

Submitted to the Fairbanks Daily News Miner

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To the Editor:

Always at this time of the year when the tripod is upright on the Tanana, other numbers games start to multiply all over Alaska: the tax jobs-loss scare in John Coghill's brain, the ANWR jobs sweepstakes in Frank Murkowski's promise-anything-to-be-governor auction, and the Ray Metcalfe Squeeze the oil cow Milking Derby. Who can keep up?

Some questions gentlemen:

Rep. Coghill: Where the heck do you get the idea that an income tax will cost jobs? If I bring in new employees to Alaska, their families come along, but there is no income tax, then the state provides roads, schools, public safety and a FFD to all these folks. That clearly costs the state money. The pot is only so big, so we all get a little less, since we don't pay any of our own way. More people getting FFDs means each FFD is less. Capiche?

Senator Murkowski: you get a chance none of us get, and then tell the legislature to not bother with an income tax, but rather drill your way to fiscal balances by sucking ANWR. Trouble is, it's ten years out. How does this get us any sane fiscal path through the next eight years? And this guy thinks he ought to be governor? A banker who has trouble with math? And he promises, now get this, 300,000 NEW JOBS!! That's about as many jobs as we have in the entire state now.

Ray Metcalfe: you advocate doubling the taxes on oil while it's in production decline so we can continue to not pay our way (the Kuwait model). And you want a legislature which for twelve years now has NEVER been able to give us a stable fiscal plan, to tax the oil companies anew, legislators who get lobbied by many more oil company lobbyists than I can afford?

I'll buy some Nenana Ice Classic tickets thanks. I have a much better chance of winning that than any of these promises and schemes seeing the light of reality.

With dispassionately conservative calculations,

Rich Seifert