

01-76-07

Jay Hammond

July 28, 1975

“KUAC Looks About” radio program

Excerpts of a speech at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Jay Hammond talked about the bill for legislative pay raise. He was tempted to veto the measure. He talked about the other elements in the bill. The legislative retirement system expands the legislative retirement and the judiciary. He said the judicial retirement plan previously did not require contributions on the part of the judiciary. The bill requires a seven and a half percent contribution by the judiciary. It brought down the judicial retirement and escalated substantially the legislative retirement. It included the governor's position. It covered all elected positions. He required that his position would be excluded from the legislative pay bill. He said it can be argued that the pay raise was the least expensive of public pay raises in the past five years. He doesn't think that legislators should have the opportunity to vote on their own pay raises. He talked about the impacts on the state treasury. He thinks a statutory mandated cost of living increase should be included in the bill.

He commented on the mineral severance tax. He was concerned about large corporations which may be mining in the future and the need to insure that they would be paying taxes. He said it may produce a situation where Alaskans are not deriving benefit from exploitation of their natural resources. He welcomes any input from the mining interests. He would like to accommodate the small mining operations, but not permit this for large corporations. He has seen this in the fisheries industry. He said there is no intent to wipe out the fledgling mining industry, but he wants to get the handles on foreign monster corporation activities.

The proposed trans-Alaska gas pipeline is discussed. Jay Hammond said he did not believe it was a foregone conclusion that the route would be through Canada. He thought there are greater arguments for a pipeline route through Alaska. He wanted to evaluate the facts before decisions are made instead of making a decision and warping the facts around to accommodate it. He said an argument both environmental and economic will go a long way to further Alaska's case. It may be a congressional determination. He believes that Wally Hickel could do a great deal on the national level to promote the trans-Alaska route. Conservationist groups have been behind a trans-Alaska route. He said contrary to rumors he has not been invited to fill the Secretary of the Interior position.