

Gov. Hammond delivers--

State of the State

By SUE GAMACHE

In his State of the State address Governor Jay S. Hammond emphasized his plan "to ask Alaskans what they wanted rather than tell them what they are going to get."

"It has been my hope and my goal as governor to stimulate discussion which brings decisions forward from the people where they can be ratified by us," he told the legislators that were assembled.

The governor said that the most important bill this session will be a proposed constitutional amendment which he says is necessary to the creation of a permanent fund for some state revenues. "I believe we must place some nonrenewable resource revenue in a constitutionally sound savings account where it cannot be

withdrawn to buy only more bureaucracy."

He went on to say that only by doing so can most Alaskans ever expect to draw interest to that money."

"Future shock comes in its highest voltage in Alaska and I urge Alaskans to keep their vision of the state both in mind and heart as development decisions are made," Hammond said.

"We believe that land use planning and transportation planning must go hand in hand," he added. "Of course a bridge now exists across the Yukon and will be open to public use as soon as pipeline construction permits."

"But how much road north of the Yukon will be open, in what manner and when," Hammond

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added, "must be the subject of continuing dialogue between the people of Alaska."

"I'm not introducing a bill determining the fate of the haul road for that reason. No public debate has yet occurred. Until it does any decision will be premature," he concluded.

Some of the major bills Hammond will be submitting for consideration this session are: the Katchemak oil lease repossession, increase of state assistance to schools, and occupational licensing boards.

Other bills to be introduced

are: mandatory minimum sentences, increased penalties for assault and battery on police officers, permit incarceration of drunks if dangerous to self or public, a different definition of murder that will make it easier to prove in some cases, higher penalties for crimes involving firearms, amendments to workmans compensation increase of 1875, asking legislature to approve the Cook Inlet swap with Native corporation, and a revised coastal zone management bill sensitive to expressed concerns.