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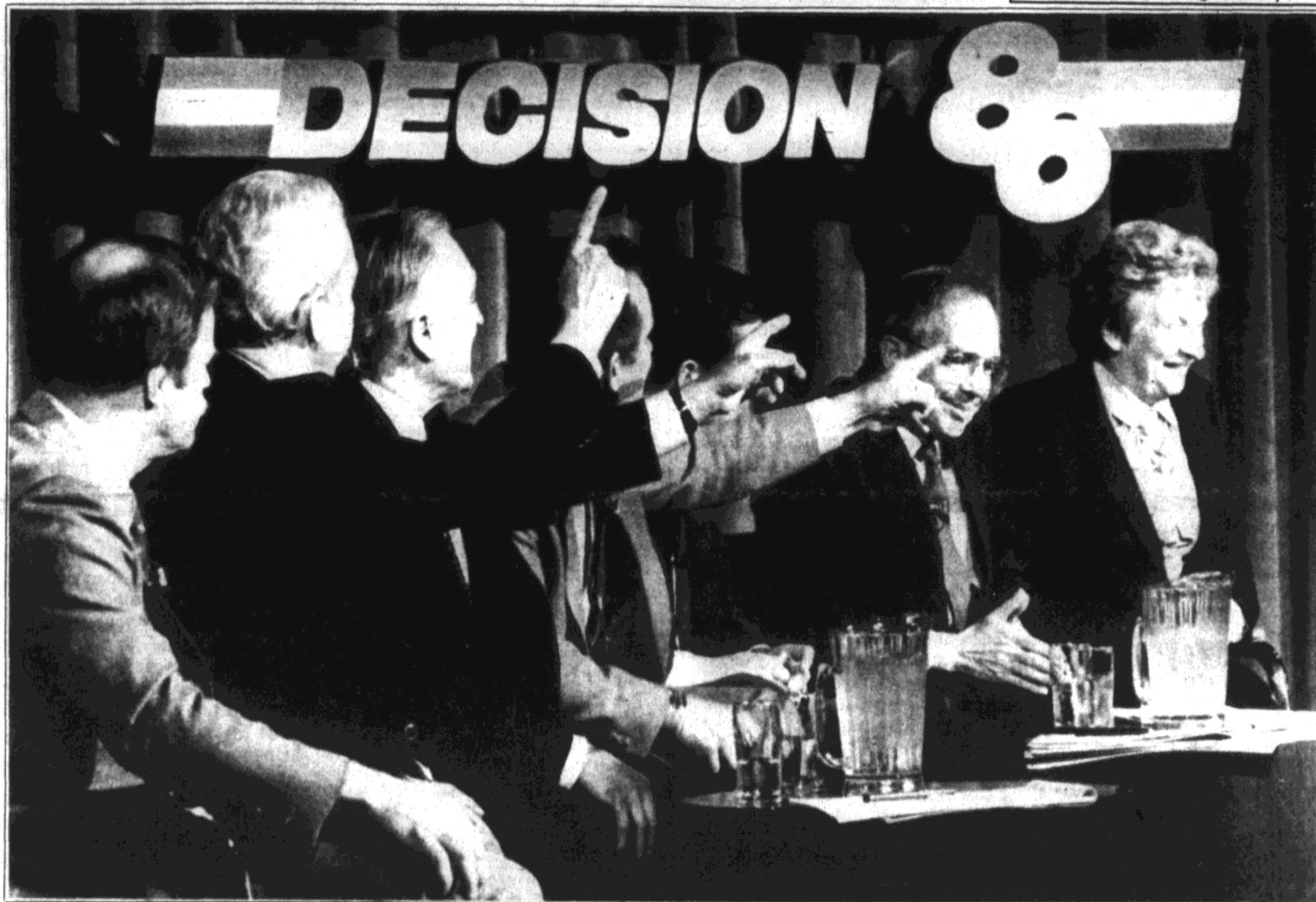
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Leask optimistic about 1991 bill

Alaska Federation of Natives President Janie Leask said last week that she remains optimistic about passage this fall of an AFN-backed package of amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Leask also commended Rep. Don Young and Sen. Frank Murkowski
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Gubernatorial candidates try to get the floor at KTUU's recent debate; from left, Steve Cowper, Joe Hayes, Walter Hickel, Dick Randolph, Bob Richards, Bill Sheffield and Arliss Sturgulewski. photo by Norris Klesman

Crowded candidate slates stymie pollsters

Voters to decide tight races in primary

by **Jim Benedetto**
Tundra Times editor

Alaska voters will go to the polls for the 1986 Primary Election on Aug. 26 to choose the main contenders for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. senator and representative and a host of local races.

Generating the most speculation is the race for governor. The crowded field of candidates includes nine Republicans, Joe Hayes, Walter Hickel, Ken Hinchey, Bob McGrane, Dick Randolph, Bob Richards, Ron Somerville, Arliss Sturgulewski and Don Wright; four Democrats, Steve Cowper, incumbent Gov. Bill Sheffield, Phil Stoddard and Ryal White; Libertarian Ed Hoch; and Joe Vogler of the Alaska Independence Party.

Of the Republicans vying for Alaska's top government post, Hickel is widely perceived to be the front-runner. But political experts caution

that with the field so crowded, a candidate could win the party's nomination with a comparatively small percentage of the votes cast, making accurate predictions difficult.

Hickel holds a substantial lead over his closest opponent, Arliss Sturgulewski, according to two recent polls taken by the Dittman Research Corp. and public television and radio stations.

According to the Dittman poll, completed July 31, Hickel has 20 percent of the vote, to Sturgulewski's 13 percent.

The poll taken by public television station KAKM and public radio stations KTOO and KUAC was taken last week and showed Hickel with 18.2 percent and Sturgulewski with 13.3 percent.

The poll asked 507 randomly selected registered voters who they would vote for if the election were held today. Voters from Anchorage,

Fairbanks, Juneau, Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, the Kenai Peninsula, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Dillingham and McGrath. The poll has a sampling er-

ror of 3.4 percent.

According to a report by the Alaska Public Offices Commission, the

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Park Service mulls wilderness

by **A.J. McClanahan**
Tundra Times publisher

The National Park Service is reviewing 17.9 million acres of the 54.9-million-acre National Park Service system in Alaska to decide how much more land should be designated as wilderness.

Boyd Evison, regional director of the service in Alaska, said he does not expect the wilderness designation to be controversial.

"What it boils down to is that this would at least inhibit additional development for general public use,"

he said.

Evison said such restrictions on development could help protect subsistence, especially since a wilderness designation would prevent construction of roads and overnight lodging facilities.

Of the Park Service's current system of 54.9 million acres, 33.7 million acres already have been tagged as wilderness.

The designation prevents certain types of development, but it would be less restrictive in Alaska than in the

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