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**MEMORANDUM****State of Alaska**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TO:  The Honorable Mike Miller  
Chairman, Local Government Committee  
Alaska State House of Representatives

DATE April 2, 1971

FROM: Byron I. Mallott *BIM*  
Director  
Local Affairs Agency

SUBJECT: Comments on S.B. 159, H.B.  
135 and H.B. 296

I am attaching for your information copies of staff memoranda concerning local government legislation.

I am, of course, available to discuss these matters with you at your convenience.

BIM:pak

attachments

1971

James H. ...  
...

...

...

The purpose of Senate Bill 1111 is to create a greater volume of work for the courts, sheriffs, and the equivalent. This bill requires that the court of ... for ... fabricate the material evidence of property in which ... had been filed.

The purpose of this bill is to provide for the uniformity and equalization of assessment in ... by the ... of ... methods and procedures as provided for the ... district ...

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Mr. Robert L. Mitchell  
Director  
United States Agency

Director of FBI

March 11, 1951

Mr. Robert L. Mitchell  
Private Ambassador

Director of FBI

I enclose with the enclosure of Sigvald Strömberg as enclosed in my letter to you through you to Representative Mike Miller dated March 20, 1951.

In prior years, numerous visits have been introduced concerning investigations and contact with him. An attempt has failed due to the numerous and rapidly changing contacts.

There is a possibility of a visit for medical purposes to the hospital located in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, as part of the administrative of the hospital which is being conducted by the Swedish Government. This is not a completely reliable source of information but should be kept in mind.

It is suggested that you be in sufficient contact with the office of the Director of the FBI to be able to advise the Bureau of any developments in the field of investigation.

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78-135  
Pouch V,  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
March 29, 1971

Miss Mary E. Ross  
Rt. 2, Box 1050  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Miss Ross:

This is just a short note to acknowledge your letter of  
March 22nd.

The problems you discussed are certainly real ones and are  
a real concern to me. I am hopeful that something can be  
done. The committee of which I am Chairman, incidentally,  
is working on the bills which will give local tax relief  
to persons over 65. Again my thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller, Representative  
District Four, (Juneau)

Rt. 2, Box 1050  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
March 22, 1971

Representative *Mike Miller*  
Pouch #  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative *Miller*:

With all the pressure groups and lobbyists clamoring for your attention, there is one group, less able financially, and perhaps less articulate, who deserve your attention. This group ~~and~~ not and should not have to wait, because, for them, **TIME IS RUNNING OUT**. This group includes our older people, about to retire, or already retired.

For many of them, the situation is not only critical, it is desperate. Many of them who have literally carved homes out of the wilderness, worked long and hard, are now forced to sell their homes, leave Alaska where they had hoped to spend their remaining years, go south (or to the Pioneers Home) start a new life in strange surroundings--the hopes and dreams of life--smashed and broken--because of high real property taxes. A sizable tax reduction or exemption should be hastily enacted on the homes of these people---NOW.

We need two things for that group:

Real estate tax relief or exemption on their homes.  
A pension, divorced from welfare and relief.

Helen Fischer's bill for tax relief deserves your support. I do not have the number of the bill. Clea Tillion's bill for a pension for the elderly is worthy, too.

In past times the Eskimos put the elderly on ice floes or in ice huts to perish. This seems an affront to our modern conscience. And yet --- is our society treating the elderly any better? All too often we are putting them away. In a different way, of course. But is it any more civilized? We are not killing them physically; but we may be killing them emotionally, by forcing them out of the land they love.

Please give this matter your immediate and wholehearted attention, either through support of above bills or by introduction of new bills.

*Our area has quite a few elderly about to be "liquidated" because they can't sell their homes*

Sincerely yours,  
*Mary E. Ross*  
Mary E. Ross

*are forcing them to sell. Some are going to the Pioneers Home, costing the State more than if tax exemptions on homes were made for elderly --- and causing untold heartbreak.*

100-100000

100-100000

ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Edwin H. Hill  
Chairman, Joint Governmental Committee  
Alaska State House of Representatives

From: Mr. Edwin H. Hill  
Director, Local Affairs Bureau

Date: March 25, 1971

To: Sievard J. Strandberg  
Local Government Council

Subject: House Bill 126 and House Bill 127

The purpose of House Bills 126 and 127, both of which relate to partial or full exemption from city and borough taxation of the new type of senior citizens' limited income. It is the conclusion, after an extensive thorough study of the bills, that while addressing themselves to the existing problems of the new type of senior citizens, these bills would be in the long run beneficial to both the state and local governments.

It is noted that House Bill 126, which is pending in the Senate, provides for a partial exemption from city and borough taxation of the new type of senior citizens' limited income. House Bill 127, which is pending in the House, provides for a full exemption from city and borough taxation of the new type of senior citizens' limited income. The bills are designed to provide relief for the new type of senior citizens who are unable to pay the full amount of city and borough taxes.

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# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TO:  Byron I. Mallott  
Director  
Local Affairs Agency

DATE: March 31, 1971

FROM: *SK* S. Robert Dozier  
State Assessor

SUBJECT: House Bills 135 and 296

I concur with the comments of Sigvald Strandberg as stated in his memorandum through you to Representative Mike Miller dated March 25, 1971.

In prior years, numerous bills have been introduced concerning assistance to senior citizens. Legislation has failed due to the cumbersome and costly formulae.

There is little justification for saddling the various sophisticated levels of Alaska Local Government with the administration of any formulae which require a source of state income for records. This is not a compatible arrangement under the hierarchical form of government.

Consider for a moment that it is difficult for senior citizens with limited incomes to reside in Alaska. Not only those who own property but those who rent a place to live are affected.

A formula based on residency, net, and income could be administered properly and economically on the state level. Therefore, this concept is a highly desirable one and should be used as a basis.

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# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TO: The Honorable Mike Miller  
Chairman, Local Government Committee  
Alaska State House of Representatives

THRU: Mr. Byron I. Mallott  
Director, Local Affairs Agency

DATE: March 25, 1971

FROM: Sigvald J. Strandberg  
Local Government Specialist

SUBJECT: House Bill 135 and House Bill 296

The agency has reviewed House Bills 135 and 296 both of which relate to partial or complete exemption from city and borough taxation of the homesteads of senior citizens of limited incomes. It is our conclusion, after careful and thorough consideration that both bills, while addressing themselves to the growing problems of our senior citizens, do not represent measures which would be in the best interests of the state or local governments.

We fully recognize that the sponsors of the bills are seeking to remedy the situation that a growing number of state citizens at age 65 and over are facing, i.e., increasing property taxes due to appreciating values on real property coupled with the effects of the inflationary spiral of living costs in the face of rather static personal incomes. But to compel our municipalities to shoulder the additional local revenue needs which would result from exemption of senior citizens from property taxation will only act to further erode the financial base of local governments.

While senior citizen tax exemptions are not presently mandatory, a number of Alaska cities and boroughs are providing for such exemptions at their own option.

It has been suggested that both House Bills 135 and 296 might be amended to provide for the state to reimburse local governments to the extent that senior citizen property tax exemptions are granted. Prior to enactment of such a bill, it will be necessary to determine the cost to the state. A study of this nature for all municipal property tax jurisdiction could not be immediately done because neither the local governments nor the office of the State Assessor have available the statistics to go along with property tax assessment rolls. As a consequence, a fiscal note on either H. B. 135 or H. B. 296 would be quite difficult to prepare.

As a further note, it is the agency's judgment that legislative approval to broaden the exemptions to property taxation will likely encourage further exemptions during subsequent legislative sessions.

In conclusion, it is the feeling of the agency that House Bills 135 and 296 should not be acted upon until such time that the actual costs of these measures, both to the local governments and to the State, can be ascertained.

SJS:jp