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STATE OF THE STATE

ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE WALTER J. HICKEL

GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

BEFORE A JOINT SESSION

OF THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

January 12, 1993

Juneau, Alaska

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to support informed decision-making.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in data management and analysis. It discusses how modern software solutions can streamline data collection, storage, and reporting, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data management, such as data quality, security, and privacy. It provides strategies to mitigate these risks and ensure that data is handled in a responsible and secure manner.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by summarizing the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that data management practices remain effective and aligned with the organization's goals.

6. The sixth part of the document provides a detailed overview of the data collection process, including the identification of data sources, the design of data collection instruments, and the implementation of data collection procedures.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the various methods used for data analysis, such as descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and regression analysis. It explains how these methods are used to interpret the data and draw meaningful conclusions.

8. The eighth part of the document focuses on the presentation of data, including the use of tables, charts, and graphs. It provides guidelines for creating clear and concise reports that effectively communicate the results of the data analysis.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of data security and privacy. It outlines the measures that should be taken to protect sensitive data from unauthorized access, loss, or disclosure.

10. The tenth part of the document provides a final summary and concludes the report. It reiterates the key findings and recommendations and expresses the hope that the information provided will be helpful in improving the organization's data management practices.

THE STATE OF THE STATE:
A FAMILY OF ONE
by the Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Governor

Before a Joint Session of
The 18th Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
January 12, 1993

Mr. President, Madam Speaker, Lt. Governor, members of the cabinet, fellow representatives of the people of Alaska, and Alaskans everywhere.

A new generation of citizen legislators has arrived to serve in Juneau.

Those who wrote Alaska's Constitution believed that every two years, fresh talent should come in with new ideas, new idealism and new energy.

That's what you bring, and you are indeed welcome.

And, if you look to the person on your left, and you look to the person on your right, you will see the astonishing change---the historic change---almost 2 out of every 3 officials gathered here are inheriting new positions in the legislature---that's what the voters of Alaska have ordered.

We have a new Senate President. He will do an excellent job. I would like to ask you at this time to join me in saluting Senator Rick Halford.

Also at the podium is another distinguished legislator who it will be great to have as part of the leadership team.

And in this year of historic change---please join me---and please join all of Alaska---in saluting the first Alaska woman ever to be elected as the Speaker of the House---Ladies and Gentlemen---Representative Ramona Barnes.

Rick, Ramona---with you two in charge, I expect this legislature will get its work done in record time. You may even prove that there's merit to a 75 day session!

As we look at the state of our legislature, Alaskans can see that it's not only a historic change---but also an historic chance.

And as we look at the state of our state, Alaskans should be filled with optimism by the size of our opportunities.

We understand what it is to have real meaning in life.

This is certainly true for those in public service.

A few days ago, 16 Alaskan National Guardsmen returned from Somalia where they served with distinction. Public service could hardly be more basic. They airlifted over 1.2 million pounds of food. As Christmas descended across Alaska, their message was loud and clear.

"There is room at the inn!"

We salute them all, and Ladies and Gentlemen, today we look to our gallery to salute two Alaska heroes who served in Somalia---mission commander Lt. Col. George Cannelos and Tech. Sgt. Tim Billman.

From the great tradition of the Eskimo Scouts to the bravery of search and rescue, these Alaskans illustrate Alaska as it should be---"a family of one."

That is my vision for our people this January as we look to the future.

Tonight I call on the legislature to join me in responding to three major opportunities for our "family of one."

The challenge to communicate. The challenge to care. And the challenge to change and improve our system.

1. First the challenge to communicate. We must help our fellow Americans understand the difference between the myths and the realities of Alaska and to hold the federal government to the promises made to us at the time of Statehood.
2. Second, the challenge to care---to care about the entire Alaska family---from the elderly to the newborn---to improve their quality of life. And,
3. Third, the challenge to change and improve the workings of government, so it better responds to people's needs.

Let's talk about communicating. In recent weeks Juneau has been swamped with letters and phone calls---about wolves.

This uproar is a classic example of the clash between different perceptions of Alaska.

The reality is that Alaska has done a remarkable job of managing our fish and game since statehood.

This is not to say, we cannot learn from others. That's why I called the Wolf Summit.

Do Alaskans care about the environment? You bet.

But we understand the need for balance. We recognize that the total environment includes people, people's needs, and nature.

All sides have indicated they will attend the Wolf Summit, and the national media is coming.

But for Alaskans the issue goes beyond wolves, moose and caribou.

It goes to the heart of all that is unique about our state.

Will the care for our people, our land and our wildlife be based on the experience and judgment of those who live here, or on the well-meaning, but often uninformed, opinions of others?

Our task is not to follow America, but to educate America.

That's why Alaskans can't be just Republicans or Democrats or Independents, we and them. It must be us.

This is central in our dealings with the federal government. And we have made some progress this year.

I am pleased to announce that President Bush has directed EPA Director Bill Riley to create a separate region of the EPA in Alaska.

This has been a major priority of my Administration.

Federal employees charged with making decisions about Alaska's unique environment should live here and work here---or they will never get it right!

As Scotland struggles with a serious oil spill, here at home we have taken another step to put the Exxon Valdez tragedy behind us.

We settled with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for \$29 million to help our impacted communities.

\$7.5 million was earmarked for the purchase of the timberlands in one of Alaska's most beautiful and utilized recreation areas---Kachemak Bay State Park.

I remain optimistic that the federal/state Exxon Valdez Trustee Council will match that amount.

If the owners of the inholdings are willing to sell for a reasonable price, I am committed to pursue this.

Working together, we can---we will---we must save Kachemak Bay State Park.

Last week we filed the final land selections to which we are entitled under the Statehood Act.

Totalling 23 million acres, these selections equal the very amount offered to Alaska in the first statehood bill that passed the U.S. House in 1951, a bill that fortunately was defeated.

Thirty-four years after statehood, the Alaska people have finally laid full claim to the land that is ours.

More than 100 million acres. At long last---Alaska---for Alaskans!

We will continue to press with all our strength to lift the ban on the export of North Slope crude oil.

The legal principle is fundamental to our rights as a state, and the rewards can be great---up to \$185 million a year in new revenues.

This discrimination against Alaska must end.

Alaska's second class citizenship must end.

And the oil export ban on Alaska crude must end now!

I have also directed the Department of Law to aggressively advance our other landmark lawsuits.

In a sweeping move last August, we gave notice of our intent to file quiet title on land underlying 195 navigable rivers and lakes throughout Alaska.

What I've just described is part of what might be called our foreign policy.

Now let's look at the homefront--the challenge of caring about each member of the family of Alaska and our quality of life.

This cannot and should not be done by government alone.

All Alaskans must join hands to tackle our toughest problems--

---how to counter drug abuse, improve education, provide for seniors, pay for health care, and reform welfare.

Alcoholism, along with the abuse of other drugs, is Alaska's #1 health problem.

Its tentacles reach everywhere and the results are devastating.

We've been taken over by the process. Our commitment is to turn that around and put people first. All Alaskans who care must help.

The sobriety movement that started in Alaska's villages is one of the most positive forces at work in our state today.

This is not just talk. The Traditional Council at Tooksook Bay, a dry village, in a polite letter to the local airlines, has threatened to confiscate all aircraft used for bootlegging into their village. People are angry.

"We can no longer tolerate this problem," they wrote, "We don't want to see our children and community ruined by alcohol and drugs."

Our Commissioner of Corrections, Lloyd Rupp, wants to turn the fight against alcoholism into a new dimension in the fight against crime.

It's called Operation Hope.

While the funding will come mostly from the offenders, we are asking for the legislature's support, because its value may go far beyond corrections.

The immediate targets are young offenders, 18 to 25, who are convicted of drug and alcohol possession and abuse.

Operation Hope will offer a chance for change. Those who respond will find doors that open to vocational and even post-secondary education.

We will offer that young person hope and a way out.

When it comes to caring for kids, the State Board of Education has led a massive effort for the past year. The goal is to make Alaska's education system second to none.

It's called Alaska 2000.

At the very top of my legislative package are three bills to implement these ideas.

They allow parents a greater voice at the local school house. They give educators greater freedom from worn-out rules to try new ideas.

The State Board will complete, a year from today, world class student performance standards for math, science and language arts. Statewide tests will show us how well we are doing.

We are calling for a 200 day school year by the year 2000---today it is 180 days.

We are recommending charter schools, to inspire greater innovation.

And we're determined to build the new schools we need and upgrade the old ones.

Success in education depends on expectations.

We must expect more of our children. We must expect more of our schools. We must expect more of ourselves.

Together we can do anything we think we can. Together, let's make our schools better.

The opportunity to care also means looking after Alaska's seniors. We are emphasizing the ways seniors can be part of Alaska's extended family, both in receiving care and giving it to others.

An example is Project Choice, providing means for seniors, and severely handicapped younger people, to live with their families at home.

Instead of putting a person in an expensive institution, we are arranging for a home health aide to go into someone's home to dispense medicine, provide therapy or cook a meal.

As the federal government struggles with how to handle the national health care crisis, they may find that Alaska has part of the answer.

There's no question that government must reach out and help those who have nowhere else to turn.

But there's no freedom in welfare when you become enslaved to the system.

Our labor specialists and social workers have combined in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program---J.O.B.S.---a program we simply call JOBS.

Valerie Veel was 26 years old, a single mother of children ages 5 and 6, when she became a participant in JOBS.

Eighteen days after graduation from clerical training, Valerie found a job where the wages were high enough to allow her to leave the welfare roles for good.

"The welfare cycle can be broken," Valerie says, "It's real scary where I'd be today if I hadn't made it to JOBS."

We wouldn't have these programs without a healthy economy.

With an economic base, all civilizations survive. With no economic base, the best of civilizations fall.

And in the North Country, a healthy economy doesn't just happen.

We had a major victory this year---the creation of Community Development Quotas or CDQs.

These allocations of Bering Sea pollock will result in \$20 to \$30 million a year coming into the communities of Western Alaska.

This was one of those great Alaska battles. The fishermen, the industry, the people in the regions came together, hung together---and we won together.

We are bringing an era to an end---the era when Outsiders came to Alaska, took our resources and ran!

Norm Anderson from Naknek said on a radio show last month, "Our people's income has always come to a halt when the last nets are pulled. Now our people will be able to work. It makes my heart soar like a hawk."

Let's build on our successes.

One way is through the Capital Matching Grant Program, which we will reintroduce this session.

It is a simple formula to stretch dollars for local projects---whether it's a boardwalk for a village or a medical clinic in Dutch Harbor.

If this were in place, those communities now benefiting from CDQs could multiply their money by dedicating it to local needs.

When this becomes law, Alaska will discover that the Capital Matching Grants approach is truly a jobs bill.

Caring for our quality of life is the key to caring for our Alaskan family.

That's why in our rural areas we have placed a stronger emphasis on village water and sewer systems than any previous administration.

We are working to bring all Alaska highways up to national scenic highway standards, with pull-outs, viewing sites, and simple, but quality facilities.

We are encouraging local government to help in the planning of local roads, and in making them attractive, through design, and amenities as simple, but important, as flowers along the road.

It's time we dedicate our highway fuel taxes to road maintenance and beautification, and we ask your support.

Quality of life---that's what a civilization is all about. But someone has to care.

Thursday night when I present our proposed budget, I will be laying out our plans for strengthening the economic base of Alaska.

We have some tough decisions to make.

But when we look at the balance sheet, consider our assets---

---103 million acres of land, including new oil fields being discovered, while most are unexplored.

---the rich North Slope that still produces about 1.7 million barrels of oil a day. That's more than 8 of the 13 OPEC nations,

---trillions of cubic feet of natural gas,
---vast timber, mineral and fish resources,
---a God-given country second in beauty to none,
---over half a million talented people,
---and \$15 billion in the bank!

What state in the Union---what nation in the world---wouldn't trade their problems and opportunities for ours?

Finally, to improve our governmental process, I ask for your support to allow the Alaska people to amend the Constitution through initiative and referendum.

Several of the authors of Alaska's Constitution have told me that this is the one major shortcoming in the document they wrote.

As it is today, short of a full-blown Constitutional Convention, only the legislature---by two thirds vote---can recommend an amendment to the foundation document of our society.

The people should participate. They are usually ahead of government.

Many of you are on record in favor of this much-needed change. Let's do it.

To conclude this evening, a word about the change of leadership in Washington DC.

The impending shift of administration has generated some fears among Alaskans---fears I do not share.

I look forward to working with this new generation of leadership.

The President-elect understands the necessity of a strong economy. So does Alaska.

He understands the importance of jobs. So does Alaska.

He has an environmental bent. So does Alaska.

In the past, I found no malice in Washington DC. There has been a lack of knowledge or understanding of Alaska, but no malice.

We'll keep an open mind with the new Administration.

But if they try to lock up Alaska to pay for the sins of the South 48, then they are going to have a fight on their hands.

But we don't expect that. The top item on the Clinton agenda is crystal clear---economic recovery.

To exclude Alaska, would be utter folly.

I invite our new president to a federal/state partnership to export our abundant natural resources to the markets of the world.

If he accepts, he will discover that in his War of Economic Recovery, Alaska can be his secret weapon.

We can cut the trade deficit dramatically.

We have the brains and the environmental creativity to do it right.

Too many people are watching the American sunset. It's time to turn around and watch the sunrise.

Yes, I'm optimistic.

Tonight, I call on this legislative body, our business leaders, our public sector, our media, and our people as a whole to share that optimism.

We can win over the hearts and minds of America, if we win the trust of America.

The best argument is in the doing.

Let's show them how Alaskans care for our land, care for our culture, and care for the family that is Alaska.

Thank you.