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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, STATE OF ALASKA

Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers

Thursday, December 6, 1979

Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Anchorage, Alaska

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Reported by: Pamela Rozycki, CSR

BETA GROUP PROCEEDINGS

(December 6, 1979, 10:00 a.m.)

MR. VAN DOREN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin. I think probably the best thing is grab a cup of coffee first and then we can get started. If you don't have any. I guess everybody has enough. My name is Guy Van Doren. I will be your facilitator for the next two and a half days. Before the afternoon session, we will have chosen a group leader from among you, and the group leader or leaders as the case may be, and I will, will be working together with you to help us smoothly arrive at the conclusions that we are going to be working on. As you can see by the agenda, and some people have talked about this, this is a very unstructured type of a meeting. We purposely set it up that way because this is your conference. This is not our conference. It's not a conference run by the Legislature or run by the Administration. It is your conference to be run by you with us here to help you and to work with you and advise you.

As we go through the general categories, we will be discussing this afternoon, we will be discussing direct services. Tomorrow we will be discussing finances in the

1 morning, and then in the afternoon we will be discussing
2 resources. The five major broad subjects, including
3 transportation and education, they will now be joined in
4 under direct services.

5 As we go into the general subjects, we will be
6 using the authors of the papers of the booklets you will
7 receive. Also, we have some supplements for you to hand
8 out today. We will be going through, and we are hoping
9 that you will base some of your discussion on the papers.
10 The authors will be available as resource persons to come
11 in and talk to us if we desire. We also will be soliciting
12 your ideas on the general subjects and exactly what you
13 would like to see happen in the future of Alaska. Each of
14 the recommendations that come out of this group we will be
15 filling out in a short form with the general area of the
16 category, specific recommendations of this group, the major
17 factors or considerations leading to why we came to these
18 conclusions.

19 We will try to work out a financial impact, both
20 for fiscal year 1981 and projected for the next ten years.
21 Each of these recommendations will be gathered together
22 from all five of the groups that are working, and we will
23 come together on Saturday and each group will submit a
24 report.

25 After the conference is over, the recommendations

1 from each of the groups will be tabulated, put into book
2 form, along with papers, and will be utilized for
3 distribution to the Legislature, to the Administration and
4 for future action on them.

5 This morning, I would like to start out with
6 introductions. We are all going to be a group. We are all
7 going to be working together for the next two and a half
8 days. Some of it will be some long hours and some long
9 discussion, and I think it would be a good way to start for
10 us to get to know each other. You will be in this group
11 throughout the whole time. The staff will remain the same
12 throughout the whole time. And the more friendly we are,
13 the better we are going to get along.

14 First of all, I would like to introduce the staff
15 that will be working with you. We have a staff of three
16 people who have just gone through the internship program
17 with the Legislature. They will be working with the
18 Legislature during the up coming session. These people are
19 here to help you, to serve you. All staff are identified
20 by the orange cards, whether it's our people -- if you need
21 to utilize the other people if we are not around then we
22 will have somebody else help you.

23 First of all in the back of the room next to the
24 coffee pot is Sandy Bradley and she is from Juneau. And
25 why don't you tell us about yourself?

1 MS. BRADLEY: I am going to be working with Freeman
2 from the Legislature. I am originally from Ketchikan and
3 moved to Juneau about three years ago, so I am an Alaskan.

4 MR. VAN DOREN: Okay, and next I would like to
5 introduce Elana Peeley.

6 MS. PEELEY: My name is Elana Peeley and I am from
7 Bethel. And I am not sure who I will be working with.

8 MR. VAN DOREN: And the next individual that will be
9 assisting us is Jay and I will ask him to stand up and
10 pronounce his name and tell you a little bit about himself.

11 MR. PENEKAS: My last name is Penekas. I am from
12 Anchorage now and lived in Juneau and hopefully you guys
13 will be working for us.

14 MR. VAN DOREN: Okay, I am going to sit down for a
15 minute. And I would like to start with the right side of
16 the table. What I would like to do, I would like to keep
17 this informal. This is an informal session today. This
18 morning is definitely going to be informal. I would like
19 to you stand up and say a little bit about yourself, and if
20 you have an idea, if you would like to express an idea of
21 what you want out of the conference or what you see about
22 the conference or any ideas that you have brought into the
23 conference, we would like you to share those with us now.
24 We want you to be open. We want you to feel for the next
25 two and a half days we are all family. So anything you

1 would like to say, but definitely your name and where you
2 are from and your interest in the convention and I will
3 start out from my right hand side.

4 MS. DAVIS: Since I have to open it up first I will
5 just introduce myself. I am Bettye Davis and I live here
6 in Anchorage. I would like to see things come out of this
7 conference, but since I was caught cold, I am going to pass
8 on that.

9 MR. DESILIO: I am Steve Delisio. I am an attorney in
10 Anchorage. I lived in Fairbanks for about eight years and
11 have been here that long as well. I was with the Brookings
12 seminar as a delegate.

13 I think probably I could sum my aspirations for
14 this conference as I felt about the Brookings Conference
15 and that is to say that I think that what I would like to
16 see is a goal of creating opportunity for the people of our
17 State. It seems to me that with the great wealth, the
18 great opportunities that we have here in Alaska, there is
19 no reason why we should be victimized by the same kind of
20 problems that exist in the Lower 48 States which restrict
21 opportunity, restrict enterprise, restrict imagination,
22 restrict the ability of their human spirit it seems to me.
23 And it seems that Alaska has an opportunity to break free
24 of all of that or at least a great deal of it and I think
25 Alaska has the aid and means of doing so.

1 MS. GUESS: I am Carolyn Guess, I am from Anchorage
2 and lived here for 20 years. For the past four years I
3 have been a member of the Alaska Public Utilities
4 Commission. And with that opportunity has come a learning
5 process for me. And of particular interest to me is the
6 problem and the opportunities we face particularly in the
7 energy area. In my particular shop we are seeing daily
8 crises in energy.

9 We are seeing the escalating costs of diesel fuel
10 create insurmountable problems, particularly for the people
11 in rural Alaska. And I guess if I was to say what I would
12 like this conference, to focus on, I guess, it's however
13 each group decides to go that the word creativity be an
14 important word.

15 MR. FISON: My name is David Fison. I was here ten
16 years ago for the Brookings Institute and appreciate again
17 sharing in this. I have been an United Methodist pastor
18 for the last 30 years and the last 20 in Alaska I was in
19 various areas of the State. I have been currently in the
20 colleges in Anchorage, Anchorage Community College, Alaska
21 State University. I appreciate Mr. Merdes's education and
22 spiritual qualities because those are what I am interested
23 in, of course.

24 MR. CHARLEY: I am Walter Charley from
25 Glennallen, Copper River area. I have been with the Copper

1 River Natives Association for board members several years
2 and I just got released from it last month. Some young
3 fellow took my place.

4 My interest is a power, power resource, water
5 power relationship. And we have a -- we are going to have
6 to rebuild the village one of these years. We worked last
7 summer, we put a road in there, into the village. Now, we
8 are thinking that before we start rebuilding the village, I
9 would like to -- we would like to think about power
10 resource. We got water running down there. We got Sparks
11 Creek. And there is a place in Town Lake that runs the Old
12 Tunnel down through the underground which water still runs
13 through down there would make a pretty good power resource.

14 We wrote a letter to -- I had an engineer working
15 with me down there last summer, and I had the -- went down
16 to see this place, and we wrote a letter to Washington, D C
17 about this to see what kind of a help we could get in there.
18 And we haven't heard anything from the State yet.

19 MS. CROFT: My name is Toni Croft. I am a teacher
20 for the Anchorage Community College. And I have several
21 interests, but the primary one, I guess, would be in trying
22 to find some insights into the problems in post secondary
23 education and seeing if we can't improve what we are
24 getting from the community colleges and the University of
25 Alaska.

1 MR. GIBSON: I am Bob Gibson. I've lived in Alaska
2 for about 30 years continually. I have been in the
3 communications, sailing, in education. I am currently a
4 teacher in the division at the Kuskokwim Community College
5 in Bethel. I have got all sorts of things I am vitally
6 interested in here. I am an alternative energy nut. I am
7 interested in rural economic development and got some hot
8 ideas on transportation you will hear about those later.

9 What I was struck by today was a sense of
10 community here. I met a lady I have only known by
11 correspondence from Alaska, and I see people whose faces
12 are familiar to me. Hey, this is a whole integrated
13 independent community and I should like for my part to see
14 that governed and give direction to everything we do here.

15 MR. FAIRBANKS: My name is Grant Fairbanks. I live
16 in the Kuskokwim River near Steitmute. I am interested in
17 lots of things, farming, fishing, energy, ecology, and
18 that's about all I have to say.

19 MS. DICKSON: My name is Abi Dickson. I have lived
20 in Alaska for about 15 years. I used to live in Fairbanks.
21 And I lived in Kodiak. And I have to admit to myself that
22 I am a fringe person and now living in Unalaska out in the
23 Aleutians. I have been interested in Alaska for my entire
24 life. And I am on the City Council in Unalaska. One of
25 the things that I have been trying to emphasize out there,

1 we are an island community in the Aleutians. We are an
2 island community in Alaska. In trying to determine what
3 was the basic common denominator of all the people that
4 have moved into the Aleutians for whatever reason, there is
5 one basic common denominator in that we are at the time
6 this only people on the face of the earth that are living
7 out there. And I think that in Alaska we are the only
8 people living here, and it would be nice, as Bob says, we
9 are an integrated community, I would like to see that out
10 of this conference we become more integrated, emphasizing
11 our self-sufficiency needs in energy, in agricultural
12 pursuits, that we try and bring ourselves into focus as a
13 unit. We can't live happily after here. We can't live
14 happily after anywhere. Thank you.

15 MR. GAZEWAY: My name is H P Gazeway. I have lived
16 in Anchorage for the last year and a half. I am retired,
17 self-employed. I first came to Alaska in the early 1950s.
18 I lived in Palmer, was with the University U S D A. The
19 last 20 years I was in Juneau. My work mainly was
20 concerned with resource and program planning. I am here
21 mainly just because the reason which I came to Alaska,
22 which most of you came to Alaska. And I am interested in
23 government organization, particularly effectiveness and
24 efficiency, and I was attending the Brookings Conference in '69.
25 I don't know what I expect to come out of this one. In

1 this way I hope it to be much more successful in Alaska.
2 It's good to see so many people here that I have crossed
3 paths with previously.

4 MS. PATE: My name is Mary Jane Pate. I was born in
5 Rampart and lived in Alaska not by choice, because it's
6 home. I, too attended the Brookings ten years ago. And
7 because of my involvement as an officer with a native
8 village corporation and, as past president of the national
9 nonprofit corporation, my interest lies in all the fields
10 that you have specific priorities, I think, this year would
11 be land, land use planning, any type of planning or what
12 resource we have in the State of Alaska with expertise to
13 land use planning, utilization, development of any kind.
14 Secondly, of course, education, with my husband being on
15 the Board of Regents. But again, thinking back home and
16 Grade 1, upgrading Grade 1 up, and perpetuating and
17 enhancing our higher education. But also, we've got to
18 work at home and the quality of education at Grade 1 so the
19 students would be able to go on into higher ed. Another
20 thing, of course, is economical development planning. But
21 everything on here that you've got is all relevant to the
22 time, so I am open for any help.

23 MR. CARLSON: Dwayne Carlson, president of the Alaska
24 AFL-CIO, currently from Juneau. Prior to that ten years in
25 Anchorage, prior to that 17 years in Fairbanks.

1 I would like to associate myself with Carolyn
2 Guess' remarks. We are aware that there will be a great
3 amount of money. And as I think Chairman Meekins said, he
4 had a request for about three times that amount of projects.
5 I would hope out of this conference we can come with some
6 new concept to have this trickle back to the individual.
7 And I think that can only be done if we can get a
8 comprehensive new approach to the energy problem, and I
9 think tied right with that is the transportation problem.

10 If we are not successful in doing that in the
11 State of Alaska, most of that is going to be because the
12 individual can't afford to live here any longer. It's fine
13 to have a fine campus and I agreed that we need it. The
14 Labor movement has always supported it. In my opinion,
15 Professor Hesser (phonetic) is more the individual for the
16 university than any college.

17 I try to take the different papers around the
18 State, and if we don't do something to help that individual
19 owner and soon, I think we are all a failure. A State
20 that's rich in natural resources, there just has to be some
21 way to do it. I hope that out of this conference we can do
22 that.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. VAN DOREN: I think we can go to the other side
25 of the table and back up this direction, of delegates.

1 MR. DAVIS: My name is Larry Davis. I am from Nome.
2 I guess my primary interest in being down here is to try to
3 focus to renewable resources. I think there has been too
4 much attention spent to nonrenewable. If renewable
5 resources are kind of left in the aftermath, I think it's
6 time we focus some attention on the renewable resources in
7 the State of Alaska. And the primary reason I have is
8 personal. It's just not only to the State of Alaska but to
9 the world. I think we should pay more attention to
10 renewable resource and focusing too much attention on
11 nonrenewable resources.

12 MS. CARPENTER: I am Diane Carpenter, president of
13 Bethel. I have lived in the Kuskokwim Valley for about 25
14 years. As a teacher, I am interested in education. As a
15 council member in Bethel, which is the city that has a
16 number of problems, our interests range over a wide area
17 including approving justice system, tax base, planning for
18 appropriate economic development, planning for appropriate
19 technology and energy conservation, planning to avoid the
20 State deterioration, and especially for working for
21 enhanced local decision and control and trying to see that
22 the lifestyle that exists in that area is protected as much
23 as possible.

24 My overall goal for this conference would be that
25 the increasing split that I have observed in the past two

1 years between urban and rural sections of the State could
2 perhaps be healed in some way and that we could focus on
3 some of the needs of the State overall and on how we can
4 each see other points of view and work together.

5 MR. GORSUCH: My name is Lee Gorsuch. I am with the
6 University of Alaska, director of the University Research.
7 I have lived in Anchorage for about ten years. I have two
8 lovely children that are now part of the Anchorage school
9 system. I am here as a delegate, not so much as from the
10 university, but rather as a citizen concerned that Alaska
11 does have an opportunity of trying to basically foster its
12 own self alliance. I think the main thing we need to be
13 concerned about is our ability to take care of ourselves in
14 the future. At the same time, the additional self alliance
15 I have been concerned about. What I sense is take care of
16 ourselves and ignore everybody else. I think we have a
17 great deal of responsibility, a responsibility not only to
18 ourselves and our children, but also to the nation and also
19 to the world. Alaska occupies a neat part in the nation's
20 energy situation. We also represent a very unique part in
21 the environment of the entire globe of the planet earth. I
22 hope that we don't lose our perspective of our goal as a
23 unique environment and I hope we also do not lose sight of
24 our obligations as an integral part of the United States of
25 America.

1 MS.FLYNN: I am Heather Flynn, and I live right here
2 in Anchorage. And I have for years been a member of the
3 Anchorage School Board here, and it's only by an accident
4 of the alphabet Mr. Gorsuch and I are sitting here side by
5 side. And he is a new member of that board. He didn't
6 mention that.

7 I have also functioned for some years as the
8 legislative representative, that's a fancy word for
9 lobbyist, of the Anchorage School Board to the Legislature,
10 some years with a great deal of success and some years with
11 no success at all. I have throughout that period of time
12 worked very hard at getting the urban and rural areas to
13 work in very close association with one another to try to
14 bridge the gap that Diane mentioned between the urban and
15 rural areas.

16 In addition to my obvious interest in education,
17 I have a much broader interest in the entire both economic
18 and shall we say philosophical development of the State.
19 We seem to be in a position financially this year where we
20 can build a very great deal. But my stomach familiarity
21 with finances tells me that we better pay some attention as
22 to how we are going to operate what we build in the future
23 and we better keep very close sight of that area. And I
24 hope some discussion in that area comes out in this
25 conference.

1 One other interest that I have that I would like
2 to see developed in this conference is the whole issue of
3 the use of the land. And I am not a D-2 rah-rah. That
4 issue, in my opinion, has been talked into the earth too
5 far.

6 What I am interested in is the use of the land as
7 it impacts the individual. I have a very strong feeling
8 that people's individual mental health is very much
9 associated with the kind of environment that they live
10 literally right next to, whether that's a park or a super
11 highway and how we plan our communities, not just how we
12 use the land for hunting and fishing and drilling the oil,
13 but how we plan our communities has a very great deal to do
14 with how happily we live in those communities. And I would
15 hope that we could find some room in this conference for
16 some discussion on that.

17 MR. CHAPADOS: My name is Frank Chapados. I am an
18 Alaskan by birth. I have resided in practically all of the
19 areas of the State and have, I think, a very good
20 understanding of the problems of Alaska. I am a
21 businessman. I have been in business now for about 25
22 years in the Fairbanks area. I have served in the State
23 Legislature the first four years of Statehood and also was
24 a member of the Brookings Institute meetings that were held
25 in 1969.

1 I am looking forward to participating in this
2 conference and I feel that with the experience that I have
3 and the interest in Alaska that I can make a contribution
4 to any of the discussions that are going to be held.

5 Frankly, I am not sure what I want to see come out of this
6 conference, but I do believe that we in Alaska have the
7 opportunity to create a life-style which may require some
8 compromise on the part of all of us that would be the envy
9 of the rest of the world. And we have the tools to do it
10 ith, and what we need to do is learn to agree and to set
11 some goals to plan our future and to follow through and do
12 what we can, what I think we can accomplish.

13 I was impressed with Ed's remarks about education
14 this morning. I am not sure that I need to think that we
15 should put all of our resources into that area, but I think
16 we have to beef it up to the point where it's going to
17 attract our Alaskans and make them want to attend our
18 university and other institutions of learning in Alaska.
19 And I think we can. By so doing we are also going to
20 attract the kind of people that will help us to develop the
21 kind of leadership that we need to carry out our objectives
22 which I hope we are going to be able to make
23 recommendations on here at this meeting.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. COOKE: I am Margaret Cooke from Bethel. I have

1 three children, two of whom are in school now. And I was
2 here at the Brookings Conference ten years ago. I have a
3 lot of interests in a lot of things that are in the report,
4 problems we have out in the Bethel area. What I am
5 interested in is upgrading our educational system, mainly,
6 plus the energy problem. There is people out in the
7 villages who will be paying over a dollar, probably up to
8 two dollars a gallon, if they could get the oil add on the
9 gas. And I think with a State so rich in oil, that
10 shouldn't be so. And I am hoping that this conference will
11 come out with, you know, positive suggestions.

12 MR. CROW: My name is J. B. Crow, I am Margaret
13 Cooke's Bethel neighbor. She lives in the elite part of
14 Tim Town. I live in the part that's called Louse Town. I
15 divide my time between about nine months in Bethel, about
16 the remainder split in getting turned on with British
17 Columbia people who are deep in the fishery thing and up
18 the Dishna to a side stream up the Ditnuk. D I T N U K.
19 And that's sort of a retreat and a refreshing of the spirit.
20 I am very impressed with the seriousness and the profundity
21 and the nobility of these expressions. I have to confess
22 my prejudices. I can't beat talking about being an Alaskan.
23 I am here long enough, so I am quite provincial, I am
24 afraid, certainly no ethnic eccentric, I am certainly
25 concerned about my own interests, my business, my family,

1 much more than the rest of the areas of the State. So as
2 the thing goes along, I hope to make a contribution in the
3 renewable resources aspect as he said over there, and we
4 did our thing together in forming our cooperative ten years
5 ago for fishermen. Right Pren? Right. We still have
6 things to do to make sure our resources are used to get
7 back to the people that live there.

8 DELEGATE: Pardon me, we didn't get your name.

9 MR. CROW: Crow, C R O W.

10 MR. CARTER: My name is Ernie Carter. I have lived
11 in Fairbanks for the last 27 odd years. I have a business
12 there. I have served on the City Council and the Fur
13 Assembly for about nine years, and I was a delegate to the
14 Brookings Institute Conference. I feel honored to be
15 invited back for this one, and I have to say I hope that
16 some of the polarization that is taking place in this State
17 can be put aside and we can show a little bit more
18 cooperation.

19 The art of politics is always a give and take
20 proposition. You have to compromise for the good of the
21 whole State. I think all of us are going to have to give a
22 little bit on various issues. I would like to see the
23 State develop its natural resources in an orderly
24 development in an orderly manner and thereby benefiting the
25 people in the State and adding contribution to our great

1 country in the energy field. I would also like to see
2 hydroelectric power pushed because I think it would solve
3 many of the problems with an alternative source of energy.
4 And it's here. All that has to be done is develop. And
5 these studies that we keep having are done over and over
6 again repetitiously. I would like to see some action
7 instead of studies. Thank you.

8 MS. FLEMING: Hello, my name is Laura Fleming. I am
9 a delegate from the internship program. I live in Juneau,
10 and I am very thrilled to be participating in this
11 experience with all of you. Thank you.

12 MR. EKVAL: My name is Eric Ekval. I have lived here
13 in Anchorage, I have lived here ten years, because I came
14 up the week of the first Brookings Institution conference.
15 I have been involved in a lot of different kind of work
16 from social services to education. And right now I am a
17 communications and public affairs consultant.

18 My concern in this conference is that ten years
19 ago I think there was much more of a sense of unity of
20 purpose in this State. There were fewer single issues,
21 there was less polarization, perhaps taking off from what
22 Mr. Carter brought up. I see the people in the State going
23 in a lot of different directions at once. We are also much
24 more prone to future shocks than other places in the
25 country. We are not polluted. We don't have the traffic

1 jams perhaps as other people do. We don't have the sense
2 of finiteness and the limits of what people can do, which
3 is both a tremendous strengths to our spirit and a sense of
4 what's possible, but it's also we may be diluting ourselves
5 sometimes thinking that the rest of the world is in the
6 same position that we are.

7 I think we are becoming more and more in Alaska a
8 part of the world and that things that happen here will
9 affect the rest of the world and certainly things that
10 happen to the rest of the world are going to affect Alaska
11 more and more. And I guess something that's a theme for me,
12 a personal theme, is bringing together divergent points of
13 view and melting them into some kind of commonality of
14 purpose and I think that that will be more difficult this
15 year than it was ten years ago.

16 I think it's more vital that we do that or that
17 we accomplish something like that. I believe we will all
18 have to give a little. I think we have to be daring and
19 very, very open and sure in our minds and our imaginations
20 about what Alaska can be. I think we also have to be
21 greatly pragmatically realistic about what's possible. I
22 have no real axe to grind here. I am interested in
23 education. I am interested in energy. And I hope that we
24 can draw ourselves, not just draw the wagons around in a
25 circle and draw our opinions around in a circle. And I am

1 for some sort of commonality in purpose.

2 MR. COOPER: I am Earle Cooper from Homer. I have
3 been from Homer a long while. Before that I was in the
4 Anchorage area. I served on the City Council, the Borough
5 Assembly for 20 some years of elective office. But during
6 that period of time, I think we have all seen the common
7 problem of idle hands and the mischief thereto. I think
8 there is lack of productive work that people can take a
9 pride in accomplishment. There is too much work, too much
10 work to make a living that doesn't really accomplish good
11 for the community or the, or the State. I think we need to
12 go back to 10, 15, 20 years ago when we were probably
13 working harder and had less emphasis on culture. The last
14 ten years, we have had quite an emphasis on the various
15 cultures. But I think we need to realize that without a
16 strong economic base, whatever that base may be, whether
17 it's renewable resource or extractive industry, but without
18 a strong economic base, cultural activity becomes an
19 academic word. You are too busy trying to earn a living or
20 to scratch a living out of something to be able to spend
21 the time and effort for enhancement of the community. I
22 guess what I am wanting to see is some basic productive
23 enterprise within the State to keep the citizens of the
24 communities busy.

25 MS. ELSON: I am JoAnn Elson and from the City of

1 Kenai and have been for approximately 12 years. I am with
2 the Department of Labor, the Department of Security
3 Division in Kenai. I am a Kenai Representative to the
4 Assembly. I am also the Assembly President. I am on the
5 Steering Committee for Energy in Environment on the
6 National Association of Counties. I am the Board of
7 Directors for the Alaskan Municipality. And I have a lot
8 of interests, energy and environment being one.

9 But I also have a unique mission for me. I was
10 asked by the Women's Resource Center in Kenai to come and
11 represent them. This is unique in that I have stayed away
12 from the Women's Resource Center up to now and have been
13 busy. But they have caught up with me. And after reading
14 their packet, they have some very good and sound ideas and
15 some good suggestions which I am hoping that I will be able
16 to help in some way. The land use statement that Edna
17 Flynn made, I think I would have to say ditto. I am
18 concerned with not only how you are going to parcel out the
19 different lands, but what you are going to do after you are
20 settled? What are you going to do as far as the problems
21 of pollution? What are you going to do with the problems
22 of waste and solid waste? Transportation is another
23 problem we are concerned with on the Peninsula. We are
24 concerned about tourism and health and education, and not
25 in that list of priorities. But I do want to say that the

1 Peninsula is concerned and very, very anxious to
2 participate with the rest of the State. We are not
3 Mavericks on the Peninsula.

4 MS. FISHER: My name is Helen Fisher and I am a 26
5 year resident of the State of Alaska. I have never been in
6 the Legislature, so I am a different Helen Fisher. I
7 always explain that, because people invariably say, "Have
8 you been in the Legislature?" And safe to say, I am not
9 that one.

10 My concern has been education and human resources.
11 I came with some very definite recommendations and feelings.
12 I am director of the Alaskans Resource Center. And we are
13 part of a network of resource centers and shelters for
14 battered women throughout the State of Alaska. So we
15 represent quite a few women and men, too, so we don't
16 discriminate. As far as recommendations are concerned. We
17 would like to see some money spent on human resources
18 centers, through the grass root associations that are
19 already here.

20 We need to break the circle of family violence,
21 of battered women, of rape, of child abuse and alcohol
22 problems. We need to buy some prevention. We need to
23 start on preventative ideas to stop this circle of abuse.
24 In a beautiful state like this, we have some terrible
25 statistics in all of these social problems.

1 I have an interest in education and training
2 programs to break the circle of welfare. We see women
3 through the Women's Resource Center who desperately want to
4 get out of the welfare racket. They want jobs, but they
5 lack training. They do not have money for training. They
6 need money to support their family like yesterday. So they
7 don't have the time or the money to go to what few training
8 programs are available. The people are not able to take
9 advantage of the jobs that are offered. We have -- there
10 are people in the private sector who come to us and say we
11 can use a certain number of people with a certain amount of
12 expertise in an area. We cannot provide those people for
13 them because we don't have the training programs to go
14 along with it.

15 I have a farm background and am an ardent
16 conservationist. I am a proponent of solar wind and water
17 energy and I believe that more needs to be done in the
18 technical and scientific education. I am concerned that
19 the next extinct species might be us.

20 MR. VAN DOREN: Mr. Clark, we missed you going around
21 the table.

22 MR. CLARK: Thank you. I was hoping you would, but
23 you didn't. Jim Clark from Bristol Bay Borough, mayor
24 there, financial director for the area. Also I serve as
25 Director for the Board for the Local Utility, electric

1 utilities there.

2 And being last, I thought perhaps that I could
3 come up with something that had not been stressed earlier,
4 but being with this knowledgeable group, and what have you,
5 I can only reemphasize some of the things that you have
6 already discussed. It's great to be here from the
7 standpoint of the polarization that was mentioned over here,
8 at this place, to break that polarization now. I have
9 listened to people from different areas and what have you.
10 And I can see that one thing coming out of this would be a
11 situation where we know each other and in the future when
12 some of these things are brought about and come to being
13 that we'll be able to know that. There was Mr. Cooper
14 there, Steve Delisio, Larry Davis, some of these names that
15 we all can familiarize ourselves with.

16 Opportunity for this State, yes, that's what I
17 would like to see. Opportunities that create opportunities,
18 not opportunities that may be opportunities today and
19 headaches tomorrow or the next day. Communication and
20 transportation, definitely, things that we need. A good
21 flow between our national, our State, and local governments,
22 not just the post office can solve that. They do have a
23 problem, I didn't receive my packets. And I presume
24 somewhere along the line they were lost because they were
25 mailed out.

1 Also to bring it more closely to my home area,
2 Bristol Bay, our great resource is part of the fish that
3 come in each year, each year they pile in by the millions,
4 next year supposedly more millions. I would like to see us
5 create a situation there that would better benefit all of
6 Alaskans. And education: I teach school also, in my spare
7 time. And I would like to see our education system
8 continually updated. And I don't mean just the classroom.
9 I mean education anywhere that there is a possibility to
10 learn.

11 And I certainly would like to thank the ones that
12 organized this meeting and I feel there is an opportunity
13 to be here. I thank you.

14 MR. VAN DOREN: Are there any other delegates that
15 have not been heard from that are delegates to the Beta
16 group?

17 Okay, I think you have seen going around the
18 table here when we organized these groups, we decided to do
19 it alphabetically. I think it was a very wise decision,
20 because as you have seen, we have people from all different
21 places in the State, from different facets of life, and I
22 think that we will be able to work together. This
23 conference we are giving you very little material except
24 papers that have come from the people themselves.

25 This conference, what we are supplying, is the

1 place for you to make your wishes known. What you are
2 going to take out of here is the products that we work on,
3 not papers, not necessarily books, not necessarily writing,
4 and not necessarily dictates from us, but you, yourselves,
5 are bringing in something and you are going to leave with
6 something, and from the group that we have all just met, I
7 think that we will be able to work together very well with
8 some different ideas and some stimulating conversation. I
9 have one more remark to make and then I am going to turn
10 the meeting over to Mr. Michael Rowan. He will be
11 explaining to you the survey that we are going to be taking.
12 Rather than say anything about it, I am going to let him
13 explain it to you.

14 I would like to remind you this afternoon at two
15 o'clock, we will start delving into direct services, also
16 at the completion of the poll that we will be handing out
17 to you, materials will be available in your packet at the
18 back of the room. They will be handed to you as you go out.

19 The blue booklets -- would you hold one up,
20 please? The blue booklets that we will be passing out are
21 supplement papers that came in too late to be printed in
22 the yellow booklet. And so you will have from the end of
23 this meeting until two o'clock to look over them. There
24 also will be some people papers that we solicited. We
25 asked anybody that was interested in Future Frontiers in

1 the program to submit the papers. We call them people
2 papers because they weren't directly asked; anybody who
3 wanted to submit a paper was able to. We will have those
4 for you later on. Okay. You've met the team, you've met
5 the players. This is our group. We come down to not
6 exactly attest, but we have -- Mr. Rowan has devised a
7 survey and he will explain all about that and then we will
8 pass them out to you.

9 MR. ROWAN: Eric, do you have them?

10 STAFF: I gave them to Guy.

11 MR. ROWAN: I think we would like to begin passing
12 them out as they talk. Let me describe what this is. My
13 name is Michael Rowan. And as part of my contribution to
14 this conference, what I have been doing is prepared a
15 questionnaire at the request of George Hohman and Russ
16 Meekins for each delegate. Okay, it's being passed out now
17 for you to self-administrate right now. It takes about 20
18 minutes, maybe 25 minutes for you to fill out. After
19 completing the questionnaires, the data will be tabulated
20 and we will report back to you tomorrow on what you said.
21 The questionnaire was drawn from the ideas and the
22 conclusions and the proposals put forward in the papers in
23 that gold brochure you have that has about 33 papers
24 prepared on all aspects. So basically what I did was I
25 read through everything everybody said, the proposals they

1 made, the ideas they came forth with, the contexts, the
2 conclusions, and I began writing questions to you based
3 upon what they were saying in their respective areas. This
4 was defined by the staff people and, you know, we wind up
5 with the product we've got. I hope it's a useful thing to
6 begin stimulating you thinking about, especially every
7 question that could come up.

8 There are some questions I would like anybody
9 whose got the questionnaire now to please look. You will
10 notice in the questionnaire from time to time the name of
11 the writer from whom the question was drawn in the article
12 in the gold book is also mentioned for your reference, if
13 you want to look at the gold book. You may find it
14 difficult to answer some of the questions if you have not
15 read all the articles that were prepared for this
16 conference. And if so, leave it blank and go on to the
17 next question. I would like you to circle the appropriate
18 number for each question, 1 or 2 or 3 or 4, as you proceed
19 through the questionnaire. Now, you will find in the
20 questionnaire that there are ranking questions, 1, 2, 3 or
21 4, and I would like people just to see how to respond to
22 this, to turn to question numbers 49 to 55, so that the
23 fourth page reads, and this reads, "How would surplus
24 revenues best be used in Alaska? Please rank the following."
25 And then 49 to 55. In all these ranking questions, the

1 number 1 is the lowest range, and the highest number there
2 is always the highest rank. So if you have five choices,
3 then five would be your highest ranking and four would be
4 your second highest and so on.

5 In this sequence, by the way, 49 to 55, there are
6 six choices and you are given five rankings, so please add
7 number 6 to that group, okay. 49 to 54, next to the
8 numbers 5 out there is a number 6 running down the column,
9 because you've got six choices there we are asking you to
10 rank from.

11 All right, just repeating that now, any time you
12 get into a ranking question, number 1 is your lowest range
13 and whatever the highest number there gives you the highest
14 rank and circle that number, okay.

15 On question 25, please, if you turn to that, the
16 responses should be, 1 should not be yes, it should be
17 "cooperative." So you can write that in there. One should
18 be cooperative. Question 25, about the third page. One
19 should be "cooperative" and two should be "develop an
20 independent plan." Obviously yes/no is not the answer to
21 that question.

22 In the same respect on question 7, 07 on the
23 second page, that should not be a yes/no answer either,
24 question 07, number 1 should be "succeed" and number 22
25 should be "just talk." It's clear from the question: In

1 question 72 -- this is my last explanation and then I will
2 shut up. In question 72, we have improvements to the
3 existing interAlaskan community road network and in
4 question 74 we have question of improving intraexisting
5 road networks. Inter meaning between, roads between
6 Alaskan communities, and intra, I N T R A, meaning roads
7 inside, roads inside the community. So in 74, it's inside,
8 and in 72, it's roads between our connecting Alaskan
9 communities for clarification purposes. Are there any
10 questions? I will come around and answer any questions.
11 The purpose of the survey is to raise all the questions
12 that were originally brought to you by the 33 or 35 people
13 who wrote papers to you and to bring you up to speed on
14 where your opinions are on all these matters immediately.
15 We will bring the data back to you tomorrow so you will see
16 immediately where you are on these major questions that are
17 raised by the particular people who have raised the
18 questins to.

19 MR. COOPER: The first question is unrealistic in that
20 it would be unachieveable given the present numbers of
21 people within the State. There are three people to go on a
22 subsistence life-style.

23 MR. ROWAN: I think you are answering the question.

24 MR. COOPER: So maybe we would like to see it. But
25 In order to do it, that would mean that we would have to

1 push half or two-thirds of the people back down south or
2 something in order to leave land enough for that kind of a
3 life-style.

4 MR. ROWAN: I tend to agree with you, and I would
5 circle in that case, number 2, (laughter) And in question
6 number 2, number 3, no.

7 MR. COOPER: What I am saying is maybe we would
8 prefer the first, realism being what it is, it's a pipe
9 dream.

10 MR. ROWAN: I think that's a reasonable conclusion,
11 but I think there are other people that might have opinions
12 on that matter. You know, in 1969, a lot of people had --
13 this was a large part of the discussion was the Alaska
14 life-style thing. So that's why they wanted to start off
15 with this sequence. They wanted it to be part of your
16 discussion, too.

17

18

19

(Afternoon session at 2:00 p.m.)

20

21 MR. VAN DOREN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to
22 have us get started now. It's two o'clock. A couple of
23 mechanical things I would like to share with you at this
24 time. We will be passing out an index of the list of
25 authors of the public papers that came in. We only have a

1 limited amount of the public papers, and if you would like
2 to look them over, like to read them at the end of this
3 period when we take a break or something, if there is any
4 certain papers that interest you, just come up and see us
5 afterward and we will check them out to you. Unfortunately,
6 some of the papers didn't arrive until yesterday or the day
7 before and we weren't able to do a print up of 200 of them.
8 But each group has four or five or six packets available.
9 So these will be coming out to you.

10 What we would like to do this afternoon is, I
11 have been up here in front of you long enough. You have
12 each had a chance to get together and meet with each other.
13 You have heard a little bit about each other. And I would
14 like to relinquish the floor and be able to turn it over to
15 a moderator or a group leader. And I think at this time
16 would be a good time to have you all chose a group leader.
17 This is, again, your conference. This is your group, the
18 Beta group here. And I would entertain any suggestions for
19 the group leader that would take you through the rest of
20 the conference. Yes.

21 MR. DESILIO: I would like to nominate Mrs. Guess.

22 MS. GUESS: I have a problem in that I have
23 obligations to my children for part of tomorrow evening and
24 Saturday morning. I would be willing to take part of the
25 responsibility, but I could not do the whole thing. I do

1 not know what the requirements are.

2 DELEGATE: How about Mr. Chapados.

3 MR. VAN DOREN: I'm sorry, I've got to remind you for
4 Pamela, would you state your name when you are recognized.

5 MR. COOPER: I would like to recommend JoAnn Elson.
6 She is president of the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly
7 and has been able to keep 16 assembly people squared away
8 and sort of working on schedule. So she probably has as
9 much experience at this as anyone around.

10 MR. VAN DOREN: All right, JoAnn's name has been
11 brought up. Are there any other suggestions?

12 Since there is no objections, it seems to be that
13 you are it, JoAnn.

14 Okay, the procedure that we will probably use now
15 is: this is your conference, your discussion, your ideas.
16 I told a few of the members of the committee that I was
17 going to ball you out a little bit. When we had the
18 discussion this morning or when we had the survey sent out
19 this morning, I had a lot of people as they went out the
20 door or went out on the balcony talking about the paper or
21 the objections they had to it. What I wish you would do is
22 talk about it in here. That's what we are here for. We
23 are here to discuss things. Whether it be the survey,
24 whether it be the issues or whether it be any subject at
25 all that you want to see be brought up to this group, we

1 would like to hear about it. And rather than hear about it
2 out in the hallway or on the balcony, we would love to have
3 you bring it up here. And I think right now the session is
4 open, and JoAnn, I would like you to take charge of people
5 wanting to be recognized on that subject or other subjects,
6 then I will let you take care of it. But I am here to help
7 you in any way that you like.

8 MS. ELSON: Mr. Gibson's, did you want to address the
9 conference?

10 MR. GIBSON: Yes, I would. Relative to the
11 questionnaire which we filled out prior to our adjournment
12 for lunch, I don't wish to belabor any of my objections to
13 the questionnaire and there may be those that others have
14 and may not. But I would like to obtain the consensus of
15 this group on a proposal that I make that this not in any
16 way be considered in any part of the expression of this
17 group's feeling or anything.

18 MR. DAVIS: Objection.

19 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis.

20 MR. DAVIS: I object because this is primarily the
21 purpose of the conference to try to find out what the
22 feeling of the group is here. If you are going to object
23 to a questionnaire that's filled out by the legislative
24 members of the Legislature, you are not going to fulfill
25 the purposes of this conference here?

1 MR. GIBSON: May I answer that objection?

2 MR. DAVIS: Surely.

3 MR. GIBSON: I do not object to us using this for our
4 own guidance and as a tool for our own expression. What I
5 do not feel is that a questionnaire of this sort, which is
6 very limited in the options it gives us, which tends to be
7 a polarizing thing, be considered an official expression of
8 this group's views or feelings. We need more time to talk
9 about what we see here rather than making snap decisions on
10 the basis of limited options and having them go forward as
11 a recommendation of our feelings. So I am not suggesting
12 we chuck it out. But I don't want this to have something
13 that people depend on as an expression of our true feelings.

14 THE MODERATOR: Yes, I think you had your hand up.

15 MR. CARLSON: Madam Chairman, I would just like to
16 speak in behalf of the motion, that I think those questions
17 were all aimed in a particular direction. And I don't mind
18 the facilitator's, or whoever, using those during the
19 conference. I would hope though that the press doesn't
20 pick up the conference discussed and voted X number of
21 votes in favor of a certain thing and down the line came
22 something else. I hope that wasn't the intent, and I would
23 sure want to put a minority vote somewhere if that were
24 expressed or impressed in any manner, if that were
25 expressed as any of the thoughts of the group gathered here.

1 I would hate to think that that's where that might be
2 headed. If it is, I would propose it being not released

3 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir.

4 MR. FAIRBANKS: I have a feeling that this might tend
5 to polarize people. One of my main gripes is it seems to
6 answer some of the questions that we have not yet asked.
7 It's too limited. There is a yes and a no where we have
8 maybe a gray area in between. Some of the questions says
9 revenue moneys for bottom fishing or something else. We
10 should talk about the something else, too. I feel it might
11 be a little bit biased and we should not do anything with
12 this officially is one of my feelings.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis.

14 MR. DAVIS: My primary interest is in resources. I
15 wonder if I could go to a resources group rather than
16 direct services here. I am not really interested in it
17 here. I am more interested in resources.

18 THE MODERATOR: I believe the discussion now is the
19 questionnaire. And Mr. Gibson, was that a motion that you
20 entertained or was that just a feeling on your part.

21 MR. GIBSON: I am prepared to make a formal motion if
22 that would help?

23 I move that this questionnaire be used totally
24 for internal purposes of this group and that it not be in
25 any way considered as a position of the group.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay, you have heard the motion before
2 you. Discussion?

3 MR. FISON: Does that include that it not go to the
4 press?

5 THE MODERATOR: His particular motion?

6 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, point of order here, I
7 didn't hear a second.

8 MR. CARLSON: Madam Chairman, I make a second to the
9 motion?

10 THE MODERATOR: The motion has been made and seconded.
11 Would you be able to restate that motion?

12 (The reporter read as requested)

13 THE MODERATOR: Discussion.

14 MS. GUESS: I would like to amend the motion in that
15 it not be used as a part of any publication.

16 THE MODERATOR: Motion, there is a second.

17 MR. FISON: I will second that.

18 THE MODERATOR: The motion has been made by Mrs. Guess
19 that this not be used by any paper.

20 MS. GUESS: For publications purposes.

21 MR. DAVIS: Are we on discussion.

22 THE MODERATOR: Discussion on the amendment.

23 MR. DAVIS: On the motion or the amendment

24 THE MODERATOR: The amendment.

25 MR. DAVIS: I would like to focus the attention on

1 the questionnaire amongst this group here so then we can
2 have some target that we can direct ourselves to rather
3 than just leave it go and then forget it.

4 I.R. CARLSON: That's what the motion does

5 THE MODERATOR: We have the motion on the floor, an
6 amendment motion. Are you ready for the question?

7 DELEGATE: Question.

8 DELEGATE: Yes.

9 THE MODERATOR: All those in favor.

10 (Responding)

11 THE MODERATOR: Opposed?

12 We have a motion carried. As amended, are you
13 ready for the question?

14 VOICE: Question.

15 THE MODERATOR: All those in favor say aye.

16 (Responding)

17 THE MODERATOR: All those opposed?

18 THE MODERATOR: Motion carries.

19 The discussion listed for our group would be
20 direct services?

21 Would you be interested in breaking out possibly
22 the individual categories and then discussing each category
23 in turn? And if so, I would like to have some suggestions
24 as which items you would be interested in addressing? I am
25 told transportation, health, education, government services,

1 any particular ones you would like to address first?

2 Mr. Cooper?

3 MR. COOPER: I would like to suggest, then, that we
4 take the transportation portion of that and discuss it
5 first because certainly transportation would have a direct
6 relationship on a good number of other categories depending
7 on whether there was or was not a good transportation
8 between communities?

9 THE MODERATOR: It has been suggested that we address
10 under direct services transportation. Any other
11 suggestions?

12 MR. FISON: Will we be limited to the selection we
13 make? Do we select one item now and that's the one we talk
14 about from now on?

15 THE MODERATOR: I would really like a list to see what
16 it is you are interested under this topic and possibly we
17 can go on at that time. Mr. Cooper?

18 MR. COOPER: I'm sorry. I was under the impression
19 what we were going to do was discuss a list of items. But
20 we were going to start with one of several and discuss it
21 for awhile and then go on to other items on the list.

22 THE MODERATOR: I believe that we need some type of
23 list of priorities that you would be interested in.
24 Transportation, for one, has been -- Mr. Fison?

25 MR. FISON: Then I would like to suggest education as

1 a priority.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Ms. Davis?

3 MS. DAVIS: I would like to make a motion that we
4 discuss education as our first priority.

5 THE MODERATOR: Motion by Ms. Davis that we discuss
6 education.

7 MS. FLYNN: Second.

8 THE MODERATOR: Been seconded. Discussion.

9 MR. DAVIS: I wonder if we break into groups here
10 where we can discuss education, discuss transportation and
11 separate groups. I don't know how much time we have there
12 is my problem.

13 THE MODERATOR: I believe they have us in here for a
14 purpose, and that's to discuss all the issues together, I
15 have been told.

16 Okay, the motion on the floor is to discuss
17 education first. Mr. Cooper?

18 MR. COOPER: Madam President, the reason I suggested
19 transportation as the first item was because if we can
20 arrive at a consensus of what we would like to see the
21 transportation system to be, it will have an effect on a
22 lot of other items. Certainly education and government
23 services are all important but if there is no direct
24 transportation link between communities, then each
25 community will have to evolve its own education system. If

1 there was a good transportation system between the two,
2 then you could have maybe a different type of educational
3 system by the combination of several. Rather than having
4 several small, you could have one large to give a better,
5 more thorough study into a particular delivery of an
6 education experience.

7 THE MODERATOR: Your name, fir.

8 MR. CHAPADOS: Madam Chairman. I think that we
9 probably have a number of important issues that need to be
10 discussed this afternoon and that to set priorities may be
11 right. But I think we ought to set some time limits so
12 that we can at least cover the field. And that would be my
13 suggestion.

14 THE MODERATOR: Any further discussion on the motion
15 on the floor. The motion is to take a question of
16 education first. Yes?

17 MS. FATE: My question is: Do we have resource
18 people? Do we have the availability of resource people in
19 the house now of all those subjects? And if not, if they
20 are here, then I see no problem.

21 MR. VAN DOREN: Guy Van Doren answering her question.

22 We have available the authors. They are aware
23 that we are going to be discussing direct services. When
24 we need an author, we will send one of the staff to get the
25 person

1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fison?

2 MR. FISON: A question: Can we ask other people
3 other than authors to come to speak to us? I am thinking
4 in education, of the presence of the three universities in
5 town.

6 THE MODERATOR: He says yes.

7 The motion on the floor is on education. Are you
8 ready for the question? All those in favor say yes.

9 (Responding)

10 THE MODERATOR: All those opposed say no.

11 (Responding)

12 MR. GIBSON: Request a hand count.

13 THE MODERATOR: All those in favor please raise your
14 left hand.

15 (Responding)

16 THE MODERATOR: All those opposed would you please
17 raise your right hand?

18 (Responding)

19 The motion passes.

20 We have been then education first. We have
21 transportation second.

22 Are there any other topics that you would like to
23 discuss? I understand that there is also communications,
24 health.

25 MR. DAVIS: I wonder, is the resources going to take

1 a separate item here on the agenda?

2 MR. VAN DOREN: Mr. Davis, resources will be
3 discussed in this committee during tomorrow afternoon.

4 MR. DAVIS: I see.

5 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher, you have a question?

6 MS. FISHER: I was going to suggest that we
7 prioritize the four items next as transportation, health
8 and government services.

9 THE MODERATOR: Is that in the form of a motion?

10 MS. FISHER: Yes.

11 MS. DAVIS: Second.

12 THE MODERATOR: The motion has been seconded by Mrs.
13 Davis. All those in favor say aye.

14 (complying)

15 THE MODERATOR: All those opposed?

16 MS. FLYNN: Sort of. Madam Chairman?

17 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

18 MRS. FLYNN: I don't like the term "government
19 services," because it seems to me that transportation,
20 health and government services fit in there anyway. And I
21 keep hearing communications over on the other side of the
22 table. And I would like to see that replaced, and I would
23 like to see an additional 45-minute time limit on each one.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay, under government services, I am
25 told that we could substitute in communications and -- okay,

1 r. onal government, local government and communications.

2 Is that with your concurrence? Would you give us your name?

3 MS. FLEMING: Madam Chairman, I would like to
4 recommend that we do not ignore the area of law and justice,
5 which has been characterized under government services.

6 THE MODERATOR: Under government services as well.
7 We've got regional, local, law and justice, and
8 communications.

9 MR. DELISIO: Madam Chairman, when do we discuss the
10 philosophy of government, in other words, State government
11 and how it deals with our lives? It seems to me that that
12 would be an appropriate category for a rather extensive
13 discussion under direct services. In other words, it
14 almost seems to supersede everything.

15 MR. VAN DOREN: Just to help out a little bit, again
16 to reiterate, this is your conference. You may discuss
17 anything you want within the motions made any time you want
18 with somebody just making a proposal and starting off from
19 there.

20 THE MODERATOR: I think Mrs. Flynn had a suggestion
21 for a 45-minute time limit on each topic.

22 MS. FLYNN: It was just a suggestion. I didn't make a
23 motion. I can't remember how long we've got this afternoon.

24 MR. COOPER: Until 6 this afternoon.

25 MS. FLYNN: Until we all wear out.

1 THE MODERATOR: We take a break at 4:30, I understand,
2 and then we change rooms and then we meet until six.

3 Mr. Davis?

4 MR. DAVIS: If we are going to limit ourselves, I
5 would suggest that we discuss -- I've got 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6 items under direct services. If we are going to limit 45
7 minutes to each item here, I would suggest that each one of
8 us limit ourselves to two minutes on our testimony.
9 Otherwise we are going to be here all day and all night, if
10 there is no time limitation put on the testimony about any
11 of the direct services.

12 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fairbanks.

13 MR. FAIRBANKS: Madam Chairman, if we limit ourselves
14 to 45 minutes, we are not going to hit all of them.

15 THE MODERATOR: It was just a suggestion.

16 MR. FAIRBANKS: Maybe I could.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: My name is Edard Hoffman.

18 We kept Kuskokwin area, we have the kind of
19 people that represent Kuskokwin here. And we have about
20 three or four important questions to be answered, and we let
21 our -- we have our chairman, Diane Carpenter, to take care
22 of them. Diane.

23 MS. CARPENTER: Yes, we were concerned about the
24 major public facility kind of needs. I don't know. There
25 doesn't seem to be any place to address this, such as a

1 hydro project, a major road system.

2 THE MODERATOR: I have been told that that would come
3 under the resources, and that would probably be tomorrow.

4 MS. CARPENTER: Thank you.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: And the other ones.

6 MS. CARPENTER: And the others are transportation.

7 THE MODERATOR: Transportation would be second after
8 education today.

9 Okay, it's approximately 2:30 now. We have
10 approximately four large topics.

11 Mr. Cooper?

12 MR. COOPER: As a suggestion, possibly a half hour
13 for each of the topics as you outlined, and then when we
14 reconvene after the 4:30 break, we would have that time
15 free to go back and pick up on any of the items that we
16 felt we need more time or any new item that would come up.
17 That's a suggestion, not a motion.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay, a suggestion has been made that
19 we take 30 minutes on each item and then come back after a
20 4:30 break and try to come up with some type of summary,
21 some type of decision on each of these categories. Would
22 that be agreeable to every one?

23 MR. GIBSON: Madam Chairman.

24 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fleming.

25 MS. FLEMING: Would you like to outline the four

1 categories?

2 THE MODERATOR: The four categories, education,
3 transportation, health and government services. Under
4 government services, we have communications, regional and
5 local government, and law and justice.

6 MS. FLEMING: Thank you, very much.

7 THE MODERATOR: I hear no objections. We will go that
8 route.

9 Okay, are you ready for education?

10 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I'd like to ask that we
11 perhaps move that the agenda allow at least an hour towards
12 the conclusion of perhaps -- I haven't seen Saturday's
13 session, but the lead articles on alternative futures to
14 some extent speak to the questions that were expressed by
15 several people of interest in trying to lessen the amount
16 of polarization, the effort of trying to build a stronger
17 sense of community and provided guidelines for the State's
18 decisions over the next five or ten years. And I would
19 certainly hope that our discussions on certain topics not
20 be totally subordinating of the basic concept about how we
21 begin to build back toward the community rather than
22 increasing its divisiveness over arguments about how much
23 money goes to transportation, how much goes into
24 communication, how much goes into public facilities.

25 So I would like to, I guess, rather than move

1 prematurely, I would like to ask at what point in the
2 discussion do we deal with some of the questions that were
3 raised by the alternative futures papers or some of the
4 issues that were raised by several participants about their
5 interest of trying to address the question of diminishing
6 the increasing tendencies of polarization and trying to
7 identify a certain unanimity of goals.

8 THE MODERATOR: I would hope, and I have this problem
9 back home, I would hope by working together on each of
10 these items that we can come to some sort of compromise,
11 because this is, I guess, what it's all going to be about.
12 We have different opinions and different views on each of
13 these subjects. We come from different areas of the state.
14 But I believe if we sit down and discuss these as
15 intelligent people, I feel somewhere along the line we will
16 come out with some type of policy statement, if you would
17 like to call it that, and hopefully it would be intertwined
18 in these different segments.

19 We have education. Are you ready to go on to
20 that subject? And if so, have at it.

21 MR. FISON: Madam Chairman, I have a concern that we
22 are going to consider what was suggested this morning, and
23 that is making higher education free to the public. My
24 concern is that this would mean that private education is
25 going to be in the more difficult position than it is

1 already because of the financial factors. If this is
2 considered, I hope that we will also try to provide some
3 means so that private education in Alaska in higher
4 institutions will not be adversely affected.

5 Now, there are proposals that students receive
6 the funds and then go to college of their choices. I
7 happen to be affiliated with all three of the institutions
8 in Alaska or in Anchorage here, and I am aware that, well,
9 of what the situation is especially regarding private
10 education, the difficulty in financing. And I hope that if
11 we do consider not having tuition or tuition waived for the
12 public education, that we make some provision so that
13 students can have funds to go to private education also, if
14 they wish. That's my concern.

15 MS. FISHER: Madam Chairman?

16 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher.

17 MS. FISHER: Yes, I'd like to elaborate on that a
18 little bit. I feel the idea of allotting people X number of
19 dollars for the education of their choice is very
20 desirable. I think it should be extended to not only the
21 student coming out of high school but the student in later
22 years who feels they need to go back and change education
23 or acquire more education, because very often we find that
24 we don't realize how valuable it is until after a few years
25 have gone by.

1 MR. DELISIO: Madam Chairman, one of the difficulties
2 that we have been encountering to getting assistance to
3 private education in Alaska is our restriction of
4 institutions. Right now the way the Constitution is
5 written, it's simply impossible to provide direct aid to
6 private education, per se. I suppose you could set up a
7 system where you give dollars to children and you say. "We
8 hope you spend these on education and you can spend them
9 wherever you like." And that may pass the test of the
10 State not participating in helping to finance private
11 education.

12 It seems to me that may be one of the first steps
that will have to be taken if there is enough consensus in
the State is to get a change to our constitution that would
15 permit direct assistance.

16 The second observation I would like to make is:
17 If we were to pursue the goal that Mr. Merdes was talking
18 about this morning of trying to do something to enhance the
19 quality of higher education in Alaska and in the process of
20 doing that attract a larger number of Alaskans to go to
21 school in their own institutions, I think we defeat our
22 purposes if we are making moneys available so that the
23 youngsters can go to school wherever they wish. If someone
24 was to give me a tuition free opportunity to go to Harvard
25 or Yale or Cambridge in London or England or something like

1 that, I might very well choose that opportunity.

2 On the other hand, where my free tuition or the
3 equivalent of free tuition was to get me into the
4 University of Alaska or its various subsystems or into
5 Alaska Pacific University, then I think we are working into
6 developing and enhancing Alaskan higher education.

7 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

8 MS.FLYNN: Yes, two points, and perhaps I would have
9 to direct this to Mr. Ekval to some degree, because I
10 recall that you were involved in this at the time of the
11 proposed time of the constitutional amendment previously.

12 Mr. Delisio has hit a serious problem here. We
13 do have a prohibition against giving direct aid to private
14 schools, which I might add I support. However, there is a
15 system in Oregon whereby private schools are paid by the
16 State government an amount of money for in-state students.
17 They must be Oregon residents, who are going to the private
18 institutions and thereby not going to the State
19 institutions, an amount which the State subsidizes each
20 student over and above the tuition rate that that
21 individual pays. And it has had a number of court
22 challenges there, and it has withstood every one of them.

23 I wonder if we might consider or whether that was
24 investigated as to whether that could be a possibility that
25 we could use at this time. And I would like to direct that

1 as a question, then I would like to come back and make a
2 comment with regard to Mr. Merdes's suggestion this morning.

3 THE MODERATOR: Your question was directed to Mr.
4 Delisio.

5 MS.FLYNN: To Mr. Ekval.

6 MR. EKVAL: As I recall, the Attorney General in 1975,
7 '76 ruled that the tuition grant system, the tuition
8 equalization grant system, which is something similar to
9 what is happening in Oregon, was unconstitutional and that
10 it did violate the constitution. And an attempt was made
11 to -- there was a referendum initiative on the ballot in
12 1976 to amend the constitution to continue the State
13 program or some program similar to that. And it was
14 defeated by a vote of about 2 to 1. Mr. McGinnis, who is
15 here, is quite closely involved in that. You may have some
16 more.

17 MR. MCGINNIS: I do, Madam Chairman, if I may. I am
18 assigned to another group, but I will speak briefly to this.
19 I think the constitutional issue is a very vital issue. I
20 think since the Supreme Court has ruled, the State Supreme
21 Court has ruled on that, which is absolutely contrary to
22 the U S decision on the same matter, but a State can do it
23 if they want to. That's the way it stands.

24 I feel there can be some good because of
25 contributions and some disadvantages to Alaska under our

35
1 present plan. I believe that the way the ballot was worded
2 was misleading in and of itself and never should have been
3 allowed to stand because it pled the case in the question
4 that inasmuch as this is unconstitutional, you do thus and
5 so. Whereas, if it had said, "This is the present language,
6 would you consent to this language, yes or no?" it would
7 have been somehow somewhat in a different framework.

8 But the great inequity as I see it at the present
9 time and the great disaster for Alaska is this, that the
10 Court really said that aid to a student is unconstitutional.
11 Because they said aid to the student is the same as aid to
12 the institution, therefore unconstitutional.

13 Now, the difficulty that is present with our
14 WICHE program,. If someone wanted to bring a case with
15 regard to the WICHE program where we do pay on behalf of
16 the student, then there would be a war in the State,
17 because they would say there in the State Compact for
18 Educational Purposes we've got to do that. That is
19 precisely the question and no one has raised it.

20 In addition to that, the multi-million dollars
21 program for students going outside the State of Alaska to
22 any state of their choice, is regardless of the loan
23 concept. It becomes a concept when portions of that loan
24 are given and that becomes a gift to the student in the
25 same way and the interest subsidy which the State puts in.

1 The difference between the going rate of interest and the
2 favorable rate is a gift to the student. And one of these
3 days somebody is going to raise that question as to why is
4 it that we subsidize students out of state to any school of
5 choice public or private, and yet we will not allow that in
6 the State of Alaska. It does contribute to the brain drain;
7 it does drain off some of our best leadership. And it does
8 promote for public and private higher education some
9 problem in policies.

10 I think that the basic plan in equity is not
11 desirable. I believe the only way it could be fashioned
12 though would be another go and a better educational program
13 in informing the public as to what the issues are because
14 as long as that present issue stands on the present
15 constitutional issue, we will probably never move from
16 where we are now, which is grossly inadequate and grossly
17 inequitable and should not be allowed to stand.

18 MS. FISHER: Madam President, I would envision if we
19 just allowed subsidized education to the university system,
20 we would be building a real monster. I think we need the
21 contact of the other educational institutions and I am not
22 thinking just of places like APU. I am thinking of in the
23 not too distant future may be something in the cultural
24 light, amuse I can school, the arts, any number of things
25 like that. And I certainly would like to see students

1 being helped to go to institutions like that.

2 MR. MCGINNIS: May I comment briefly? I was president
3 of the constitutional convention when this was discussed,
4 and I believe that the lawyers and even the Supreme Court
5 missed the major issue, but who am I to judge that? Every
6 discussion surrounding that had to do and the minutes of
7 the convention indicate that that had to do with children.
8 At no time was that ever designed to control higher
9 educational programs in the State of Alaska. It had to do
10 with elementary and secondary, the issue being that they
11 are forced to go to school by law. Every explanation
12 speaks to the children of the State and is never intended
13 for adults and never intended for higher education in any
14 event.

15 MS. FLEMING: What I hear you saying, Fred, is that
16 one of the things that we should perhaps recommend is a
17 challenge to that Attorney General's opinion.

18 MR. MCGINNIS: It is more than that now. The Supreme
19 Court has agreed.

20 MS. FLYNN: The development of new legislation which
21 would --

22 MR. DELISIO: New initiative.

23 MS. FLYNN: Or new legislation that is geared
24 specifically to higher education with the idea in mind that
25 you would be challenged and that you would have the minutes

1 of the U S Constitutional question, the U S Supreme Court's
2 tremendous amount of litigation in this area throughout the
3 country, and which for the most part higher education has
4 been left totally alone.

5 THE MODERATOR: Are you looking at something to be
6 added to a long list that should be added to a
7 Constitutional convention?

8 MS.FLYNN: Absolutely not, chiefly because I don't
9 happen to support a Constitutional convention. No, under
10 no circumstances. I am looking strictly as a piece of
11 legislation.

12 THE MODERATOR: Then go into court.

13 MS.FLYNN: Realizing that somebody is going to go to
14 court and challenge it.

15 Could I come back very quickly to another top
16 that I think was mentioned with regard to the improvement
17 of higher education right here in the State. I very
18 strongly support the improvement in the quality of
19 education. We've gone a great distance in this State
20 toward quantity and spreading out the available resources
21 throughout the State, and I most heartily approve of that.
22 But we have some very major areas in which we have begun to
23 develop things, but we have not put enough resources into
24 them, for example, developing the chairs in the various
25 departments, improving our library system very, very

1 significantly. It's great libraries and great teachers
2 that make great universities, that much I agree with. But
3 Mr. Merdes' suggestion that that somehow ought to be the
4 catch all that keeps all of our kids here I think is
5 absolutely the wrong notion to take. What you do is once
6 you have got the good system, you attract people -- I know
7 some of you don't want people from outside -- but you
8 attract very good minds from Outside to come to our schools.
9 The thought that we don't want to let any of our poor
10 children or adults head off to other schools is one of the
11 most parochial backward notions I have heard.

12 Why should we keep all of us here and not seeing
13 what goes on in the rest of the world? I think that's a
14 terrible trend, rather than attract people here and spread
15 what we've got to other places, too.

16 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, I think when I heard Mr.
17 Merdes's speech over this morning, he broke the educational
18 part into three parts, and one of them was education, the
19 other was cultural. And the other was --

20 MR. FISON: Spiritual.

21 MR. DAVIS: -- spiritual. If we talk about education,
22 we should look at it from that aspect. Education as I see
23 it today is all the western culture. We have learned all
24 the basic things about the western culture, but nothing
25 about our own heritage. I know nothing about my own

1 heritage because the system doesn't tell me about it. I
2 think that is discrimination as far as education is
3 concerned. If we don't recognize that now, our education
4 is going to be the same today and forever. It's going to
5 be pointed one way and denied any of my own heritage.

6 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

7 MR. GIBSON: I have a number of things I would like
8 to say specifically to Mr. Davis. I would heartily support
9 as a rural Alaskan resident as a general Alaskan resident
10 anything we can do to enrich our total State's life with
11 the inclusion of the beautiful heritage that we are
12 ignoring. Whether that be formalized in an educational
13 process only, I don't think that's all of it. But that
14 certainly needs to be a part of it.

15 What I see here is that there seems to be a
16 consensus that there is more support needed for post-
17 secondary education for our own people within our own State,
18 both public and private. And we already have a program
19 going where people may leave and be subsidized; is that not
20 correct.

21 MR. MCGINNIS: Right, exactly.

22 MR. GIBSON: But we don't have anything here. And we
23 hear Constitutional questions. I think we maybe should
24 approach a broad statement here that every Alaskan citizen
25 has a basic right to so much post-secondary education which

1 may be supported by appropriate subsidies for a basic post-
2 secondary education, whether that subsidy is spent within
3 the State or without the problem of providing the quality.

4 THE MODERATOR: Could you stop right there? Can you
5 go back to his statement where he starts his statement by
6 saying, "The Alaskan citizen has a basic right to
7 education"?

8 (The reporter read as requested)

9 THE MODERATOR: That statement that you made there
10 could very well be a statement that this group would want
11 to consider.

12 MR. GIBSON: I would love to have it debated.

13 THE MODERATOR: As a policy. And I have to have it in
14 writing because I can't read my writing.

15 MR. MCGINNIS: Mr. McGinnis, I would like to clarify
16 one thing, because one matter Mr. Gibson made could be
17 misunderstood. The subsidy through loans is available to
18 students in the State and out of the State. A
19 disproportionate number seem to be going out of State, a
20 large number. And they can go to both public and private;
21 that is the difficulty. Whereas the loan proposed is
22 available both in the State and out of the State. The
23 drain of the WICHE students is by virtue of the fact that
24 they can go to public and private students out of the State,
25 but those programs are not available within the State. So

1 I thought that verification odd to be made.

2 MS. FATE: Madam Chairman, I disagree wholeheartedly
3 against speaking against our students leaving the State. I
4 think this is part of the problem being born and raised
5 here. Maybe we should have gone out of State earlier in
6 life when there was no type of education in State, I mean
7 for quality, and maybe our philosophy would be to be
8 competing in this modern society. So, therefore, we have a
9 right, and this includes the native and rural students, to
10 leave our State for any type of education, because we will
11 return. We are not going to go on a vacation or retire in
12 Hawaii or Florida. We will retire here. But I totally
13 disagree with anybody restricting a student or from any
14 type of higher education out of State

15 THE MODERATOR: I believe just this little section
16 that we've brought out is simply saying that the Alaskan --
17 I don't care whether they are polkadot, blue, yellow.

18 MS. FATE: I don't either.

19 THE MODERATOR: That's what we are saying here in
20 effect, my interpretation that each Alaskan citizen has a
21 basic right, a basic right to post-secondary education
22 which may be supported by a subsidy whether they stay here
23 or whether they leave. And I think this is -- you would
24 probably agree with that, that portion? Yes, sir.

25 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, I really have a problem

1 with education. We want to talk about our secondary post
2 education. We are only talking about one university in the
3 State area. I have kids of my own. And I have sent out
4 two of them already, the two of them, to go out to a
5 spiritual college where they can understand the basic
6 principle of why America was born. And you can't get that
7 from the University of Alaska. I don't care what you say.
8 But the reason I sent them down there is I want them to get
9 ahold on what the first, our constitution says to us, the
10 freedom of worship. And if they understand that, you
11 cannot get it from the University of Alaska. Our
12 university here just only teaches the basic education. You
13 call it post-secondary; that's fine. But it's still the
14 western culture. If you don't break your services out, if
15 the three services, into education we are talking about, we
16 are not going to come to nothing. We have to address
17 ourselves to that, to the fact that we have to break it
18 down to three categories.

19 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper?

20 MR. COOPER: I believe that Dr. McGinnis pointed out
21 the problem or the solution, and that is that we don't
22 specify where we have to go but that we make the necessary
23 adjustments in the education system to where we attract the
24 students -- I'm sorry, it was Mrs. Flynn that made the
25 statement. But we attract the students here. They want to

1 stay here because it's the best education they can get,
2 rather than trying to artificially force students to attend,
3 make the school good enough to where they are able to
4 select who they are going to allow in because of the over-
5 abundance of applications. And that will only come about
6 if the education being delivered by that particular campus
7 is good. And then all of the rest of our discussion can be
8 very academic. We are just going through an exercise in
9 debate.

10 THE MODERATOR: Did you have a question, Mr. Ekval?

11 MR. EKVAL: I wanted to respond about the basic right.
12 And I think I have trouble with the word right. We've
13 already got presumably life, liberty, and the pursuit of
14 happiness, and we have trouble defining those and deciding
15 what is happy for one person is breaking another. And
16 where do we stop for rights, right to health care? And
17 what does that mean in terms of social programs. My only
18 concern is I agree in thrust with what you are saying, but
19 my only question is: What does that mean in terms of
20 social policy? What does that mean in terms of
21 appropriations and allocations of money and so forth. I
22 would be really hesitant to advocate that people have a
23 basic right to post-secondary education?

24 MR. GIBSON: I would love to respond to that.

25 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson?

1 MR. GIBSON: I think if you look in context of what I
2 said, they have a basic right to, as yet, an unspecified
3 amount of post-secondary education as the responsibility of
4 the State which may take the form of subsidy to be spent
5 either within or without the State. Now, this is almost as
6 radical as a proposition a few years back that kids had a
7 right to a primary education as the responsibility of the
8 State.

9 The quality and the content of such education are
10 separate here. But this gives people as a State policy
11 options that they may exercise at their discretion, but
12 that the State is on record as supporting a subsidy as
13 appropriate -- and I am not going to say what that should
14 be -- to obtain that. This might take the form of an
15 expanded WICHE program. It might take the form of a basic
16 educational grant for students who do enroll, not just by
17 bucks and say, go enroll, but bona fide enrolled students.
18 I want it to be a subject of debate, but I want it to be
19 clear that I am specific that the State recognizes a
20 financial commitment as well as glorified rhetoric.

21 MR. FISON: Mr. Chairman, I think there are two
22 issues. One deals with the State's recognizing the
23 responsibility perhaps for the financing the higher
24 education. The other is providing that staple subsidy so
25 that it can be used for private education.

1 MR. GIBSON: Exactly. But you are not subsidizing,
2 the way I see it in my statement, private, parochial, or
3 public secular. What I am saying is: We focus on the
4 individual's right and let him make, if he will, the
5 subsidy by the choice of how he expends this. The State
6 has its responsibility already by its post secondary system
7 to provide it. I say we have to go a little bit different
8 and give the student the subsidy to get it because it isn't
9 free yet.

10 THE MODERATOR: Further discussion on that one? It
11 isn't in the form of a motion. It's just a statement.

12 MR. GORSUCH: Lee Gorsuch

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gorsuch.

14 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I would like to make a
15 point that I think throughout the discussion, my fear is
16 that Alaska's wealth begins to corrupt our ability to do
17 things essentially on our own. And more specifically, I am
18 somewhat concerned about making so many services free,
19 because my feeling is once they become free, they become
20 partially wasted, inefficient, and in some cases even
21 squandered.

22 I think somehow trying to encourage individuals
23 in our society to work for, to invest something of their
24 own for their own human development is a very desirable
25 characteristic of the public system. I think when we talk

1 about trying to enhance people's capacities to take care of
2 themselves to pursue their own ambitions, we are talking
3 about something that doesn't hand them all rights without
4 having something invested of their own in terms of the
5 scholastic application, applying their intellect, or to
6 even some extent for those who can afford it, making a
7 financial contribution to their own development. So I
8 would hope when we consider issues like providing
9 educational services, I think Alaska is currently quite
10 progressive.

11 The student already is provided with very
12 substantial subsistence to student education. The
13 University of Alaska has probably the lowest state tuition
14 program in the country, and I would have just some concern
15 about trying to make rights associated with a total free
16 cost for pursuing whatever it is you want to pursue because
17 I don't think that you place the kind of value on something
18 that you do where you invest on your own rather than an
19 occasional attending of the class when no personal investment
20 is made. I think we should make our own individuals pursue
21 rather than society trying to make everything free. I
22 think this will apply to a whole bunch of issues come up.

23 But I think the danger of the State inheriting
24 wealth, we will become essentially unproductive. And we
25 will spoil ourselves, and I think we will ruin ourselves

1 for the future. Rather than facing the real word. You
2 have to compete with people outside, and you have to be
3 able to essentially compete in that market. I think we are
4 going to risk here if we try to provide everything free
5 instead of providing incentives. We may wind up providing
6 an inferior education and not a better education, simply
7 because it's free.

8 THE MODERATOR: This statement that we read just says
9 that the Alaska citizen or every Alaska citizen has the
10 basic right. I am not going for the freebies either. I
11 don't see -- and you can correct me if I am wrong -- but I
12 don't see anything that says freebies in the basic right.
13 I hope it doesn't say that.

14 MR. GORSUCH: It says those rights or guarantees,
15 irrespective of whatever, you have this guarantee that you
16 are going to get it. What I am saying I am not sure I am
17 willing to go to the point that you are guaranteed this if,
18 in fact, you don't study, if, in fact, you don't make a
19 commitment of your own, I think there has got to be quid
20 pro quo on the individual's part to really pursue the
21 purposes of an education.

22 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Guess.

23 MS. GUESS: I agree with a lot of things that have
24 been said here and have some similar concerns, but I wonder
25 if we are talking about priorities and where we are

1 spending our educational dollar if, in fact, there is a
2 certain magic amount.

3 And I guess my goal for youngsters that are
4 educated in Alaska, whether they are born here, whether
5 they come here, is I think one of the most important things
6 is the very beginnings of education so they can want to get
7 to that post-secondary, so they can have motivation.
8 Frankly, if I were spending State dollars, I would say "Don't
9 you put 32 children in a first grade and expect 32 to learn
10 how to read," because they are not going to do it. Ten of
11 them won't even know what's going on. And two years from
12 now, they will have experienced failure every day in a
13 classroom and you are not going to have a productive
14 citizen who is going to have a desire for more education.

15 My priority: I agree with Lee on things being
16 free. I think if children are motivated to learn, and this
17 is in terms of the quality of life and all that we have to
18 offer, you have to give them the tools which means that I
19 would place my priority at the beginning of this system. If
20 the supports aren't in the homes and we know it's not in
21 many of the homes, and some of us are concerned that some
22 of these things are not addressed, the school doesn't do as
23 good of a job, but it can help.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay, we've gone through 35 minutes
25 and we haven't come up with any type of policy statement on

1 anything. Any suggestions?

2 MR. CHAPADOS: I think that we can probably come to
3 some conclusions if we have a few more minutes, and I would
4 move that we extend the discussion for another 15 minutes?

5 THE MODERATOR: No problem.

6 MR. EKVAL: Second.

7 THE MODERATOR: I don't believe we have a limit yet.
8 Did we vote on a limit? No, so please feel free to go on
9 and debate. I just wanted to warn you that we have gone on
10 35 minutes.

11 MR. CHAPADOS: I would like to express my concurrence
12 on what Mr. Gorsuch said. I think he has been speaking to
13 the subjects that we have been discussion. I think we have
14 deviated from that, although the point is well taken. As
15 far as a follow up, I think we should be doing something
16 and I think we should recommend to the legislature that we
17 want and urge that there be upgrading in the higher
18 education that we have in the State of Alaska, that we
19 could attract Alaskan students to stay here and get their
20 education if the quality is there. I am not trying to be
21 critical of what we have today, but I think we can be a lot
22 better than we are.

23 MS. CROFT: It seems to me we need some sort of
24 specific ways to bring this out. I don't know whether
25 Carolyn Guess was willing or was wanting to promote that

1 you take part of the Public School Foundation Act and make
2 it broader so that it speaks for more of the needs that
3 Anchorage and the Anchorage School District has so that we
4 fund more of the basic, what are not necessarily called
5 basic needs. In my own idea when you are talking about the
6 right to an education beyond high school, you are talking
7 about perhaps tuition free community colleges. I really
8 would like to hear some specific, rather than some general,
9 some specific proposals put on the floor along that line.
10 And I would like to put out the idea of a free, or not free,
11 token tuition community college system where there is, as
12 Lee said, still a very low tuition, but nevertheless a
13 tuition, that we consider making the community college
14 system, ten, 15 bucks, a token, and not as many as
15 substantial as other.

16 THE MODERATOR: Wait a minute. Let me guess. Don't
17 tell me. Mrs. Carpenter.

18 MS. CARPENTER: Along those lines, I would like
19 to make a motion that the residents of Alaska be provided
20 with financial access to post-secondary education. I
21 believe that is a way that it can be stated.

22 THE MODERATOR: Can you read that back?

23 (The reporter read as requested)

24 THE MODERATOR: That motion, I need a second?

25 MR. HOFFMAN: She's not finished

1 THE MODERATOR: You are not finished, okay.

2 MS. CARPENTER: That the State support both public and
3 private post-secondary institutions to enable them to
4 achieve excellence.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay, the rest of that motion is that
6 the State support both public and private post-secondary
7 institutions to enable them to achieve excellence, right?
8 Is there more to the motion? Is there a second.

9 MR. DAVIS: Second.

10 THE MODERATOR: Okay, the motion reads that residents
11 of Alaska be provided financial access to post-secondary
12 education and that the State support both public and
13 private first and secondary institutions to enable them to
14 achieve excellence.

15 I know your name, Mrs. Fleming.

16 MS. FLEMING: Miss Fleming or Ms. Would you define
17 what you meant by about financial access? There seems to
18 be some concern with "freebies." I would like to address
19 that perhaps to something along to line to what Mr. Merdes
20 suggested, continued finances would be available to kind of
21 give an incentive to show up at class, what kind of
22 financial access are we having?

23 MS. CARPENTER: May I speak to that?

24 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter.

25 MS. CARPENTER: My point there was no one should be

1 denied post-secondary education because of lack of funds as
2 a policy that people should be able to have education. And
3 then, within that guide line provisions could be made for
4 payment of a certain amount for a satisfactory completion
5 of course work for attendance, et cetera. I think that's
6 going into more detail than we need for policies.

7 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Guess.

8 MS. GUESS: I have a question. Are we assuming that
9 the financial access is not there now with the student loan
10 program. Are you assuming it's in there?

11 MS. CARPENTER: Yes.

12 MS. GUESS: I would like just to argue that it is
13 there, that the loan program, it may not be funded properly,
14 and the ceiling may need to be raised, but are we talking
15 about loans. To me financial access is the loan program.
16 Am I missing something?

17 MR. MCGINNIS: Yes, fundamentally.

18 MS. GUESS: Okay.

19 MR. MCGINNIS: Part of the financial under rooting of
20 the education is the taxpayer's money in the treasury which
21 has nothing to do with loans to the students, but which is
22 massive subsidies by virtue of the multi-millions, is now
23 poured into the university program. That is now beyond the
24 loan program, because even with the loan or without it, the
25 student does not begin to pay the cost of higher education.

1 I would agree with you that most people can,
2 indeed, find a way through this public support and through
3 the loan program to get by somewhere in higher education.
4 But I suspect that there are a great number of people who
5 simply cannot afford to, especially young women who do not
6 want at times to burden even themselves with tens of
7 thousands of dollars in loans not knowing how they are
8 going to pay it back or how their husband's will be able to
9 pay it back in marriage.

10 MR. DELISIO: Madam Chairman, this concerns me, and I
11 think this is a concern that we had in the Brookings
12 seminar, which was alleviated by the fact that we had four
13 weekends spread over four months of time to talk about
14 these various subjects, so we had more time in struggling
15 to find another consensus, that we have a trend here.

16 The trend is to get from the specific to the
17 general until it's almost so general that it's meaningless.
18 It may be that we need no statement at all, just the
19 opportunity to expose and exchange our views here.

20 My thinking is varied and altered as I have
21 listened to the way people have talked, that may be a
22 better result than coming out with a meaningless statement.
23 Certainly we should have a concept of whether we believe
24 that the State should be permitted and I think it would
25 necessary State a Constitutional amendment -- whether the

1 State should be permitted to financially assist private
2 education. You know, that would be a concrete specific
3 statement. If we were to talk about whether or not to make
4 free tuition in our public universities in Alaska or
5 something, that might be a specific thing that doesn't
6 exist now. But I think there is a real danger in passing
7 resolutions that are so broad that they just simply don't
8 mean anything.

9 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Fate.

10 MS. FATE: Madam Chairman, I can't vote on any issue
11 that's brought up now because I don't know if the State --
12 you are talking about the State to fund the building, the
13 staff, the faculty, the purpose of the private institution.
14 I am totally against funding a private institution if the
15 purpose is for a religious group who comes in with a
16 certain purpose and does not want to be dictated to, and
17 they have their own purposes, so therefore do their own
18 thing. How far are we going? If it's for building, ground
19 management, teachers, for tuitions. That's a different
20 story. I don't see where we are at now.

21 THE MODERATOR: Further discussion?

22 Several good points have been raised, we have
23 come from a very vague statement --

24 MR. COOPER: -- to a very vague statement.

25 THE MODERATOR: To a very vague motion. We have had a

1 statement. We didn't have a motion on that statement. It
2 was vague. Now you have a motion which is still a little
3 (pause) now we need something concrete. Harold Galliett.

4 MR. GALLIETT: I would like to ask a question that
5 clears some of the issues for myself, please, and that is:
6 What is precisely wrong with the loan program?

7 MR. MCGINNIS: Madam Chairman, I don't know whether or
8 not the loan program is sufficient to meet the needs. One
9 point I made earlier was that I believe the loan program
10 creates the inequity between students in State and out of
11 State in that the loan program, so-called loan program, is
12 a combination of the loan in the grant because with the
13 creation of certain conditions, it's a gift; it is for
14 giving. That is a grant to the State regardless of what
15 it's called. The policy of the State of Alaska now is that
16 a student can go to any private college in America with
17 those grant loan combination funds, but in the State they
18 cannot do so, see. And that's the inequity. Now, whether
19 or not the loan amount is enough to pay the tuition, maybe
20 that could be debated.

21 MS. COOKE: We talked about the loan program, perhaps
22 increasing the amount available making a recommendation
23 more be made available in this present program. We talked
24 about a tuition grant program which would necessitate
25 legislation for a Constitutional amendment or else

1 legislature putting that back on the ballot in a different
2 form. We have talked about -- I have talked about tuition
3 free community college or 14 years of free education in
4 Alaska, wherever you choose to go. I don't know exactly
5 how you want to word that.

6 And the other thing that was mentioned in the
7 papers that we got was the nontraditional correspondence
8 type or nonresident type of university which I assume we
9 could also talk about financial support for someone who
10 wants to take those kind of courses from the bush. We
11 might not have the money to do it or pay for it. I don't
12 know whether there are any others, but it seems to me we
13 could see whether we support each one of those and probably
14 what we would like to do with them, probably more other
15 than those four.

16 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I think under the
17 circumstances that we are confronting, it's unlikely that
18 we would ever get the kind of information required to make
19 a specific recommendation on the amount for the student
20 loan program. I mean I haven't seen the actual amounts
21 that are currently available. That is getting fairly
22 technical. What I would suggest is rather than trying to
23 entertain specific recommendations for legislative action,
24 that the group might better expand its limited time in
25 coming up with statements of general purpose that regard

1 the educational system and that we try to address those.

2 As an example, implicit in the motion is what I
3 would regard as a general concern about the monopoly the
4 University of Alaska has over higher education in Alaska
5 and that the economic realities of Alaska are such that a
6 private, post-secondary institution, simply can't afford to
7 compete with the University of Alaska. A lot of the
8 students that go to the University of Alaska go there
9 because they can't afford to go outside of Alaska. They
10 are essentially captured by the existing system, and that
11 system is monopolized by the State University.

12 I would suggest, rather than trying to come up
13 with a specific recommendation, if the group felt that the
14 situation was intolerable, this we would come on record,
15 then, trying to suggest that alternative ways are explored
16 to come up with essentially more competition between the
17 post-secondary institutions into Alaska and not try to get
18 so specific about a specific recommendation for legislative
19 action.

20 You know, we all know that the issue in part of
21 Southeastern, Alaska Methodist and now Alaska Pacific
22 University. Some of those people ought to come forward and
23 make a suggestion rather than implicitly implying about one
24 or two institutions in the State. May be some would
25 transfer and have a different denominational character if,

1 in fact, that were a wish of a particular group.

2 I think we ought to try to stay at a generalized
3 level rather than trying to get so specific. And we are
4 never going to get the kind of information I think a group
5 would need to raising the loan program, lowering the loan
6 program, modifying the student foundation program, whatever.
7 Those are actions that the legislative committee spends a
8 great deal of time on. I think our concern is to provide
9 concerns and directions and let our officials iron out what
10 is constitutionally permissible, what is legally possible,
11 what is financially viable, what have you.

12 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper.

13 MR. COOPER: It would seem to me that in all of the
14 conversation we have had on this particular subject that
15 Mr. Gorsuch and Mrs. Guess have pretty well summed up my
16 particular feeling anyway, and that is that first off, we
17 want quality higher education within the State regardless
18 of who provides this education; and second off, that the
19 loan program that is presently in effect, if, in fact, the
20 dollar limits on it aren't enough, maybe we should request
21 that those dollar limits be re-examined, but that that
22 would be just about the extent of it. We make the loans
23 available if the students have the interest and the
24 abilities to proceed but that we don't get off into "You
25 can take it whether you really want it or not," because

1 then we end up with problems in the colleges the same as we
2 have in high schools today. Probably a good share of the
3 high school problem is that we are forcing students in high
4 school that probably shouldn't be there, but are because of
5 the way society is dictating today.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay, may I remind you that you do
7 have a motion on the floor. And that motion by Mrs.
8 Carpenter was that the residents of Alaska be provided with
9 financial access to post-secondary education and that the
10 State support both public and private post-secondary
11 institutions to enable them to achieve excellence. Now,
12 are you ready to vote on that motion? Is there any more
13 discussion on that particular motion?

14 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I move to you divide
15 the motion in two.

16 MR. CHAPADOS: Second the motion.

17 THE MODERATOR: The motion has been made.

18 MR. DESILIO: Just ask if there is any objection.

19 THE MODERATOR: Are there any objections to dividing
20 the motion? Hearing no objections, we will have the first
21 vote as to the residents of Alaska be provided with
22 financial access to post-secondary education. Are you
23 ready for that question? Question.

24 All those in favor say aye.

25 (Complying)

1 THE MODERATOR: All those opposed?

2 The motion is passed.

3 The next is: the State supports both public
4 and private post-secondary institutions to enable them to
5 achieve excellence. All those in favor aye.

6 (Complying)

7 All those opposed nay.

8 (Complying)

9 All those in favor raise your right hand.

10 (complying)

11 Mr. Galliett and Mr. McGinnis cannot vote. Let's
12 try one more time. All those in favor raise your right
13 hand.

14 (complying)

15 All those opposed, same sign?

16 (complying)

17 Motion fails. We have one motion that passed and
18 that's on post-secondary education.

19 MR. DELISIO: Would the chair note the number of
20 people that sustained? I think it's probably significant
21 because I think the people probably didn't vote in this
22 room.

23 MS. FISHER: I abstained, because I had difficulty
24 with the word "private" as to what would constitute a
25 so-called private institution, whether it would be strictly

1 religious or whether it might be as I mentioned before,
2 somebody setting up something like a music school,
3 something in the cultural line or something in the
4 vocational line which we desperately need that would be, in
5 fact, a private school, you know. It gets to be rather
6 confusing.

7 THE MODERATOR: We are still on education. If we
8 could have those that would like to speak on the subject,
9 their basic, basic idea, very, very short, very, very brief,
10 we would go ahead and take that final. You've all had a
11 chance to talk to every one else. Have that final say and
12 see if we couldn't have staff make the composition, a list
13 of some sort, of all the ideas, and we could probably
14 tackle that first thing tomorrow morning and in 30 minutes
15 possibly go on to transportation.

16 Could I have your concurrence on that issue,
17 please? Are there any objections?

18 MR. FISON: You say staff would take this and do
19 something with it?

20 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

21 MR. FISON: I wonder why not, accomplishing the same
22 thing, but appoint some people that are members of the
23 group to do it rather than staff.

24 THE MODERATOR: That would be fine. That would be
25 fine. Would you leave that up to me to appoint? Okay,

1 let's go around with one last round the table. On
2 education, very, very, very brief. Mrs. Flynn.

3 MS.FLYNN: At the behest of a few other people of the
4 table, I would like consensus on this statement: The State
5 of Alaska has a continuing and increasing financial
6 responsibility for elementary and secondary education.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay, once again, rather than vote on
8 anything thing.

9 MS.FLYNN: I didn't say vote.

10 THE MODERATOR: Would you just go ahead and have your
11 spiel and we could go ahead and maybe combine everything
12 into a policy statement for tomorrow.

13 Would you like to repeat that?

14 MS. FLYNN: The State of Alaska has a continuing and
15 increasing financial responsibility for elementary and
16 secondary education

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, next. Mr. Gibson.

18 MR. GIBSON: I should like to propose that the health
19 of both the University of Alaska and the Alaska community
20 college system will best be served and will best serve the
21 interest of the State if autonomy is granted to the
22 community college system

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Ms. Fate.

24 MS. FATE: I would like to see an improvement of the
25 standard of education from preschool, primary, secondary,

1 post-secondary, the handicapped or gifted programs within
2 the State of Alaska, and also the teacher certification be
3 on our priority.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Ekval.

5 MR. EKVAL: Ekval, yes. I would like to state that
6 in education as in just about every endeavor -- what was my
7 thought?

8 MR. GIBSON: I move we table it.

9 (Laughter)

10 MR. EKVAL: Excellence in education as in anything
11 else thrives on competition and that the State should
12 consider means through which alternatives to the present
13 University of Alaska community college system can be
14 fostered or enhanced with a view to making them competitive
15 with the university system.

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Miss Freeman.

17 MS. FLEMING: Fleming. I would like to suggest that
18 perhaps telecommunications would be a very useful tool for
19 increasing the quality of service to any people involved in
20 any educational program in Alaska.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

22 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, I would like to make a
23 comment here: I think the motion that we passed here is to
24 continue the educational service in the State of Alaska as
25 it is now today. We are not developing any new policy.

1 And I really feel concerned about that, because we are
2 trying to develop policy for education in the State of
3 Alaska. What we have done here is we have adopted the same
4 old principals that we have always had in the past years.
5 And I don't think we should do that. We have already done
6 that. And I think we should try to develop new policies,
7 and that being to go ahead and try to get our kids educated
8 in the private institutions if they want it as long as the
9 parents agree to it.

10 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter, did you have a
11 question?

12 MS. CARPENTER: No.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fison.

14 MR. FISON: Fison. That the student loan fund
15 program apply equally to institutions within Alaska,
16 private institutions, as it does to institutions outside of
17 Alaska.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Miss Croft.

19 MS. CROFT: That we try to come up with some specific
20 programs for backing up our support for education, for this,
21 whether it's increased scholarship loan or tuition grant;
22 that we put some teeth in our statement that we support
23 education beyond a secondary level.

24 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter.

25 MS. CARPENTER: I propose that adequate resources be

1 provided to enable adults who have been unable to obtain a
2 basic education the opportunity for adult basic education
3 services; and second, that a nontraditional rural college --
4 a nontraditional statewide college be established to enable
5 rural students to obtain a four-year degree.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

7 MS. DAVIS: I'd like to say that I'd like to see some
8 special consideration given to minorities of the State of
9 Alaska in the area of finance so that money can be provided
10 to bring those students that are not functioning up to
11 grade level up to grade level. I know that's a great
12 problem here in Anchorage. Perhaps it's not in surrounding
13 areas, but something has to be done. We have students
14 coming out of school that can't even read. We know where
15 very well that there is a severe problem in the Anchorage
16 area especially with black and native students and I want
17 something to be considered in that area.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Anyone else?

19 MS. GUESS: I'd like to add to Mrs. Davis's statement.
20 I would like to see the re-examination of the existing
21 State funding formula for the delivery of educational
22 services, K through sixth grade.

23 MS. FLEMING: Carolyn, a question, why only K through
24 six.

25 MS. GUESS: I am prioritizing, Heather.

1 THE MODERATOR: Is there anyone else? Ms. Fate.

2 MS. FATE: Excuse me, the evaluation of teacher
3 system be established in the State, and also, if we could,
4 look into an exchange program where rural and urban
5 students can short term or whatever if there is a
6 feasibility of exchange in secondary education students.

7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Fairbanks.

8 MR. FAIRBANKS: Right. I suggest that we consider by
9 cultural and cross-cultural education to be supported by
10 this group at post-secondary level.

11 THE MODERATOR: Anyone else? Now, how many would like
12 to stay and write this up? I see no -- should I go ahead
13 and just volunteer?

14 MR. DESILIO: Madam Chairman, won't the court reporter
15 have this as a lift form that would be simple enough to
16 take it off there and make a lift of all those things, run
17 it off on a copier and hand a list to everybody? Everybody
18 said their statement the way they wanted to say them. If
19 we could get those and examine them and think about it a
20 little bit, then I think we might be in a position to. I
21 would suggest that rather than to go for strict votes and
22 technical vote, and so on, we can get kind of a consensus.
23 In other words, are there violent objections from a lot of
24 us to including some of these statements, even though I
25 might not agree to everyone that everyone that I am willing

1 to go into the report, but I don't have a violent objection
2 to it.

3 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fison.

4 MR. FISON: I would like to see sort of a compromise,
5 that is use this wording that came out of discussion, but
6 somewhat condense that and put it together. There has been
7 some duplication and make a good definitive statement
8 rather than just have a series of statements made by
9 individuals, because this is going to be some kind of
10 report, and I think it would help to be well written.

11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

12 MR. GIBSON: May I suggest that we will have to have
13 the transcript before we can do anything, and that when the
14 transcript is received, the chair take action to see that a
15 coherent statement is made upon which we may pass, debate,
16 act, or whatever.

17 THE MODERATOR: Can we have the statement? Can we
18 have the transcriptions tonight?

19 (Discssion was had off the record)

20 Now, I know that there are some people who are
21 not able to stay past five o'clock or six o'clock, but
22 could I ask some of you to stay and help with this maybe
23 7:30, eight o'clock tonight? We have a banquet.

24 MR. FAIRBANKS: 7:45?

25 THE MODERATOR: We have to be out of here by 4:30. We

1 don't have to convene again until tomorrow morning. I am
2 told that there is a tape recording of this last final for
3 ten minutes. So we could go ahead on that. Would you be
4 able to meet at five o'clock and work awhile on this?

5 MR. DELISIO: Madam Chairman, if we forfeit an hour
6 and a half this afternoon from our discussions, I think we
7 are doing really major damage to what little time we've got.

8 MR. VAN DOREN: Excuse me, for clarification, this
9 group will adjourn at 4:30 today, period. There is no
10 place for us to go.

11 MS. FISHER: Are we the only group that's adjourning?

12 MR. VAN DOREN: No, two groups have to quit today.

13 MR. DELISIO: Let's go down and sit in the lobby.

14 MS. CROFT: There isn't any other place that we go.

15 MR. FAIRBANKS: There is a motion made that there is
16 a large-sized bar.

17 MS. FLEMING: Go in the bar and stand out in the
18 lobby. Go on along the railing.

19 MR. FAIRBANKS: Also, not everybody needs input to
20 this education. It seems like that there are nine or ten
21 people that are really enthusiastic about it.

22 THE MODERATOR: Could I ask Mrs. Fate, Mr. Chapados,
23 Mr. Ekval, Mr. Cooper, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Fleming, Abi, Mr.
24 Gibson, Mr. Fison, Mr. Delisio, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Gorsuch,
25 could you meet at five o'clock? I don't care whether it's

1 in the bar or the lobby or whatever.

2 MS. FLEMING: Lounge sounds good.

3 THE MODERATOR: Could you meet at five, take the
4 suggestions that this body has made, and try to incorporate
5 it into some type of statement, even if if you can't stay
6 for a long period of time. At least the longer you are
7 there, the better. All right. If so, can we now go on to
8 transportation?

9 And I believe there are people in the audience
10 who have asked for a few minutes. I think there is a Mr.
11 Swanson and a Mr. Woody Johansen who have asked for a few
12 minutes. So if you would like to go ahead and start your
13 discussion on transportation and give these gentlemen time
14 to go to the room or if they are ready now.

15 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I didn't particularly
16 care too much for the survey question here, but I did find
17 it as a very useful listing of some of the issues that
18 obviously the State legislature is curious about. And I
19 would find it helpful to have a copy of the survey
20 available, since I know as in transportation, there were
21 several major questions.

22 It was just a fact, on one page, "What are your
23 priorities?" I didn't particularly like having to choose
24 the priorities. I didn't like any of them. But it was
25 helpful. I don't know what the other sense of the group is.

1 There was questions about education, questions about
2 transportation, and we were each asked to respond to them
3 individually. Maybe it would be more appropriate to
4 respond to them as a group. I would like to have a copy of
5 it, if possible.

6 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Swanson, would you --

7 MR. SWANSON: I have a map to go on the wall
8 outlining railroad systems because I am purposely for the
9 railroad through Western Canada, the United States, and
10 Alaska, the work that the legislature has done for the last
11 ten years. Now, I am not really sure what kind of a format
12 you people are looking for, whether you want to go over
13 that as to an opening for your discussion on that portion
14 of transportation or what you would really like to do,
15 because in 30 minutes, if you are going to take highways
16 and airports and railroads and whatever goes into
17 transportation. I am sure you are not going to do it in 30
18 minutes. Mr. Johansen who has worked with me closely on
19 the railroad system, probably as much as any man in the
20 State, and he has also written a paper on highway
21 transportation.

22 Perhaps to start you out fresh, it would probably
23 take between the two of us, with just questions from the
24 floor, would probably take more than your 30 minutes.

25 THE MODERATOR: Okay, may I just read off just a few

1 of how would you prioritize the following transportation
2 projects. Okay, first one is a full-year maintenance of
3 the North Slope Highway. Construction of railroad links,
4 from the interior to the midwest, outside, construction of
5 road links to create a linkage of Southeast. Improvements
6 of the existing inter-Alaska network, Alaska purchase of
7 the federally owned federal railroad and improvements to
8 the existing inter-Alaska community. Now, that's just
9 railroads. Now, do you want to tackle that particular
10 portion, or do you want to tackle ports and harbors, or
11 what do you want to tackle? What would you like?

12 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, I would suggest that we
13 seem to be having less time for transportation than
14 education, that we just follow the parallel format. Four
15 people in the committee expressed a concern. Have four
16 committee, try to subsidize that, that it be brought back
17 for a discussion, and see if we can reach a general
18 consensus just as we are doing education.

19 MS. CARPENTER: Second.

20 MR. GIBSON: I did not hear the previous speaker, and
21 I think I did not like his recommendations. And I think I
22 am going to object.

23 THE MODERATOR: He didn't make any type of -- he just
24 said that we would go ahead and discuss as we did with
25 education.

1 MR. GIBSON: I thought he suggested that we break up
2 into groups.

3 THE MODERATOR: No. Mr. Cooper.

4 MR. COOPER: My problem is that I think I would
5 rather make a good solid recommendation based on good
6 evidence on one issue and ignore all the rest than to give
7 a little bit of superficial consideration to a whole wide
8 range of problems. So personally, I would rather hear what
9 information there is available from the proposed speaker on
10 the rail system, so that at least that part of it I can
11 address with more intelligence than I can at this point.

12 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher.

13 MS. FISHER: We have a problem here as to whether we
14 are coming together for our ideas or to listen to someone
15 else's. I don't know that my ideas are all that important,
16 but I thought that was why I was here.

17 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Flynn.

18 Since I believe more in program than format, I
19 like Lee Gorsuch's idea. I will simply make a statement to
20 that. The transportation priority for Alaska shall be the
21 building and maintenance of small airports in Alaska.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 MS. FATE: Can I amend that? But that the acreage
24 not to be too large because, I mean if there is mountains,
25 I mean why go include a mountain? I don't know the minimum,

1 the acreage that the Department of Transportation is
2 requiring of small airports on private lands. It's a real
3 priority, concern.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, this same thing came up at our
5 last session we had. And most of us come from the
6 Kuskokwin, and we are not interested in railroads which
7 some of you are. All we are interested in is airports, new
8 roads.

9 MS.FLYNN: I just stated one. Anybody else can go
10 for it.

11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Hoffman, the suggestion was made
12 that we go ahead and just give us what you are interested
13 in because we are here because of you. We are here because
14 of us, so go ahead and tell us what you want.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Madam Chairman, I listened to railroad,
16 Mr. Swanson there. We've got nothing to do up from ,
17 Anchorage by railroad. We want roads in our own bush that
18 we don't have no roads and we've got to get to. That's
19 what we are interested in. That's what we are sitting
20 right here for. You fellows got your own railroads already.

21 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fairbanks.

22 MR. FAIRBANKS: I am not ready right now.

23 THE MODERATOR: Is there anyone else, Mrs. Carpenter.

24 MS. CARPENTER: A priority is a gravel road as !
25 deliniated by Mr. Silides in his paper that would link the

1 Yukon and Kuskokwin Rivers in Western Alaska. This is of
2 great economic importance. A second priority is expansion
3 of the dock at Bethel and Dillingham. And third, of barge
4 tie up and offloading facilities for communities for whom
5 that is their only heavy freight linkage. That's it.

6 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis.

7 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, my priorities where I
8 come from would be air transportation where I come from.
9 And the second priority would be water transportation. I
10 think those two makes the biggest impact on the State
11 today.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, yes.

13 MR. CHAPADOS: Madam Chairman, I believe what we need
14 to do when we suggest to the legislature that they suggest
15 some sort of a program that they provide us with a plan for
16 integrated system for transportation in Alaska. And I
17 would include all modes of that and also capital
18 improvements that would serve those modes and that we
19 provide docks and harbors that wander through all the
20 communities. We need this system. Without some planned
21 approach to an integrated system, we are not going to be
22 able to properly take advantage of the development that we
23 would like to see here in this State. That would be my
24 recommendation at this point. I am involved in actually
25 participating in the transportation as an operator of a

1 transportation company. And I have quite a bit of
2 background in the problems that the industry has and not
3 the least of those I think are the system itself as far as
4 the highways and so on go. We need to have an improvement
5 in existing intrastate systems. But the industry itself
6 has many problems. And would be of the problems before the
7 legislature today is the matter of regulation of the
8 transportation business which I would be very happy to
9 discuss with anybody that's interested on our side of the
10 question. But I don't want to make that an item, you know,
11 of long discussion here. But it is important, and it also
12 plays apart in the type of service and what we will have in
13 the future that we will want to have in a type of
14 transportation that will assist in an orderly development
15 of whatever we want in future industry of the economic
16 situation.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Cooper.

18 MR. COOPER: I think Mr. Chapados pretty well voiced
19 what's coming out and that's we have a regional problem in
20 a lot of different regions, and those problems are not the
21 same. So if we try to plan a water system in one area and
22 a road system in another, and there isn't any integration
23 of or thought given to how one interacts with the other, we
24 are compounding and creating more problems. I would
25 strongly recommend that any discussion we have in regards

1 to transportation keep in mind that we are concerned not
2 with just our own particular area but that we are concerned
3 with transportation within the entire state. It's just as
4 important for people within the central area to be able to
5 receive supplies from the west as it is for the west to be
6 able to get supplies in for themselves.

7 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Carlson.

8 MR. CARLSON: Yes, Madam Chairman, I would like to
9 see the State make a very thorough study of some method of
10 equalization of the cost of travel in the State. It's fine
11 to talk about harbors and it's fine to talk about airports,
12 but the rapidly escalation of the cost of fuel, you can
13 have the finest airports in the world, but nobody is going
14 to travel in those airplanes. The Southeast was fortunate
15 enough. First it was unfortunate enough they couldn't
16 build roads. The State is subsidizing the system, and I am
17 in strong support of that. I think we are going to have to
18 take a look at some cost subsidy. If it's to pay for the
19 airline and pay for a reasonable fair for people to travel
20 in the remote areas, we would have to do that. But I would
21 your knowledge a thorough study of that? I think the cost
22 equalization is going to have to come about.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Delisio.

24 MR. DELISIO: I think that underlying my comments is a
25 basic social philosophy. I think we stand in great danger

1 whether we talk about transportation or education or
2 resources or finances or government services or any of that
3 sort of thing. The State stands in a very dangerous cross
4 road right now, that we could end up being the land of
5 lotus eaters, where everything is given to us, nothing is
6 expected of us, and then we have the life of Riley which,
7 of course, turns us into a bunch of worthless people.

8 I think there are desperate needs that need to be
9 served. But I would stress, I think the State ought to
10 examine ways of stimulating free enterprise, private
11 initiative, to deal with as many of these problems as
12 possible.

13 For example, in the area of mass transportation
14 in the larger communities, Fairbanks, for example, which
15 has a very grave pollution problem, part of which is
16 contributed to by use of private automobiles and so on.
17 Anchorage is having the same problems. Other areas in the
18 State are perhaps developing the same problems. I would
19 urge that the State develop incentives for private
20 enterprise to develop more efficient, better and more
21 desirable mass transportation systems within the heavily
22 populated areas. I think that the State, statement, should
23 be encouraging private enterprise to open up some of our
24 interior area to provide whether it be through railroad or
25 the keeping the North Slope Haul Road' Open, to keep

1 incentives to businesses, industries, mining, whatever it
2 happens to be, to undertake themselves the expansion and
3 development of those systems.

4 I am appalled at the idea of the State
5 substituting for the United States government as the owner
6 of the Alaska railroad. But the idea of expanding the
7 Alaska railroad to provide a more economic method for us to
8 get goods from other places and to get our raw materials
9 from Alaska to other places to make some of those mining
10 opportunities economically feasible is a great idea.

11 Something needs to be pursued. But it should be
12 pursued by private enterprise with encouragement, with aid
13 and assistance by government.

14 I think that we ought to be reducing regulation
15 of transportation modes to the minimum. Certain regulation
16 is necessary and desirable. But much of it is crippling
17 and it is economically disastrous for those of us who are
18 using it and those of us who are trying to provide it. And
19 again, we should be creating incentives, not disincentives,
20 for the private enterprise to try to be able to succeed
21 with these endeavors.

22 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

23 MR. GIBSON: I would like to make kind of a general
24 statement that cannot be interpreted to each region
25 although it could be implied to all of us. I think that

1 the future growth and efficiency in this State has got to
2 be built on internal communications. Right now our water
3 transportation is based in Seattle. Our air transportation
4 is largely based in Seattle. And our railroad
5 transportation is based God knows where, but possibly
6 Washington.

7 I think I would suggest specifically that we do
8 have regional problems that can be met with regional
9 solutions and State problems that can be met with statewide
10 solutions. I would propose the legislature be established
11 in recognizing the legality of and make use of regional
12 transportation development councils which will be empowered
13 to use State moneys for their own area for their own best
14 interest to stimulate local productive economy.

15 I would like to mention the outer continental
16 development in the Bering Sea is putting pressure on those
17 ports in that area to the additional people that market the
18 bottom fish and the salmon there. If you can't move them
19 they rot and they amount to nothing. We definitely need
20 improved air fields and we need water transportation.
21 Let's send what is in Seattle back and have them send it
22 back to us.

23 I think we need mixed a State policy implemented
24 appropriately at a local level. I do feel that much of
25 power fuel problems can be met by, as has been suggested,

1 incentives to private enterprise for industry to develop
2 efficient public transportation.

3 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

4 MS.FLYNN: With regard to transportation in the urban
5 areas, to maintain the existing roads prior to building any
6 new roads, and I would like to second Mr. Delisio's
7 commentary regarding support of public transportation.

8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Fairbanks.

9 MR. FAIRBANKS: On something Mr. Gibson said about
10 regional transportation councils in that the Department of
11 Transportation now is kind of fostering the way for
12 transportation in that they now have three thousand miles
13 of proposed roads in Western Alaska which have not been
14 dictated to them by the people but has been dictated to
15 them by industry or private sector, but not the people.
16 And I think that this conference here is looking towards
17 the future, and all day we have been talking about short
18 term things like education and not setting goals and then
19 finding some way to reach those goals. But we are talking
20 about goals. And I would like this group to think about
21 transportation that might disrupt life in Western Alaska,
22 such as a road connecting rural and the urban area. The
23 people in the urban area are frankly afraid of the
24 Department of Transportation and the impact it would have
25 if we opened up that can of worms. And I think that we

1 need to make a statement. Are we going to have a road to
2 Western Alaska? Are we not going to have a road? Are we
3 going to let the Department of Transportation dictate to us
4 or will the people of that transportation area have a say
5 equal to big business?

6 THE MODERATOR: Anyone else on transportation?

7 MR. BROWN: My name is Stuart Brown and I am chief to
8 telecommunications in the Department of Transportation.
9 One of the things to realize is in Alaska you can't just
10 simply go in everywhere and put a road because of the
11 inherent natural factors that prohibit that type of
12 development. One of the things that I think we should
13 realize here that telecommunications can be used as an edge
14 or a supplement in some respects to transportation systems.
15 So I would just like to have the group keep
16 telecommunications in mind also as a potential substitute
17 for some of the things that we now utilize transportation
18 systems for.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We've got seven
20 minutes.

21 Mr. Gorsuch.

22 MR. GORSUCH: I would like to just express a concern
23 that the investments that are made in transportation have
24 some evidence that they can sustain those facilities in
25 their operation and maintenance in the future. My concern

1 is that the investment is going to be made in docks,
2 harbors, roads, railroads and we can't meet future
3 operation expenses of those, and I would like that to be an
4 expressed concern that there is some evidence that supports
5 what would be the potential cost of maintaining these
6 facilities in the future.

7 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

8 MR. GIBSON: I would like to address that. And I
9 think it's a very real concern that we have to see an
10 immediate and measureable payoff when, in fact, the
11 investment may create things that we have not seen there
12 before. I am mindful of the businesses that have supported
13 private enterprise that have sprung up along transportation
14 corridors that were built when there was no justification
15 at the time for building them. And I feel if we say you've
16 got to have an immediate payoff, that you will impede the
17 economic development which depends upon certain basic
18 things like transportation and communication.

19 THE MODERATOR: Then what we are saying is we want to
20 know which is first, the egg or the chicken or whatever?
21 You want to know whether you are going to build roads
22 because industry is there or are you going to wait for
23 industry to come and then to build the roads. Are you
24 saying this?

25 MR. GIBSON: I am saying in many ways transportation

1 spells the success or failure of invention. I am thinking
2 of a mine that was once a highly productive mine. When
3 transportation costs moved up just a bit, when the price of
4 oil moved up just a bit, because it's only outlet of air,
5 it became much less economic to operate. Had we had an
6 alternative water system there for the movement of that,
7 then that would still be productive. What I am saying is
8 it's very difficult to realize that you can't run a
9 business without a telephone. And yet I can call more
10 easily and more cheaply to Peking, China than I can to one
11 of my neighboring villages and at less cost. So if we want
12 to develop regional economies that support the whole road
13 to the State, we are going to have to invest in and I use
14 that word advisedly, invest in the communications and
15 transportation within the region.

16 THE MODERATOR: I think there is a gentleman in the
17 back.

18 MR. PEGEURO: I think that, you know, the best
19 projects that can be done with the money from the permanent
20 fund and the other money, it is railroads, you know.
21 because railroad pays itself. Second, because in order to
22 open up the land in Alaska and to the centralized
23 population just from this center, just from Anchorage and
24 Fairbanks, we have to create another rail belt. I also
25 think that in order to make a lower cost of living in

1 Alaska, the transportation problem from here to the United
2 States -- to the Lower 48 -- have to be solved.

3 Because of those reasons and many more, I think
4 that we should endorse unanimously the building of that
5 railroad which, if you see, is very small the price. It's
6 one million dollars and 200,000 for now. There are many
7 other problems that we can keep down that railroad. And we
8 can go from the most remote part in the Lower 48 to get the
9 product down there from the south and bring it all the way
10 up to here quite fast. Also, we have to take into
11 consideration the new technology which, in which that
12 railroad will be based.

13 I am going to give you the example of the
14 Canadian National. At one time after the war was in very
15 bad shape. Right now, it's paying by itself. Now,
16 highways do not pay by itself and are extremely costly.
17 Dock facility and airports and other major transportation
18 are also subsidized. And the only one that it is not
19 subsidized is railroad, except passenger, then I think that,
20 you know, that was the way to go. That was what really
21 developed Alaska. And that was really who developed places
22 as far as Nome and Bethel and Bristol Bay. And I think
23 that, you know, it is the best, the best thing we can do.

24 THE MODERATOR: I'd like to thank you for your
25 testimony and advise you that we have run out of time

1 MS. FATE: Madam Chairman, I would just like to make
2 one more statement. The road to the Yukon I would like to
3 see open for commercial use to the river to the north and
4 to be maintained accordingly. Secondly, would I like to
5 say a lot of our airports in the interior is dangerous to
6 our health and to the life of our citizens, but I would
7 like to see an improvement and in-common sense by acquiring
8 that land by the Department of Transportation.

9 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, I would just like to
10 reiterate my priority as far as transportation is concerned
11 and that is mainly air and water born transportation.
12 Those two transportations are not subsidized. The rest of
13 the transportation is subsidized by the State. You should
14 try to get the privates interested to improve services who
15 are not paid subsidy. I think that is a policy you try to
16 develop is the mode of transportation we use right now.

17 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry we don't have enough time.
18 I'm sorry we don't have any room to go to. If those of you
19 that have willingly volunteered to write this statement
20 would we stay behind for just a minute because I don't know
21 where we are going to meet. See you tomorrow.

22 (RECESSED)
23
24
25