

AGEING

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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 30, 1975

2  
✓ SB 719  
Stevens 17.9  
8.1

Honorable George Hohman  
Chairman  
Senate Health, Education, and  
Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear George:

This is to follow up on my March 17 letter to you regarding the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee's inquiry about the status of state funds for Alaska Pioneers under federal tax laws.

As you will note in the enclosed letter from IRS Commissioner Alexander, payments to Alaska Pioneers cannot be considered tax exempt unless the payments are specifically intended for public welfare payments--not to provide an incentive to continue uninterrupted residence in the state, as provided in the Alaska Longevity Bonus Act.


You will note on page 2 that Commissioner Alexander states that the relief sought by your Committee for Alaska Pioneers in this matter can be accomplished only through legislative enactment.

I hope that this information will be of benefit to you and to your colleagues on the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

If you or any other members of the Committee require any further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

  
TED STEVENS  
United States Senator

Enclosures

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Commissioner

Washington, DC 20224

APR 21 1975

Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

This is in reply to your letter dated March 17, 1975, in which you inquire on behalf of the Alaska Senate's Health, Education, and Social Services Committee as to the includibility in gross income for Federal income tax purposes of payments made under the Alaska Statutes, Title 47, Chapter 45, sections 10 to 170 (Alaska Longevity Bonus Act) effective January 1, 1973.

Section 47.45.010 of the statute in question grants a bonus of \$100 per month to persons 65 years of age and over who have maintained a continuous domicile in the territory or state of Alaska for 25 years. Such bonus will be paid only as long as an eligible person continuously retains a domicile in Alaska. Section 47.45.170 states the purpose of the statute is to provide an incentive to continue uninterrupted residence in the state and under no circumstances shall be considered a form, type or manner of public relief, as such bonuses are not predicated on need. Section 47.45.120 provides no bonus received may be exempt from a Federal tax requirement.

Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code provides, in pertinent part, that gross income means all income from whatever source derived unless otherwise excluded by law. However, payments made under legislatively provided public assistance or welfare benefit programs are not includible in a recipient's gross income. See, for example, the enclosed copy of Revenue Ruling 63-136, 1963-2 Cumulative Bulletin 19, which holds that benefit payments made to individuals undergoing training or retraining under either the Area Redevelopment Act or the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 are not includible in the gross incomes of the recipients.

An examination of the applicable law which specifically exempts certain types of income from inclusion in gross income fails to disclose any provision which would render the payments made under the Alaska Longevity Bonus Act excludable from a recipient's gross income.

Honorable Ted Stevens

Further, we do not feel that the payments are in the nature of public welfare payments in that while the Alaska Longevity Act recognizes the economic hardships suffered in the past by many elderly Alaskans it specifically provides that the payments are not predicated upon need and are not to be considered as public relief.

It would appear, therefore, that the relief sought by the Alaska State Senate's Health, Education and Social Services Committee may be achieved only through legislative enactment.

We regret the delay in responding and hope it has not caused you any inconvenience.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald C. Alexander

Commissioner

Enclosure:

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM  
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ORIGINAL.



At the time here presented whether benefit payments received by individuals undergoing training or retraining under the Area Redevelopment Act, 75 Stat. 47-64, or the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, 76 Stat. 23-33, are includible in the gross income of the recipients.

The Area Redevelopment Act provides for certain types of Federal assistance to areas of substantial and persistent unemployment and underemployment, which have been designated redevelopment areas, for the purpose of aiding such areas in financing their redevelopment.

The purpose of the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 is to deal with the problems of unemployment resulting from technological developments and structural changes in the economy.

Both of these Acts authorize the Secretary of Labor to enter into agreements under which payments are made to the several states for the purpose of enabling them, as agents of the United States, to make weekly payments to individuals selected for training or retraining under one of the Acts. Payments made under either of the Acts are equal to the amount of the average weekly unemployment compensation payment payable for a week of total unemployment by the state making such payment. Both Acts also provide that no retraining payment may be made to any person for any week for which he has received, or is seeking, unemployment compensation under any Federal or state unemployment compensation law; however, these provisions do not prevent a person from receiving training or retraining benefits for any week for which it is later determined that he was not eligible to receive unemployment compensation.

The Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 authorizes the payment of benefits to persons undergoing on-the-job training. However, the amount of any payment which would otherwise be made to such a person is reduced by an amount which bears the same ratio to the payment as the number of compensated hours per week bears to forty hours. That Act also authorizes additional payments for transportation and subsistence in the case of persons whose training is provided in facilities which are not within commuting distance of their regular place of residence.

Revenue Ruling 55-652, C.B. 1955-2, 21, and I.T. 3230, C.B. 1958-2, 150, hold that unemployment compensation payments made by a state or Federal agency are not subject to Federal income tax in the hands of the recipients. A similar position has been taken with respect to other payments which were made in the interest of the general welfare. See Revenue Ruling 57-192, C.B. 1957-1, 26, which holds that benefit payments received by a blind person from the State of Pennsylvania constitute disbursements from a general welfare fund in the interest of the general public and are not includible in the gross income of the recipients. See also Revenue Ruling 131, C.B. 1953-2, 112, and I.T. 3447, C.B. 1954-1, 191.

Benefit payments made under the Area Redevelopment Act and the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 are intended to aid the recipients in their efforts to acquire new skills that will enable them to obtain better employment opportunities, and, as such, fall in the same category as other unemployment relief payments made for the promotion of the general welfare.

Accordingly, it is held that such payments are not includible in the gross income of the recipients.

Rev. Rul. 63-211

Income directly derived from the lands held in trust by the United States Government for the Sac and Fox Indians in the State of Oklahoma comes within the application of Revenue Ruling 56-342, C.B. 1956-2, 20, as amended by Revenue Ruling 72-10, C.B. 1962-1, 7, and may be excluded from the gross income of such Indians for Federal income tax purposes.

Advice has been requested whether income directly derived from allotted lands held in trust by the United States Government for individual members of the Sac and Fox Indians in the State of Oklahoma comes within the application of Revenue Ruling 56-342, C.B. 1956-2, 20, and may be excluded from the gross income of such Indians for Federal income tax purposes.

Revenue Ruling 56-342 states that income held in trust for, or received by, the patent holder which is derived directly from allotted and restricted Indian lands while such lands are held by the United States, as trustee, in accordance with section 5 of the General Allotment Act of February 8, 1887, 24 Stat. 389, as originally enacted, is exempt from Federal income tax.

The General Allotment Act provided for the division of certain tribal lands among individual Indians. This Act, however, did not apply to all Indian lands. Section 8 of the Act, 24 Stat. 391, as originally enacted, provided, in part, as follows:

... the provisions of this Act shall not extend to the territory occupied by the Sac and Foxes, in the Indian Territory.

Although it would at first appear that the provisions of the General Allotment Act did not apply to the Fox and the Sac Indians in Oklahoma, legislation subsequent to such Act had the effect of bringing those Tribes within the Act. When the Territory of Oklahoma was established by the Organic Act of May 2, 1890, 26 Stat. 54, it was carved out of the Indian Territory, part of which was occupied by the Sac and the Fox Indians. Thus, the lands of the Sac and Fox Indians came within the boundaries of that Territory and were removed from the Indian Territory. Subsequently, Public Resolution 31, Fifty-seventh Congress, First Session, 32 Stat. 744, was approved. This resolution, as approved, provided, in part, as follows:

Insofar as not otherwise specially provided, all allotments in severalty to Indians, outside of the Indian Territory, shall be made in conformity to the provisions of the Act approved February eighth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, entitled "An Act to provide for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians on the various reservations, and to extend the protection of the laws of the United States and the Territories over the Indians, and for other purposes," and other general Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and shall be subject to all the restrictions and carry all the privileges incident to allotments made under said Act and other general Acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto.

It can be seen that the above-quoted provision extended the General Allotment Act, generally, to cover all allotments in severalty to Indians outside the Indian Territory. Since such provision was approved after the lands of the Sacs and Foxes had been removed from the Indian Territory, the Act is applicable to such lands.

... payments received by ... under the Area Re-Development Act and ... includible in the gross in-

... for certain types of Federal ... persistent unemployment and ... re-development areas, ... financing their redevelop-

... ment and Training Act of ... employment resulting from ... changes in the economy.

... rary of Labor to enter into ... made to the several states ... of the United States, to ... for training or retrain-

... able under either of the Acts ... weekly unemployment com- ... of total unemployment by ... Acts also provide that no ... person ... any week for ... employment compensation un-

... compensation law; how- ... son from receiving training ... which it is later determined ... ment compensation.

... the Act of 1962 authorizes ... going on-the job training, ... which would otherwise be made ... which bears the same ratio ... sated hours per week bears ... s additional payments for ... of persons whose training ... him commuting distance of

... and I.T. 3250, C.B. 1958-2, ... payments made by a state ... al income tax in the hands ... been taken with respect to ... rest of the general welfare, ... 26, which holds that benefit ... the State of Pennsylvania ... -fare fund in the interest ... in the gross income of the ... C.B. 1953-2, 119, and I.T.

... re-development Act and the ... of 1962 are intended to aid ... ew skills that will enable ... dities, and, as such, full in ... relief payments made for

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM  
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE  
ORIGINAL.

# STATE OF ALASKA

WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR

## DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner

Pouch H, Juneau 99801

April 12, 1974

8.1

The Honorable George Hohman  
Alaska State Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Hohman:

Pursuant to your request, attached herewith are three pages of the State of Alaska, 1970 Population Statistics based upon the 1970 U.S. Census figures.

Attachment A is of those persons 55 years or older.

Attachment B is of those persons 60 years or older.

Attachment C is of those persons 65 or older.

Additionally, the Alaska Comprehensive Study on Aging reflects the following age distribution by Service Region of the population 60 years of age and over.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Northern Region</u>	<u>Southcentral Region</u>	<u>Southeastern Region</u>	<u>State Mean</u>
60-64 years	42.3%	47.2%	38.0%	43.5%
65-69 years	25.2	25.2	27.0	25.7
70-74 years	13.6	11.7	14.4	12.9

Honorable George Hohman

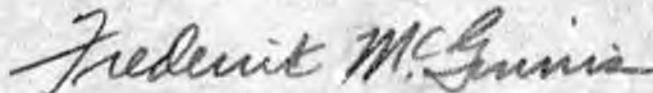
-2-

April 12, 1974

75-79 years	8.3	6.2	9.4	7.6
80 years & over	10.6	9.7	11.2	10.3
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number	3,005	5,903	3,289	12,197

If you require any additional information, I will gladly provide same.

Sincerely,



Frederick McGinnis  
Commissioner

FM: MDP: bal  
cc: Office of Aging  
Budget and Management



## STATE OF ALASKA

*Attachment "A"*

## 1970 POPULATION STATISTICS

TOTAL POPULATION . . . . .	302,173
White . . . . .	238,182 or 79%
Negro . . . . .	8,965 or 3%
OTHER (Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, Etc.) . . . . .	.55,026 or 18%

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 65 and over . . . . .	6,887 or 2.28%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 55 and over . . . . .	.20,747 or 6.86%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 45 and over . . . . .	.47,686 or 15.78%

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AGE:	45-54	55-59	60-61	62-64	65-74	75 +
MALE:	14,746	4,881	1,371	1,618	2,651	1,205
FEMALE:	<u>12,193</u>	<u>3,669</u>	<u>1,078</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>2,053</u>	<u>978</u>
TOTAL	26,939	8,550	2,449	2,961	4,704	2,183

POPULATION BY CENSUS DIVISIONS

LOCATION:	TOTAL POP.	POP. 55+	SEX	PERCENTAGE
Aleutian Islands	8,057	327	(M-204 F-103)	4.05%
Anchorage	124,542	6,455	(M-3453 F-3000)	5.18%
Angoon	503	98	(M-62 F-36)	19.48%
Barrow	2,663	194	(M-114 F-80)	7.28%
Bethel	7,579	536	(M-303 F-233)	7.07%
Bristol Bay Borough	1,147	65	(M-40 F-25)	5.66%
Bristol Bay	3,485	298	(M-191 F-107)	8.55%
Cordova - McCarthy	1,857	236	(M-161 F-76)	12.58%
Fairbanks	45,864	2,180	(M-1248 F-932)	4.75%
Haines	1,504	200	(M-108 F-92)	13.29%
Juneau	13,556	1,510	(M-804 F-706)	11.13%
Kenai Cook Inlet	14,250	996	(M-614 F-382)	6.98%
Ketchikan	10,041	1,239	(M-670 F-569)	12.33%
Kobuk	4,434	388	(M-198 F-192)	8.75%
Kodiak	4,409	604	(M-367 F-237)	13.69%
Kuskokwim	2,306	191	(M-117 F-74)	8.28%
Matanuska - Susitna	6,509	818	(M-485 F-333)	12.56%
Nome	5,749	569	(M-410 F-259)	9.89%
Outer Ketchikan	1,676	129	(M-73 F-56)	7.69%
Prince of Wales	2,106	263	(M-167 F-96)	12.48%
Seward	2,336	380	(M-224 F-156)	16.26%
Sitka	6,109	748	(M-404 F-344)	12.24%
Skagway - Yakutat	2,157	290	(M-178 F-112)	13.44%
Southeast Fairbanks	4,179	223	(M-135 F-88)	5.33%
Upper Yukon	1,684	186	(M-111 F-75)	11.04%
Valdes-Chitina-Whittier	3,098	348	(M-212 F-136)	11.23%
Wade Hampton	3,917	263	(M-149 F-114)	6.71%
Wrangell- Petersburg	4,913	627	(M-354 F-273)	12.75%
Yukon - Koyukuk	4,752	404	(M-270 F-134)	8.50%

Included population correction (+1791)

## STATE OF ALASKA

*Attachment "B"*

## 1970 POPULATION STATISTICS

TOTAL POPULATION. . . . .	302,173	
White. . . . .	238,182	or 79%
Negro. . . . .	8,965	or 3%
OTHER (Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, etc.). . . . .	55,026	or 18%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 65 and over. . . . .	6,887	or 2.28%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 55 and over. . . . .	20,747	or 6.86%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 45 and over. . . . .	47,686	or 15.78%

POPULATION by AGE and SEX

AGE:	45-54	55-59	60-64	62-64	65-74	75+
MALE:	14,745	4,881	1,371	1,618	2,651	1,205
FEMALE:	12,193	3,669	1,078	1,243	2,053	978
TOTAL:	26,939	8,550	2,449	2,861	4,704	2,183

POPULATION by CENSUS DIVISIONS

LOCATION	TOTAL POP.	POP. 60+	SEX	PERCENTAGE
Aleutian Islands	8,057	165	(M-106 F-59)	2.05
Anchorage	124,542	3,450	(M-1791 F-1659)	2.77
Angoon	503	67	(M-43 F-24)	13.32
Barrow	2,663	122	(M-78 F-44)	4.58
Bethel	7,579	327	(M-186 F-141)	4.31
Bristol Bay Borough	1,147	45	(M-26 F-19)	3.92
Bristol Bay	3,485	190	(M-128 F-62)	4.51
Cordova - McCarthy	1,857	148	(M-102 F-46)	7.96
Fairbanks	45,864	1,149	(M-649 F-500)	2.50
Haines	1,504	119	(M-54 F-65)	9.12
Juneau	13,556	922	(M-478 F-444)	8.01
Kenai Cook In	14,250	569	(M-355 F-214)	3.99
Ketchikan	10,041	818	(M-444 F-374)	8.15
Kobuk	4,434	260	(M-128 F-132)	5.86
Kodiak	4,409	361	(M-224 F-137)	8.18
Kuskokwim	2,306	132	(M-81 F-51)	5.72
Matanuska - Susitna	6,509	519	(M-317 F-202)	7.97
Nome	5,749	352	(M-193 F-159)	6.12
Outer Ketchikan	1,676	83	(M-46 F-37)	4.95
Prine of Wales	2,106	155	(M-97 F-58)	7.35
Seward	2,336	250	(M-138 F-112)	10.70
Sitka	6,109	509	(M-284 F-225)	8.33
Skagway - Yakutat	2,157	199	(M-125 F-74)	9.22
Southeast Fairbanks	4,179	133	(M-82 F-51)	3.18
Upper Yukon	1,684	124	(M-78 F-46)	7.36
Valdes-Chitina-Whittier	3,098	206	(M-129 F-77)	6.65
Wade Hampton	3,197	163	(M-95 F-73)	4.29
Wrangell - Petersburg	4,913	417	(M-235 F-182)	8.48
Yukon - Koyukuk	4,752	238	(M-153 F-85)	5.01

Included population correction (+1791)

*Attachment "C"*

STATE OF ALASKA

1970 POPULATION STATISTICS

TOTAL POPULATION.....	302,173		
White.....	238,182	or	79%
Negro.....	8,965	or	3%
OTHER (Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, etc).....	55,026	or	18%

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 65 and over.....	6,887	or	2.28%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 55 and over.....	20,747	or	6.86%
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 45 and over.....	47,686	or	15.78%

POPULATION by AGE AND SEX:

AGE:	45-54	55-59	60-61	62-64	65-74	75 +
MALE:	14,746	4,881	1,371	1,618	2,651	1,205
FEMALE:	12,193	3,669	1,078	1,243	2,053	978
TOTAL:	26,939	8,550	2,449	2,861	4,704	2,183

POPULATION by CENSUS DIVISIONS:

LOCATION:	TOTAL POP.	POP. 65 +	SEX	PERCENTAGE
Aleutian Islands	8,057	78	(M- 54 F- 24)	0.96%
Anchorage	124,542	1,729	(M-890 F-837)	1.38%
Angoon	503	50	(M- 34 F- 16)	9.94%
Barrow	2,663	75	(M- 47 F- 28)	2.82%
Bethel	7,579	217	(M-129 F- 88)	2.86%
Bristol Bay Borough	1,147	26	(M- 15 F- 11)	2.27%
Bristol Bay	3,485	105	(M- 71 F- 34)	3.00%
Cordova - McCarthy	1,857	82	(M- 58 F- 24)	4.41%
Fairbanks	45,864	573	(M-309 F-264)	1.25%
Haines	1,504	74	(M- 30 F- 44)	4.92%
Juneau	13,556	512	(M-259 F-253)	3.77%
Kenai Cook Inlet	14,250	310	(M-193 F-117)	2.17%
Ketchikan	10,041	515	(M-276 F-239)	5.13%
Kobuk	4,434	172	(M- 86 F- 86)	3.88%
Kodiak	4,409	210	(M-133 F- 77)	4.76%
Kuskokwim	2,306	77	(M- 56 F- 21)	3.34%
Matanuska - Susitna	6,509	308	(M-201 F-107)	4.73%
Nome	5,749	225	(M-125 F-100)	3.91%
Outer Ketchikan	1,676	53	(M- 29 F- 24)	3.16%
Prince of Wales	2,106	76	(M- 43 F- 33)	3.60%
Seward	2,336	160	(M- 91 F- 69)	6.85%
Sitka	6,109	360	(M-201 F- 159)	5.89%
Skagway - Yakutat	2,157	140	(M- 84 F- 56)	6.49%
Southeast Fairbanks	4,179	71	(M- 45 F- 26)	1.69%
Upper Yukon	1,684	81	(M- 48 F- 33)	4.81%
Valdes-Chitina-Whittier	3,098	107	(M- 66 F- 41)	3.45%
Wade Hampton	3,917	103	(M- 58 F- 45)	2.63%
Wrangell- Petersburg	4,913	259	(M-142 F-117)	5.27%
Yukon - Koyukuk	4,752	139	(M- 83 F- 56)	2.92%

Included population correction (+1791)

# Older Persons Action Group, Inc.

File  
OPAC

CENTRAL OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 8812  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508  
PHONE 272-9317

BLACK ARTS & MT. VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
PHONE 274-6133

MABEL T. CAVERLY SENIOR CENTER  
1111 EAST 5TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
PHONE 274-9361

ANCHORAGE AREA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
PHONE 279-7457

SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE INTERIOR NORTH  
FAIRBANKS

March 21, 1975

Senator George Hohman  
Chairman Hess Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

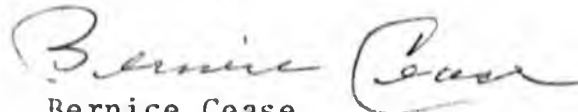
Dear Senator Hohman:

The Mabel T. Caverly Senior Center respectfully requests your permission to hold a public hearing on Saturday, March 29th in Anchorage relative to bills concerned with the Elderly (SB 196, SB 219, SB 201 & SB 176).

Our reason for requesting a local hearing is that many Elderly persons wishing to testify are unable to travel to Juneau because of physical disabilities as well as the prohibitive cost of air travel.

May we hear from you at your earliest convenience, so we may alert the Senior Citizens? Thank you for your personal attention.

Sincerely,



Bernice Cease  
Director  
Mabel T. Caverly Senior Center



File -  
4

## Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

P. O. BOX 2637 — KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901

Telephone 907 225-3184

March 3, 1975

WILLIAM L. BAKER

General Manager

Senator George Hohman  
State Capitol Building  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Hohman:

Our Chamber is planning its annual visitation to Juneau in a short time and hopes to discuss some matters of mutual interest with you. In the meantime, we hope you will consider some items of immediate interest and their possible effect on Greater Ketchikan.

Some of our civic leaders testified before the House Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs requesting a Pioneers' Home for this area. This project has been under study for several years and there are 800 or more persons over 60 who might qualify, so we do need the Pioneer Home Legislation and the unanimous "do pass" vote from the House Committee. It is hoped you will support this Legislation on its way through the session.

Senators Robert Ziegler and Pete Meland have offered a measure to start planning, the designing a bridge to connect the new international airport on Gravina Island with the city of Ketchikan, which is located across Tongass Narrows. Its construction would lead to development of Pennock Island, which lies between Gravina and Ketchikan, as well as Gravina itself near the airport. The bridge would eliminate a costly and expensive airport ferry service operated by the Gateway Borough and speed up the flow of traffic to and from the airport. The State Highway Department has prepared studies on four proposed routes.

A pending measure on Workmen's Compensation, which would average the payroll income from all Alaskans, would work a hardship on existing industry in Southeastern Alaska. Existing operators and those coming onto the scene from native corporations have a high-cost, high freight rate barrier that excludes them from most stateside markets in some fields, including lumber. The chief



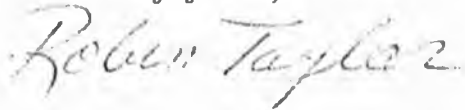
KETCHIKAN RAINBIRD

buyer of lumber products in recent years, Japan, is suffering from galloping inflation, high fuel costs and high interest rates. Some 3,000 people depend on the timber industry in our area for jobs and the past few months have seen unemployment increasing rapidly due to the depressed market. Anything that can sustain employment in these industries will reduce unemployment costs, keep many Alaskans in a self-supporting situation and maintain schools, utilities and other public services needed in the area. By increasing the cost of doing business in Alaska, we make our basic industry less able to compete for the markets of similar industry down south.

Most coastal towns in Alaska depend on seafoods for major income and with consumers unable to afford king or tanner crab or even canned salmon, any artificial increase in costs of producing these products deals Alaskans a costly blow. The crab fleet has taken a real beating this year due to the falling demand. Prices paid to fishermen in our area must go down as a result of this depressed market. It can hardly be called a wise move to hitch costs of timber and seafood production to a booming demand for oil and natural gas. As a matter of record, Alaskans last fall voted to use part of the petroleum royalty income to help restore waning salmon stocks and even improve timber stands, to assure a varied economy throughout Alaska and a stable continuity for our renewable resource industry.

Since you Legislators are working for a better statewide economy, I know you will consider these factors before reaching decisions on the matters discussed herein. It is better to sustain the industry we have than to contribute to its demise. By averaging in the huge inflated wages of pipeline workers with those of the depressed areas, the depressed industries will suffer. We hope you will vote against this further burden on our renewable resource industries.

Sincerely yours,



Robin Taylor  
President

RLT:svw

# Older Persons Action Group, Inc.

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ANCHORAGE AREA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
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SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE INTERIOR NORTH  
FAIRBANKS

January 10, 1975

Senator George Hohman  
Box 100  
Bethel, Ak. 99559

Dear Senator Hohman:

The Older Persons Action Group asks you to direct your personal attention to the enclosed proposed legislation which has been badly needed in Alaska for many years and at this time has become mandatory.

No part of State government represents the elderly. Alaska is far behind in this respect and we strongly solicit your support in this area. Your support is needed in order to accomplish this in the pending legislative session.

Please be assured of our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Nona R. McVickar*  
(Mrs.) Nona R. McVickar  
Executive Director  
Older Persons Action Group

NRM:ek  
Encl.

# Older Persons Action Group, Inc.

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274-2914

## ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

Every state but Wyoming now has a specific agency dealing with the problems of the aged. However, with increasing numbers of older people, and increasing public understanding of their needs, it may be necessary to modify many of the existing agencies. The proposed statute is important in three ways. First, it presents a more detailed description of the functions a Commission on Aging should perform. Second, the statute extends the structure of the Commission by authorizing local governmental units to establish local Commissions and by providing for assistant directors to assist the local Commissions. Third, it clarifies the division of functions between the Commission and its Director and his staff.

Section 1 establishes the Commission and states its functions. In addition to the more traditional functions of gathering and disseminating information, coordinating services and making proposals, it is provided that the Commission shall evaluate existing programs and stimulate public understanding of the problems of the aging. Commission evaluation should contribute to improving program efficiency. Better public understanding of the needs of the aging will make them easier to meet.

Section 2 details the structure of the Commission. The controlling goal is to insure the awareness and responsiveness of the Commission to the political problems of the executive and legislative branches of the state government while maintaining its independence.

Section 3 deals with meetings, quorum and compensation. While the governmental members of the Commission need not be compensated, compensation for non-governmental members may make possible service on the Commission by representatives of the most concerned group of citizens, older persons with fixed and relatively low incomes.

Under Section 4, the Administrative staff consists of the Director and his staff. The staff will include the usual clerical workers and technical advisors, but this section also provides for assistant directors, if necessary, to assist local Commissions.

Section 5 authorizes the Borough and municipalities of the State to establish Commissions which would function as the Commission on Aging does, but on a local level.

Section 6 gives the Commission general power to carry out its functions and duties and specifically grants power to establish special subcommittees, to solicit and accept gifts and grants, and to contract.

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

SECTION 1. [Establishment of a Commission on Aging; Functions and Duties.]

There is established a Commission on Aging [in the Department of Health Social Services]. The Commission shall:

- (a) gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning the aging;
- (b) coordinate, assist, and cooperate with the efforts of State departments and agencies to serve the needs of the aging, especially in the fields of education, employment, health, housing, welfare and recreation;
- (c) develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations which serve the aging;
- (d) propose new programs concerning the aging;
- (e) evaluate existing programs and proposed legislation concerning the aging;
- (f) constitute the designated State agency for administering all programs of the Federal government related to the aged requiring action within the State which are not the specific responsibility of another State agency under Federal law or which have not been entrusted specifically to another State agency;
- (g) stimulate public awareness of the problems of the aging by conducting a program of public education and encourage the Governor and the Legislature to develop programs to deal with these problems;
- (h) conduct training programs for community leadership and service project staff.

SECTION 2. [Membership of the Commission: Chairman].

- (a) The Commission shall consist of:
  - (1) [nine] voting members [one of whom shall be the head of the [appropriate department of the appropriate State University] ]. Voting members shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of three years, staggered so that the terms of one-third of the members expire on the [appropriate date] of each year. Initial appointments shall be: one-third of the voting members for a term of one year, one-third for a term of two years, and one-third for a term of three years. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of any unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. No voting member shall be an elected or appointed official of the State government.
  - (2) [ ] non-voting members, composed of [one member of the [appropriate upper house of the State Legislature] appointed by the [appropriate body of the upper house] for a term of two years, one member of the [appropriate lower house of the State Legislature] appointed by the [appropriate body of the lower house] for a term of two years; and the heads of the [appropriate concerned State departments or agencies] or their representatives.

(b) A chairman shall be elected from the voting membership of the Commission to serve for a term of one year.

SECTION 3. [Meetings; Compensation.]

(a) The Commission on Aging shall meet at least [four] times a year. The Chairman may call additional meetings when necessary. A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Voting members shall receive [ ] dollars per day compensation for work performed as part of their official duties. All members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the Commission.

SECTION 4. [Administrative Staff.]

(a) The Commission shall have a Director. The Director shall be appointed by the Commissioner of H.E.W.

(b) The Director is the administrative officer of the Commission and shall serve the Commission by gathering information; disseminating findings of fact and other information; forwarding proposals and evaluations to the Governor, the Legislature, and various state agencies; carrying out public education programs; conducting hearings and conferences; and performing other duties necessary for the proper operation of the Commission.

(c) The Commission may employ in accordance with the [State personnel plan] any subordinate personnel necessary to assist the Director in the performance of his duties, including clerical staff, and technical advisors. The Commission also may employ assistant directors if necessary to develop, assist and cooperate with local commissions on aging.

SECTION 5. [Local Commissions.]

Any Borough, [municipality] of this State may establish a local Commission on Aging.

SECTION 6. [Powers of the Commission.]

The Commission shall have all powers necessary to carry out the functions and duties specified in this Act, including power to establish advisory committees on special subjects, to solicit and accept gifts and grants and to contract with public and private groups to conduct its business.

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Cross-file  
Bethel HASS  
El Dorado

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Bethel Agency; P.O. Box 347  
Social Services  
Bethel, Alaska 99559

March 6, 1975

Sen. George Hohman  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Needs of the elderly of the Bethel area.

Dear Senator Hohman:

For the past five months this office has been interested in gaining a better understanding of a situation confronting certain elderly individuals in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region - that of having to leave the Bethel area to receive various nursing home services.

We have been wondering just how many elderly persons are leaving; where are they leaving to; why are they leaving; and what alternatives there might be to their having to leave. The purpose of this letter is to share the information that we have been able to obtain up to this point.

Our first concern was to find out as precisely as possible exactly how many elderly persons have been leaving the Bethel area in recent years to receive nursing home services. We contacted all the existing nursing home and convalescent care facilities in the State of Alaska that we were aware of. The information we received is as follows:

The Fairbanks Pioneers Home, Ketchikan General Hospital (Island View Manor Nursing Home), Cordova Community Hospital, and The Careage North Convalescent Center in Fairbanks have had no referrals or admittances to their facilities of elderly individuals from the Bethel area within the past five years. Harborview Memorial Hospital in Valdez has had no admittances of individuals over the age of 23.

Sitka Pioneer's Home had one admittance in 1974. The individual was from the village of Red Devil.

Wesleyan Nursing Home in Seward had 2 admittances in 1973 from Bethel and Kwethluk. There were 2 admittances in 1974, both from Bethel.

The Careage House in Anchorage had 2 admittances in 1974 from Bethel and Aniak.

The Ridgeview Manor in Anchorage had 2 admittances in 1972 from Bethel, 7 admittances in 1973 from Bethel (3), Aniak, Kotlik, Kalskag and Mountain Village. There was one admittance in 1974 from Bethel.

Glenmore Nursing Home in Anchorage had 3 admittances in 1970 from Bethel (2) and Tuluksak, one admittance in 1971 from Kalskag, 3 admittances in 1972 from Pitkas Point, Kongiganak, and Emmonak; 7 admittances in 1973 from Pilot Station, Sleetmute (2), Kongiganak, Bethel, St. Mary's and Napaskiak, 10 admittances in 1974 from Bethel, St. Mary's (2), Pitkas Point, Russian Mission, Cheforak, Tuntutuliak, Emmonak, Mekoryuk and Kasigluk.

Thus, from the figures we have at this time, the yearly breakdown of admittances is as follows:

- 1970 - 2
- 1971 - 1
- 1972 - 5
- 1973 - 16
- 1974 - 16

We sent out questionnaires to the Health Aides of some 45 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area. We asked them how many elderly people had left their village to go to a nursing home or convalescent care facility within the past five years. We asked them how many of these individuals were unable to take care of themselves, how many needed full time care, and how many just needed a place to live and a little bit of help. Finally, we asked them how the elderly persons on their village felt about the need for a facility for the aged (like a nursing home or an old folk's home) in the Bethel area. We welcomed any additional comments that the Health Aides had.

To date we have received replies from 23 of the village Health Aides. According to these Health Aides, 12 elderly persons have had to leave the village to receive nursing home care within recent years. The Breakdown is as follows:

- Pilot Station.....2
- Tuluksak.....1
- Kotlik.....5
- Chuathbalak .....2
- Aniak.....2
- Total.....12

These specific village figures do not correlate precisely with received figures from the facilities that we contacted. I suppose that this could be accounted for by the fact that the Health Aide Personnel might have changed in various villages, or that the Health aides themselves were not able to obtain accurate information. Our purpose here was to get information feedback from different sources.

According to the Health Aides, all of those individuals that left the village were unable to take care of themselves, and all but one needed full time care.

When we asked the Health Aides how the elderly in their village felt about the need for a facility for the aged in the Bethel area, 12 Health Aides stated that the responses were negative (these responses varying from vehement statements to mere lack of interest), 7 Health Aides stated that the responses were favorable towards the development of such a facility and 4 Health Aides were not able to answer that question. There seemed to be no correlation between village location and village response. Of the five villages who, according to Health Aides had elderly members leave for nursing home care, three expressed a positive response on behalf of elderly village members, and one expressed a negative response.

Feedback to these questionnaires varied. Some elderly persons feel strongly that they want to stay in the village with family and friends, and that this is the customary and accepted thing to do. Some persons feel that a facility in the Bethel area would be good in that it would allow elderly persons to be close to family and friends, who might otherwise be far away from their community. This is the common motivation expressed by those elderly individuals who were quoted by the Health Aides as favoring some sort of facility in the Bethel area.

In the course of my investigation into this area I had occasion to correspond and speak with many individuals, agency related and otherwise. I was confronted with many opinions regarding the special needs of the elderly persons in this area, some very strongly expressed, and some quite opposed to each other. It is not the purpose of this memorandum to confront these opinions, nor to question them. We at this time are merely interested in providing any information regarding this need area that might prove helpful to others with the same concerns.

It appears that there are three lines of thinking in this area. The first line of thinking is that things should remain pretty much as they now are. If an elderly individual in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region reaches a point where he/she either cannot care for him/herself or has no friends or relatives who are willing or able to provide assistance, then an appropriate agency or individual may make a referral to a nursing home or convalescent care facility.

The second line of thinking is that some sort of nursing home facility might be constructed somewhere in the Bethel region to meet the needs of those individuals who would otherwise have to leave the Bethel area to receive services. The major questions here are whether the people of this area really want such a facility, exactly what sort of individual would it serve (Qualifications for acceptance), and of course, where would the funding come from.

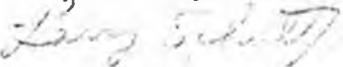
The third line of thinking is that perhaps something can be set up by which those elderly individuals who would normally be forced to leave their home to receive special nursing home or convalescent care can be allowed to remain in their home village. This would involve some sort of special support system catering to these individuals. This is not a new line of thinking. I have had occasion to correspond with Dove M. Kull, Director of Alaska Home Health Aide Services Inc. Apparently up until the recent past there were funds available

to provide various individuals in the villages with homemaker and home health aide services. In fact, one of the purposes of this program was to strive to allow elderly individuals to remain at home. Mrs. Kull informs me that at one time there were eleven home helpers spread throughout the villages of Hooper bay, Mt. Village, Akiachak, St. Mary's, Pilot Station and Bethel. They received wage payment for their services. We sent questionnaires to these individuals, asking them for their impressions of the services they were providing. All six of those that responded stated that although their work had been demanding, they had seen it as being necessary and worthwhile.

Mrs. Kull further informs me that as of late, their funding has been precarious. Titles IV and XVI funds have been withdrawn, which reduces the Federal matching for the existing contract, which I gather has been with the Department of Health and Social Services. Interesting comparisons between costs of Homemaker-home health aide and alternative forms of service can be found in a pamphlet entitled "Costs of Homemaker-Home Health Aide and Alternative Forms of Services", which is published by the National Council for Homemaker-Home Health Aide Services Inc. For instance, this pamphlet states that in 1971-72 the average cost per case for such services was \$467.79 per year. It would be interesting to compare related costs for that sort of care for the Bethel area recipients against cost of care in nursing home and convalescent care facilities in the State of Alaska.

It is our hope that this information may prove useful in future considerations regarding meeting the needs of the elderly individuals of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. It goes without saying that we are all interested in seeing these members of our community receive their rightful and necessary services and benefits.

Respectfully Submitted,



Larry Schultz  
BIA Social Services Representative

cc