carr Also Says Pollock Will Not Run For Governor of Alaska

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Staff Writer

"The fastest moving Carr in Alaska" appears to be warming up for one of the state's biggest races even though he has not yet signed the official list of entries.

The "Carr" referred to is Larry Carr of Anchorage and the race he seems to have unofficially entered for is the governorship of Alaska.

The "candidate" is known to people in Eagle River, Anchorage, Kenai, and Fairbanks, not as a politician, but as the owner of the largest chain of supermarkets in the state.

Having started in a quonset hut 19 years ago and building a chain of seven stores, the businessman has used the slogan "the

fastest moving Carr in Alaska" in his advertisements.

Visiting in Fairbanks last week, the soft-spoken six-footer said that his political plans would be officially announced statewide in about three weeks.

However, already sounding like a contender for the seat, the Democrat talked about the primary in August and the later gubernatorial race.

The toughest battle, he said, will not come in the general election but rather will be in the primary against the former Gov. William Egan.

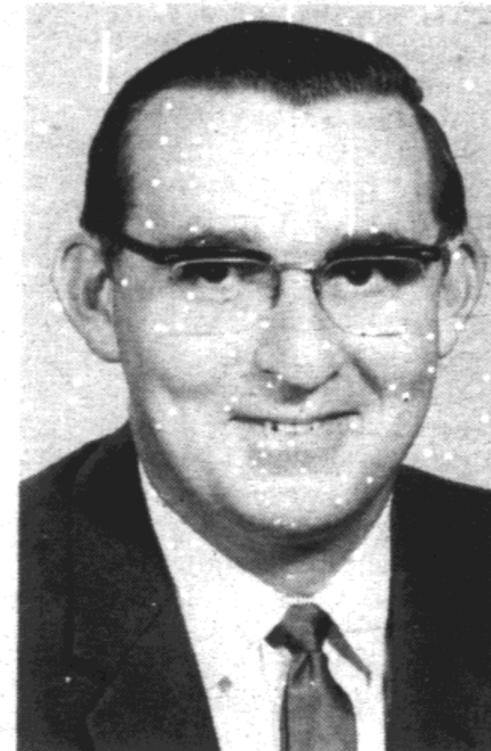
Contrary to the speculations of many, Carr does not think that Howard Pollock, U.S. Representative for Alaska, will enter the race for governor.

Therefore, if he wins the primary, the Anchorage businessman expects his opponent in the general election to be Gov. Keith Miller.

And, if such is the case, he contends that victory for the Democrats will come easily.

"Miller's attitude toward rural Alaska," he said, "has been that

(Continued on page 6)



LARRY CARR

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(Continued from page 1)

it does not exist, and this attitude and neglect will cause the rural areas to vote Democratic.”

Rural Alaska has a right to select the person it thinks is best, he continued, and, if they support that person, they will affect the outcome of the primary and of the general election.

Unlike Miller, Carr has voiced strong support for the Alaska Federation of Natives' land claims position.

“I think that the state government should be supporting the wishes and desires of the people who live here,” he stressed, and should be actively working for the passage of the AFN bill.

The state administration should actually send representatives to Washington to lobby for the bill, he added.

Discussing a recent eight-day trip to Nome, Kotzebue, and Bethel, Carr said the visits were to give him an opportunity to meet with the people, discuss their problems, and hear their suggestions on what the state can do to improve their living conditions.

Although the supermarket owner has lived in Alaska 20 years, most of his time has been spent in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kenai.

Another eight-day trip is planned for the villages of Southeastern Alaska in February.

On his recent trip, Carr explained that he met with leaders in the villages and as many others as possible.

“I concentrated on the fact that I was there to listen and learn something about the problems,” he stressed.

And, he continued, “I came to the conclusion that the rural areas of Alaska have been much

neglected. It appears that a great number of things can be done to increase the economic income and decrease the cost of living in the villages.”

Carr admitted that he was “pretty shocked” by the poor health facilities, housing, school systems, and the high cost of living in rural Alaska.

But, he said, “I was also pleased and surprised with the people I met. I've never seen happier people.”

“It's hard to understand,” he continued, “how they can have so many problems and still have time to be so happy.”

Expressing strong feelings that something must be done for rural Alaska, Carr said that he is developing programs to tackle the problems there.

“Alaska has the financial capabilities and the obligation to solve them.”

To make sure that programs are modified to meet the local needs of a specific area, Carr continued, a lot of them must be delegated to the regional level.

Rather than establishing regional boroughs and then delegating such programs to them, Carr seemed to feel that it might be better to work through established channels, such as the native organizations already in existence.

Turning briefly to his statewide campaign, Carr said that he would try to divide his time equally between the cities and the villages.

“I will develop a plan for the entire state recognizing the special needs of the rural areas.”

He concluded that he would not campaign against Egan or Miller but would campaign on a positive approach of what is good for all of Alaska.