

HR

20

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

(9)

FURTHER:

5/12/80

Date: _____

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on JUDICIARY has had HR 20

"Relating to participation by the state in the White House Conference on Families."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
- and recommends _____ new title
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

CHAIRMAN

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Alaska Home Economics Association and the Future Homemakers of America have supported the National White House Conference on Families for the past year in our programs, and

Whereas this program has aroused deep issues as well as needs throughout our country, and

Since the Alaska Home Economics Association is a force for families,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Home Economics Association will support the State of Alaska's continued participation in the White House Conference on Families to insure the Alaska perspective will be communicated.

Marjorie Schmege
President Alaska
Home Economics Assn.
Adviser Future
Homemakers of America
1800 Evergreen Ave.
Juneau 99801

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ORIGINAL.

May 19, 1980

Dear Governor Hammond

The Juneau Unitarian Fellowship participated in the White House Conference on Families by submitting testimony at the local hearings in Juneau.

We unanimously agreed at our meeting this morning that Alaska should participate in the National Conference.

Sincerely

Crealy Cunningham
Co Chairperson
Box 458
Douglas Ak 99824

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

177 Behrends Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801
May 10, 1930

Governor Jay Hammond
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Hammond,

The Juneau Douglas Branch of the American Association of University Women met today and discussed your recent letter relating to the White House Conference on Families. The members voted unanimously to support Alaska's participation in the National Conference..

Our membership feels that Alaska's unique concerns will not be heard by the nation, if we are not present. Whatever action is taken at the National Conference, Alaska must be there to lend its voice to the proceedings.

Sincerely,

Barbara Potter

Barbara Potter
President A.A.U.W.

P.O. Box 249

Douglas, Alaska 99824

May 13, 1960

Governor Jay Hammond
Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hammond, and House and Senate members:

I've been informed that Alaska's participation in the White House conference on Families is in question.

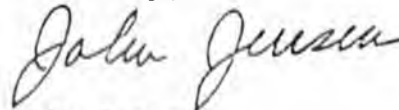
I would strongly urge you to support Alaska's participation in that conference for two reasons:

1. You as lawmakers know that your decisions have an impact on the living patterns and institutions of society. Legislation at all levels--federal, state, and municipal--cannot fail to have impact on families.. In a sense it is not possible to "do nothing," because the consequences of governmental policy reach deeply into society already. The only issue is whether we will face problems squarely.

2. The document prepared by Alaskans comprises the opinions of a wide spectrum of people, containing both liberal and conservative viewpoints. The delegates selected also are representative of nearly all viewpoints and should effectively represent the diversity of opinions within our state.

I hope you will sustain the confidence of people in our state's democratic processes and support our participation in the upcoming conference.

Sincerely,



John Jensen

Assemblyman/City and Borough of Juneau

Susan B. Clark
1109 C Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Governor Jay Hammond
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99811..

9 May 1980

Dear Governor Hammond,

I am disappointed and perplexed that you have proposed Alaska's withdrawal from the national White House Conference on Families. I am concerned that delegates to the State Conference and alternates to the National Conference were not informed of this serious proposal by a letter from you, and many may still be unaware if their local newspapers or media did not pick up on the story.

Speaking for Juneau's involvement, a large spectrum of people gave oral or written testimony or support to the local hearings. Some spent a great deal of time and thought on their presentation with the idea that their contributions would matter. They did. Juneau came up with a position paper which contained both "liberal" and "conservative" concerns, and the three elected delegates were bound by that paper in their actions at the State Conference.


Although some groups would claim that only their families are legitimate ones, I do not feel that most Alaskans believe that families the basic nurturing unit of our society, can be stereotyped. In fact, nationwide figures show that an employed father, a housewife mother, and children (any number) is only 15% of our nation's families. In Alaska where there is a higher than average incidence of employed women, this percentage is even lower.

Nor do I feel that the scare issues of ERA, abortion and gay rights are a significant part of the Conference outcome. None were targeted as major issue areas by a panel, and the latter two were mentioned only by the first panel and in a conservative context. The ERA is simply a fact of Alaskan life and law since our own state ERA was passed eight years ago. The conference was at times frustrating to people of all persuasions, but it was on the whole a democratic process, and the concluding document is a democratic document. It cannot fail, therefore, to contain things with which we may not all agree, but to censor or alter it in any way now would cause even more distrust of government.

Special attention was given at the Conference to the needs and concerns of our native peoples. Rosita Worl and Mary Jane Fate were excellent and informative keynote speakers there. Alaska's Native and rural people have unique family concerns which will not be heard at the national level if we are to withdraw.

Please reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Susan B. Clark, alternate delegate to
the National Conference