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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, STATE OF ALASKA

Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers

Friday, December 7, 1979

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Anchorage, Alaska

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Reported by: Pamela W. Rozycki

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BETA MEETING PROCEEDINGS

(December 7, 1979, 9:55 a.m.)

1 THE MOLLATCH: Good morning. This morning we have a
2 big job and we have to get moving, so if I could recognize
3 Mrs. Carpenter, she has a suggestion that you might be
4 willing to follow this morning.

5 MS. CARPENTER: It's my feeling that we do not have
6 time to really argue or discuss things in depth, and I
7 would like to give, make it possible for everybody to have
8 a opportunity to express their priorities and concerns.
9 And I think one way we can do this would be by using the
10 chart paper, taking each subject area, going around the
11 room and everybody quickly stating in a concise form their
12 priorities in a certain area, with only an explanatory, a
13 short explanatory statement added to that if it's necessary.
14 And then nobody would argue against that at the time. Then
15 all those could be put up on charts. And then after it's
16 up there, if we could say okay, is there anything there
17 that you are strongly opposed to or are there any things
18 there that are conflicts. And if there aren't, then we
19 would leave that for the time being and go on to another
20 area and then at the end of the day, we can divide up into
21 committees and each committee could take one area and write
22 up a coherent statement that would embody the
23 recommendations for that area. I feel that the way we
24 should express our wants is by dividing them into two
25 sections, one would be needs and priorities, those would be

1 things that we want done. And the second area would be
2 concerns and guidelines, which would refer to policies and
3 process. And I think if we do that, we can kind of
4 separate where we are, and then the policy and process
5 statements could be an introduction or would become an
6 overall -- would become an overall philosophy and then
7 under that would go the priorities when it's written up.
8 And I think that would include both things and it would
9 give everybody a fair chance and I think it would go fast.

10 THE MODERATOR: Any problems with that suggestion?

11 Mrs. Guess.

12 MS. GUESS: I have had some concerns on reflecting on
13 the approach we took yesterday, and I agree with your
14 general concept. I was going to offer a little different
15 one. I am very concerned that what we are doing is giving
16 somebody a Christmas wish list, and I am not so sure that
17 that's the direction that I want to go. I think that we
18 should consider not only priorities but goals. My
19 particular approach, which is not that much different from
20 Mrs. Carpenter's would be with a modifying suggestion by
21 Toni Croft, that first of all, I think there are many too
22 many areas to adequately address when you go down through
23 here. We talked about some of ours areas of concern
24 earlier, and if you remember what they are, they break out
25 pretty well. But to go around and those of us who have

1 some knowledge and some real concerns in specific areas --
2 for instance, I don't, in every single one of them -- could
3 let the group hear and then break up into groups so that I
4 can have dialogue.

5 I frankly don't believe that with a large group
6 like this there is an opportunity for dialogue. There
7 isn't the give and take. Okay, you've got an interesting
8 position and my experience is this. And I see that as one
9 of the more important things to come out of this group. I
10 am really opposed to having, you know, my Christmas wish
11 list as I might call it, because I just don't think that is
12 why I am here.

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay, the suggestion has been made
14 that we would go ahead and try to outline, if you will,
15 with everyone participating. Yesterday we did make a list
16 of topics. The first one was education. We covered that
17 to some extent. Transportation was on our list, we
18 covered that. The next item that was of concern was health.
19 And the fourth was government services, which included
20 regional and local government's, communications, and law
21 and justice.

22 So at this time, if there are no objections, we
23 will go ahead and proceed this morning with health with the
24 recommendations as outlined by Mrs. Cuess and Mrs.
25 Carpenter.

1 MR. CARLSON: Didn't we have a vote yesterday on
2 priority.

3 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir, that was a priority.

4 MR. CARLSON: Number 1 was education and you did it.
5 And number 2 was transportation and you haven't done it.
6 So where are we?

7 MR. DELISIO: I think we need to know that, too.

8 THE MODERATOR: Didn't we cover transportation
9 yesterday.

10 MR. CARLSON: You started, and my point being that
11 you let two experts sit here all day yesterday without even
12 recognizing them. Woody Johansen and Red Swanson. They
13 came up here to speak, and they didn't grab the microphone.
14 They waited to be asked as people normally would, and they
15 were not asked. I thought they were treated badly and I
16 don't think the group got the advantage of their knowledge.

17 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

18 MS. FLYNN: I don't think anyone around the table
19 yesterday intended to be rude to anyone else, but this is a
20 conference -- or at least I have been given to understand,
21 that we are provided with a certain amount of background
22 material. And the only reason that resource persons are
23 here is if the group determines the need to ask them
24 specific questions. I am only saying that I think that
25 Helen Fisher's comment yesterday was a very appropriate one,

1 that I would rather hear the goals and priorities of this
2 group than to hear a speech on somebody's particular pet
3 project, no matter how much an expert they might be.

4 MR. CARLSON: You mean you don't think this is pet
5 projects of yours, the educational thing, isn't that a pet
6 project.

7 MS. FLYNN: Not the university.

8 THE MODERATOR: Madam Chairman. Mr. Chapados.

9 MR. CHAPADOS: I think the discussion on
10 transportation certainly didn't go far enough to provide us
11 with any basis for making decisions and recommendations and
12 that we are not through with the subject

13 THE MODERATOR: Would you consider then moving to
14 consider transportation this morning.

15 MR. CHAPADOS: I was under the impression that we
16 would be continuing with that this morning. And I think
17 that perhaps transportation is a very, very important item
18 along with the others. As long as we haven't set certain
19 priorities, we ought to finish with it, or at least proceed
20 to the point where a small group could sit down who has
21 some expertise in that field and could come back with
22 recommendations.

23 THE MODERATOR: Are there any objections as to
24 continuing with transportation this morning? As we said
25 all day yesterday, this is your conference.

1 Mrs. Davis.

2 MS. DAVIS: I have no objection, but did the group
3 ever get together to complete what we were supposed to do
4 on transportation? Did the group get together as a small
5 group and complete it? Are we going to go back as a small
6 group?

7 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

8 THE MODERATOR: Without further ado, we will start
9 transportation, go around the table as it has been
10 suggested, we will outline the different categories, wishes,
11 break up into small groups at a later time, and come up
12 with some type of policy statement.

13 Mr. Cooper, would you like to start out?

14 MR. COOPER: With transportation?

15 THE MODERATOR: Transportation. Very, very briefly.

16 MR. COOPER: Yeah, I will start. It will have to be
17 a very broad statement. I think probably our problem
18 yesterday is we got too involved in specifics rather than
19 where we were wanting to be ten years from now or where we
20 want to try to be ten years from now. And I would suspect
21 that if we could continue to, to work towards and upgrade
22 all modes of transportation necessary to provide for an
23 integrated State. We have regions now. We have
24 regionalism. Part of that is because of lack of
25 interrelationship. I, for instance, have never been to the,

1 to the westward. I have to rely on news accounts or
2 someone else getting me the information. I think if we can,
3 cannot only provide for heavy transportation of goods and
4 services so that one area can supply the other, but also
5 being able to get goods and services to a market, but also
6 for people transportation to make it feasible to know what
7 the rest of the State is like. It will cover a lot of ours
8 problems that we generate within ourselves from lack of
9 knowledge in other areas.

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

11 MS. CROFT: I have a question. What is the
12 Department of Transportation doing if they are not doing
13 that.

14 THE MODERATOR: Could I just interject once? And this
15 is where we are going to get in the problem. We will wait
16 until a later date, if it's with your approval, that we
17 break up. Let's get everyone's ideas first, broad, and
18 then break up in a later date and hash it out, and throw
19 the bad parts out and keep the good ones.

20 Mr. Carlson?

21 MR. CARLSON: Yes, ma'am.

22 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry, the gentleman to Mr.
23 Cooper's right.

24 MR. CARTER: Carter, Ernie Carter. I would like to
25 see the State adopt a policy to have access roads to these

1 lands that they are supposed to be making available to the
2 public. In ours central area they have chosen to designate
3 lands for disposal to the public, they are sending them
4 completely inaccessible places. I don't mean a network of
5 subdivided roads, but at least access to parcels. Otherwise
6 the land disposal thing becomes a joke. I would like to
7 see the State adopt a policy of extending a road system
8 into areas that they intend to, I suppose, put roads in.

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

10 MR. CHAPADOS: Frank Chapados. I am not sure that I
11 can give a real good resume of what I think about
12 transportation. As I think I said before, I have not been
13 involved in it in Alaska for a long time. The former
14 things that bother me in ours discussions that you here not
15 only here but in other places is the degree of economic
16 development that people are looking for to in Alaska. And
17 there seems to be -- this seems to be kind of a mushy
18 subject. You just can't seem to pin people down. I don't
19 think there is really a consensus in this State of what we
20 want in this regard. I think personally we should feel
21 that we have to control the economic development and that
22 we should provide a base here so that we have some
23 stability in ours economy and to relieve us from the ups
24 and downs that we suffer from time to time.

25 Any way, no matter what degree of economic

1 development you may want, I think there is an absolute need
2 to have a planned approach to an integrated system of
3 transportation. And I am not -- I am not in the trucking
4 business, but I am trying to feature that. All modes of
5 transportation have an important place. And in the
6 establishment of such a system I think you have to give
7 consideration to the various modes, because some will serve
8 the certain areas and needs of a State better than others.
9 My idea is to have this plan prepared and a study made. I
10 know studies are something that we all hesitate to support.
11 But at the same time, it's pretty involved in something
12 that needs to be done. And I am not suggesting that we go
13 to every little village of the road and that sort of thing.
14 I am saying let's establish the network, the State network,
15 the trunk lines that can be approached by the needs of the
16 various communities by building the access roads and so on
17 that need to go to the trunks. Establish the corridors
18 that are necessary. A question was asked, what is the D O
19 T doing. I think that is a good question, just what are
20 they doing. Maybe they are going to go ahead with such
21 plans. But I don't know what the public -- I certainly am
22 not aware of what they are doing. And I think that we
23 ought to know that.

24 I think what we have to do, our actions here
25 should indicate to the Legislature, there are some needs

1 today and there are going to be needs in the future. And
2 now that we have surplus funds and are in a position to do
3 it, we should upgrade ours air transportation, airports,
4 ours docks and harbors and all the necessary things, that
5 are necessary to establish a top level in such facilities.
6 Because if we are going to have a development at all, this
7 is going to play an important part in how this development
8 comes about and the official manner with which we can
9 transport goods and supplies and so forth. In other words,
10 we are not going to be competitive if we want to compete in
11 other world markets and other places.

12 I would like to make one more comment: The
13 transportation industry, 2 people that did not operate the
14 trucks and the railroads. They have a national problem.
15 There is a big trend to deregulate. Everybody wants to cut
16 out their regulations. And everybody get into the market
17 place. This is one thing -- whether or not we do take any
18 action in this respect, I think we ought to be very, very
19 careful before we do anything along the lines of regulating
20 system that has been in existence for probably 40 years and
21 it's universal throughout the United States, and it's
22 working. And I think the statistics will prove that also
23 as far as cost and productivity are concerned. But I guess
24 my recommendation would be at this point that we seriously
25 consider making some recommends to the Legislature about

1 how to use the monies that they have available. I am not
2 going to say that the Department of Transportation is not
3 doing the job because I don't know. They may be. If we
4 don't have the money to implement the programs they come up
5 with, we are not going to get the kind of system they look
6 for

7 I would like, and I think it would be a good idea,
8 to take and go along with Mrs. Guess's recommendation that
9 we later have a group get together on these various points,
10 where we can draw on the expertise, perhaps, that we have
11 had available in the room and do have to help us to answer
12 questions, perhaps, and to help us make something in the
13 form of a recommendation we can bring back for approval.

14 Thank you.

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Chapados.

16 MR. DAVIDSON: I am Marvin Davidson. And I think in
17 the area of transportation there is four areas I would like
18 to cover closely. One is the area of assessment. Assess
19 very, very carefully what the needs are in terms of the
20 people and in terms of the economy. I don't like
21 generalized statements and generalized letter to the
22 Department of Transportation where we should do this and do
23 that.

24 I think in their work they should be involved in
25 a very, very careful assessment of actual specific and real

1 needs because they exist, but no they don't exist every
2 where. The other thing I thought we should look at is the
3 impact in terms of social. Transportation, in terms of
4 social impact, in terms of environmental impact. There are
5 a number of places in Alaska, also in the Lower 48, that
6 you open an area sometimes through transportation and there
7 can be tremendous impacts on the environment and I think we
8 are finding out in a lot of rural areas in Alaska, people
9 are saying, "hey, we don't want this much access. We don't
10 want this transportation. We don't want to be Anchorage's
11 backyard." So I think a lot of the recommendations we
12 might make to the Legislature we might consider in what
13 transportation has.

14 The other alternatives are the more conventional
15 means of transportation. Alaska is a little bit different
16 place, we've got different needs. I think we ought to look
17 at things like more rail transportation, more boat
18 transportation, river systems. And someone has even
19 suggested dirigibles as a means of moving agriculture and
20 forest products and things like that.

21 I am not an advocate of dirigibles, necessarily.

22 Another thing is: I think a fourth thing we
23 ought to look at recommendations for is how to get the
24 public involved. We are involved here today. But I think
25 when we get to specific types of transportation in specific

1 areas as the Department of Transportation does and the
2 Legislature does, you've got to really find good ways to
3 get the people in the areas in the local region involved in
4 examining the proposal, coming forth with their idea of
5 what they need, what they like to see and where they like
6 to see the road or the railroad go. It's a difficult thing
7 to do, get meaning for public involvement. But I think
8 that's something that has to be done, so I would encourage
9 those.

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Sorry you
11 weren't here yesterday.

12 MS. COOKE: Margaret Cooke from Bethel. I am
13 interested in things, I think upgrading the transportation
14 systems we have, like upgrading the airport. And upgrading
15 the existing roads, not putting in any new roads, because I
16 think what we have -- we have a unique problem in ours
17 areas that people in ours area live off the land and 80 to
18 90 percent of their food is from subsistence on the road
19 and maybe other forms of transportation might kill off ours
20 livelihood. So that's one of the reasons why the people in
21 ours area are really against seeing a road, at least the
22 people I have talked to.

23 But I think transportation is a big problem and
24 even though we have airports, a lot of times they are not
25 usable . And I think sometimes there is all kinds of

1 transportation problems. And because of the size of ours
2 State, those different areas have different kinds of
3 transportation that are good for Southeast. What is good
4 for Southeast, won't be good for the Bethel area.

5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Delisio.

6 MR. DeLISIO: I would like to speak more conceptually
7 than specifically. First of all, it seems to me
8 philosophically what we should be aiming for is a symbolic
9 relationship between the private, which is you and me, and
10 the public, which is government, where we provide the ideas.
11 We are like the plant or our idea is like a plant that
12 grows into some sort of an ultimate useable thing. But
13 government can be a little bit like the fertilizer, maybe
14 doing a little bit of scratching out of some weeds or
15 tending it a little bit to help that idea grow into
16 fruition. I think that philosophy, in my mind is important
17 to the delegate of the whole of Alaska over the years. In
18 that concept, it seems to me that in the large populated
19 areas, we really need transportation. The individual
20 automobile transportation is wasteful. It's increasingly
21 dangerous and so on but the massive transportation simply
22 isn't spending millions of dollars to by buses and rail
23 ways and that sort of thing. The real answer is to
24 stimulate people in the private sector to do this ourselves.
25 To create economic incentives and loan systems and that

1 sort of thing.

2 In the State context, it seems to me as far as
3 statewide transportation, I think we need to be exploring
4 are alternative conflicts what those policies are beyond my
5 ability to predict. However, the transfer of the
6 hovercraft. They were here, in the early pipe line phase.
7 They are used extensively all over the world. In Britain
8 and, they have hovercraft that is almost as big as the
9 floor of this building, the single story of this building,
10 that haul automobiles across the English channels in tons
11 with a minimum of damage to the environment and so on.

12 Another area that perhaps we ought to be
13 exploring and maybe encouraging private enterprise to
14 explore for us or something for the nation is something
15 like a magnetic tube concept through the Oregon
16 transportation. We put oil through pipes and metal boxes
17 in storage, and from one end of the bank to the other and
18 flows in a vacuum. Why can't we put people, goods, in that
19 tube and shoot them around the countryside without a lot of
20 noise and without a proper amount -- without pollution and
21 so on. It takes quite a few alternatives. But we should
22 think in terms of those alternatives

23 Let's think in terms of things that service a
24 multiple dual or more capacities. We have talked about
25 making a cross way for the people of Anchorage to get over

1 to the Matanuska Valley quicker. So it's a convenience.
2 Then it was urged an economically feasible thing because it
3 approved the economic value of the land and the valley. It
4 would provide people with alternative life style and so
5 forth and so on. But consider this. If we built a causeway
6 across the inlet, across the Knik Arm, for example that was
7 designed to convert total energy into electricity. We have
8 the second highest tides in the world here. The movement
9 of this water is about seven or eight knots almost
10 continuously. I have been told, by hydraulics, 30 minutes
11 every half hour period of slow tide. And at all times it
12 is running at a very rapid pace and there is a tremendous
13 force involved. We can somehow convert that sources as it
14 passes through a causeway just like it passes through a dam.
15 We could create an energy horse source that could light up
16 the whole of Alaska for 100,000 years for the cost of
17 maintenance, even long after oil and gas is gone, or if it
18 turns out that solar energy isn't for us.

19 Another alternative idea, it's not related to
20 transportation. What about communities like Nome, you have
21 a high tidal activity, you have break waters that are built
22 for keeping the see from washing you away. Why not build
23 the break waters so they can generate electricity from the
24 force of the water that is slamming against them. kinds of
25 concepts seem to be the kind of philosophical approach I

1 would like to see.

2 Lastly, I would like to see government get out of
3 ours way as much as possible. I don't believe we can live
4 in an archive. I don't believe we can live without
5 government. But it seems to me we can live a lot better
6 with a hell of a lot less government than we've got. If we
7 can reduce regulation to a bare essential minimum, not by
8 bureaucrats who want to keep their jobs and not by people
9 who want to protect a monopoly, but we are told what is the
10 only way or what is the minimum, for example, you can't
11 allow people to take contaminated food and put it back on
12 the market. You can't allow people to fly planes that are
13 going to break up in the air and kill everybody on board.
14 There is a certain regulation that is necessary. But the
15 majority of the regulation whether it exists in
16 transportation or otherwise is just a bunch of bull. And
17 it's there for economic best interests. It's there for
18 vested interest groups and it's there for the sake of
19 bureaucrats. I wonder to what extent it truly services the
20 people. We ought to, being a new society in a sense, and
21 certainly fresh and not as bound by institutions than most
22 are. We should find it easier to break those bonds than
23 most are.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

25 THE MODERATOR: Your name.

1 MS. DEGNAN: Francis Degnan from Coast Sound. I
2 missed out on your discussions yesterday. But as far as
3 transportation in Alaska, I think it's very important that
4 we now, everyone in the general public access to the areas
5 that they go into, and can get into the areas they want to
6 get into. Meaning if you are in the rural areas to get to
7 be able to get into the urban areas and to have that access
8 be safe. Currently Margaret mentioned earlier about
9 airports not being safe and not being kept up to standard
10 and that sort of thing. it's an ongoing thing. And people
11 travel wherever they wish to go provided they've got the
12 dollars and the wherewithall. I think we are -- we are
13 thinking of terms that make sure that legislature by people
14 and local community involvement, that they have access to
15 these program development, in programmed ideas, that in the
16 rural areas if roads are not feasible and they are not
17 wanted and what we have available is either water
18 transportation or air transportation, and the facilities
19 are not there, but your safety factor depends on your pilot
20 a lot of times. And so I think the general public needs,
21 number 1, safety and access.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 MR. DAVIS: My name is Larry Davis, and I am from
24 Homer. Yesterday I stated my priorities on transportation
25 system. They still remain the same this morning, that is

1 the air transportation and the water-born transportation.
2 Those two are the most transportation that has the greatest
3 impact within the total State of Alaska. They are used by
4 almost all the states here.

5 And I don't think the State should try to get
6 into the business of trying to compete with private
7 industry. Let the private industry provide the mechanical
8 means to get from one place to the other. The State's
9 responsibility should be to take care of facilities and
10 upgrade facilities wherever they are at.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 MR. EKVAL: Eric Ekvall. I share some of the same
13 concerns that Art Davidson spoke to earlier. I remember a
14 number of years ago, there was a lot of discussion about
15 what the -- I guess it's still going on, the social and
16 cultural impacts of television on rural Alaska or on ours
17 country as a whole. And I think transportation systems
18 have very, very similar kinds of repercussions.

19 When I hear talk about transportation planning, I
20 sometimes hear or seem to hear more transportation for
21 transportation's sake, access for access sake, and not so
22 much what these systems are going to be used for or what
23 the purpose of putting a transportation plan or roads or
24 railroads into a place would be.

25 I am thinking in particular of a number of

1 projects which have been discussed for a long time, a road
2 to Nome, a road from Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay through
3 Iliamna to Dillingham, and those areas.

4 And if the purpose for building roads to far,
5 spread out places in the State is to bring the cost of
6 transporting food stuffs or commodities to these places, or
7 bring these costs down, there might be much cheaper ways of
8 doing that by upgrading ports, barge tie ups, and things of
9 that nature.

10 I have heard it repeated very often in my travels
11 that people want improved transportation within a region of
12 a road from Saint Mary's to -- what is it? Mountain
13 village, yes. Improved roads in the Dillingham area to
14 connect the villages there. And I hear a lot of very, very
15 strong operation to roads which connect the big magnets of
16 the State, Anchorage and Fairbanks, to the outer parts of
17 the State. And I think it's important to listen to these
18 things not as nostalgic, kind of an acronistic attitude,
19 but keep the things the same and not change it. When we
20 witnessed the changes in the State in the last ten years,
21 in Anchorage alone, we think of ourselves as a fairly
22 sophisticated urban population, the changes that have hit
23 us here and the changes that have hit urban-rural Alaska,
24 it might make a lot of sense in terms of the manifold human
25 impacts to really stop and consider of what the effects of

1 building spokes out from the urban centers to the rural
2 centers are.

3 Off the top of my head it would seem to me we
4 should give greater consideration to improving the
5 intraregional transportation systems and allow people
6 within regions as they identify their needs to build
7 systems within the regions further, so that a gravel pit
8 which is situated between two communities can be used by
9 both those communities, so there would be cooperation
10 sharing, and perhaps some economic development between
11 smaller communities before the pace of the indiscriminate
12 development of transportation from urban Alaska to rural
13 Alaska.

14 But I think it's important to identify what the
15 uses of these transportation systems will be. If it's to
16 transport food or transport people or transport tourists or
17 what, we have a lot of examples to draw on, the road to
18 Ninto we have a lot of mistakes. We have a lot of
19 successes. We have a lot of failures in terms of human
20 impacts and economic impacts on the State, and I think we
21 can learn from them and I think we can listen to the people
22 who have submitted to them or pushed them.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Laura Fleming.

24 MS. FLEMING: Yes, rather than echo Art Davidson and
25 Mr. Delisio and Mr. Ekval here, I would like to few

1 specific remarks I have to be kind of considered in light
2 of things that they have to say. I am from Juneau and I
3 don't have too much experience with roads, there is not too
4 many places to go on the roads in Juneau. With regard to
5 roads, it seems that the cost of maintaining a road, not
6 the cost of building it, but maintaining it is astronomical
7 in this State. I would like to see upgrading of the
8 existing modes of transportation, not just airports and
9 aircraft. We are using obsolete aircraft in some places in
10 the State. In some cases I think it's dangerous to people
11 who are using -- who have to rely on that form of
12 transportation.

13 The marine highway System, places like Tenakee,
14 places like one road and no cars, they rely on those
15 systems heavily for not just freight but for getting around
16 and receiving information and getting supplies. The cost
17 of the Marine Highway System is pretty high, too, because
18 they are using these huge vessels. And I would like to see
19 some smaller designs used. It's ridiculous to be running a
20 huge boat around with ten people on it. It would be nice
21 if these smaller communities could have more frequent runs
22 with smaller vessels suited to the needs that's there,
23 large freight space and smaller passenger space. Water
24 transportation is the cheapest form of transportation
25 available. In it's in terms of moving freight. And at

1 some time in the State I would like to see rail links to
2 places where water transportation is used as a link there.
3 It would be an infrastructure as a necessary thing for
4 industry, all kinds of industry, timber, agriculture,
5 fisheries, mining, all those independent industries will
6 require a means of transporting to their products, to the
7 Lower 48 or whatever. I would consider it cost effective
8 where transportation would pay for itself. It's a real
9 danger. Let's go, we've got the money. I think there is a
10 danger to create programs that aren't going to pay for
11 themselves, but would require continuing support. There is
12 going to be a time when we don't offer that, and we are
13 going to have to retract some of our initial agreements
14 that we have made or contracts with the public. I would
15 like to see a development program to pay for themselves in
16 those areas. That's all I would like to say.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Ms. Fate.

18 MS. FATE: I am Mary Fate, and I would like to
19 confirm with Frank Chapados and Mrs. Degnan. My dad
20 carried mail through Rampart, Eureka, and all mining camps
21 to trappers. And I had gone along with him. So, we also
22 used air, boat and road. Now because of legislation
23 nationally and State, we have to have roads on State and
24 private grounds with regional input or the owner's input.
25 So we have this tool if we would just use it, local control.

1 And that, I really appreciate and respect, is the local
2 plans.

3 Now, put yourself in ours spot in the interior,
4 43 small villages without roads. And I worked for an
5 airline for several years and I am for air transportation,
6 but it is sad what we have in the interior. It's dangerous,
7 and I really appreciate what Francis said. It's not only
8 dangerous for the survival of the individual, for the owner
9 of the aircraft, but sometimes you keep your fingers
10 crossed getting in and out. And I have to go back and
11 forth to my village many times a year, and I can't really
12 give you how terrible it is at some points, depending upon
13 the season. When you get to the airport, there is no house,
14 even an outhouse, really. Or if you have medication, you
15 protect it with your body heat, because it will freeze, if
16 you are taking it there to the village for someone to
17 survive. If you have food, it's usually frozen, so eat it,
18 if you may, because some of the stores do not carry that
19 much produce or meat or fish.

20 And ours seasonal river, you say, is cheap, if
21 you can get in and out, if you can in the river. Ours
22 Kenai River, you can't really beach a boat sometimes on it
23 because of the wind. Good luck. It's so shallow it,
24 itself, moves the river every year. And you really don't
25 know unless you was born on that river.

1 So again, we have this tool. Let's plan with
2 ours local input, but keep in mind the ten years from now,
3 the 20 years from now. Again, we have small villages. We
4 have small businesses. Very, very, small corporations, so,
5 so small per capita, that ours overhead is so great in
6 transportation we will not survive under this type of
7 overhead. And what Eric said, he didn't finish his
8 statement. He said, "Look at Minto." And I said, "What do
9 you mean, look at Minto?" The road there. It's easy for
10 us looking at those people and staying look at Minto the
11 terrible things that are happening or whatever. I am
12 trying to read into what you are trying to finish. But do
13 look at Minto. They have a gas station there. If they
14 don't make money in that gas station for their corporation
15 that hopefully will go to the future of their residents and
16 youngsters, they will have to go bankrupt. And they can't
17 just make money with that gas station from Snow-Gos and
18 boat fuel. So let's really respect the input of that area,
19 which we have to.

20 That's all I have to say.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Your name.

22 MR. CROW: My name is J B Crow. Since I am the
23 guilty one in this whole bunch by being provincial in my
24 mind and earning a living by exploiting a natural resource,
25 I yield to the professionals in the conceptualization in

1 moving greatly forward. I pass.

2 MR. GIBSON: But so elegantly, Bruce.

3 MR. CROW: I thought about it.

4 MR. FAIRBANKS: Being so provincial.

5 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter.

6 MS. CARPENTER: The concerns in ours area are for
7 some exploitation of resources, but in ways that are
8 appropriate. And I believe, too, that a transportation
9 system should not be just for nothing. It should be for a
10 purpose. We do have needs for economic development, for
11 development of a tax base in Western Alaska. Our group
12 concurs with recommendations 3, 4 and 5 in Mr. Selites'
13 (phonetic) report on page D 44 and probably himself on 9
14 and 10. I am not familiar with the others.

15 We are dealing with high freight costs that
16 discourage local processing. We have resources there,
17 fisheries, agricultural potential, timber and mining
18 that will provide jobs in villages. We would like those
19 resources developed in ways that do provide jobs to local
20 people that are not big, massive, high impact technologies
21 and developments, but appropriate development that are
22 appropriate for the area. And for those reasons, we do
23 need improved local airports. We need barge tie ups; we
24 need improved dock facilities. We need ways of lowering
25 freight costs. And we also need these systems developed in

1 ways that involve local people in the planning. One of the
2 main links that we need is a road between the Yukon and the
3 Kuskokwim. That would provide low cost freight service to
4 the middle Yukon area that has now served at a very great
5 expense. It would also enable them to produce products for
6 market and develop an economic market in the area that is
7 not based solely on government services and employment.
8 That's all.

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Ms. Fisher.

10 MS. FISHER: I am Helen Fisher and I am a 17-year
11 veteran of the lousy roads on the Kenai Peninsula. In
12 thinking about those past 17 years, one of the big things
13 that comes to mind is if they can put a man on the moon,
14 why can't they build a highway that will last beyond one
15 season. I have seen parts of the road continually repaired.
16 And by repaired, I mean a chunk taken out and something
17 else done, only to find by the next spring it's a pot hole
18 mess.

19 So I would suggest as a pressure, perhaps, of
20 issuing contracts, that the contractor be able to give of
21 indication that they know how to build a road in Alaska.

22 I think in all of the things that have been said,
23 and I agree with many of them, there seems to be one main
24 thought that I think of, as it comes out, that we should
25 care to what happens in the transportation areas. In my

1 particular job, I see women coming in from the bush and we
2 know that their trip has been horrible.

3 I would hope that there would be some way that
4 better and cheaper commuter transportation be made to these
5 areas, because it really is difficult. If they come in
6 because of medical attention, any of the services that have
7 to be offered in a large area, it is really insurmountable
8 at sometimes. So I think mainly we ought to care about
9 what happens to each other.

10 MS. ELSON: I, also.

11 MS. CROFT: Also, Mr. Chapados, if he hasn't got a
12 sensible plan, I think it's very necessary that they do
13 have a coordinated plan. I thought they were trying to
14 come up with something, but perhaps they have not. And
15 finally, I would support personally some sort of possible
16 subsidy for either mass transit or some sort of support for
17 not necessarily huge roads, for mass transit, but some sort
18 of support for mass transit so mass transit between the
19 villages are easier.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mrs. Davis.

21 MS. DAVIS: Transportation is not an area that I have
22 a lot of expertise in, but from listening to what you have
23 said, I feel that there was quite knowledgeable people that
24 I know that we should not put all the responsibility on the
25 government. Yet on the other hand, I think we should be

1 encouraging the government to contact. And when I say
2 government, I mean all areas, the local, State and federal,
3 to come together, to come up with some kind of design
4 that's going to be helpful for the whole state of Alaska,
5 not just one area, the whole state, and come up with
6 reasonable solutions for transportation system problem that
7 we know we are going to have in the '80s. If we have a
8 problem now, we know it's going to be greater. And one of
9 my main concerns is that we also do something to alleviate
10 the person that has no money and cannot afford a car and
11 would need public transportation. Especially in Anchorage,
12 there are a few buses running around, and there are people
13 who cannot afford cars and need that transportation. I
14 know we will have a greater need in the '80s for that.

15 I am pushing for massive public transportation.
16 Or maybe they will look at some other areas, monorails or
17 different things. Things for people that are available to
18 large groups of people, and also include the private sector
19 to be involved by giving them some incentive to create
20 these mechanisms for improving the transportation system,
21 and not put all the costs on the State, or the other areas
22 of government.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

24 Is it Mr. Gazeway.

25 MR. GAZEWAY: Most hearings that have occurred to me

1 have been at least partially covered by other speakers with
2 the perhaps one exception. That is, I would like to see
3 any consideration given to reducing taxes or fees or
4 licenses or so forth, that would be applied to -- I mean
5 the same consideration and more be given to reducing such
6 things as a fuel tax or possibly license and so forth, as
7 it relates to transportation. And I feel it perhaps would
8 be worthwhile to say would be, too, or reiterating. I am
9 glad to see we are all concerned with attempts to minimize
10 transport calls while improving the services in both rural
11 and urban areas, and particularly in the rural areas
12 because I am of the feeling we haven't seen anything as far
13 as calls are concerned, as to what will be cause for
14 concern, as to what we will be seeing in the next two or
15 three years.

16 MS. GUESS: Carolyn Guess. In trying not to repeat
17 anything that I said, it would only be to add that I think
18 you cannot consider the transportation needs, the
19 transportation assessments and the transportation needs in
20 a vacuum. I think they have a direct relationship to
21 energy.

22 And I think when you think about that, you need
23 to consider the availability of energy today. The
24 president has issued his plan for gas rationing. I think
25 you have to consider the efficiency of the energy. And I

1 think you have to consider the costs of the energy when you
2 are concerning yourself for the transportation field.

3 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Gibson?

4 MR. GIBSON: Bob Gibson. I have taken the liberty of
5 sparing a lot of things that I want to say bypassing it out
6 in this paper.

7 A couple things occurred to me, though, that if
8 we as a group are to say something to the legislature, I
9 think we should say that we recognize the need for
10 statewide planning and development. But the particular
11 form that that takes should be recognized as a local
12 concern. We need intra-Alaska transportation. But I think
13 that the areas effected should have something to say about
14 that.

15 There has been a concern in the part of Alaska
16 that I come from, that if we have a road from a major
17 population center, we will soon be ankle deep, I mean even
18 deeper than that, in Winnebagos and beer cans, and that
19 ours game will be shot and ours streams polluted.

20 On the other hand, 25 cent pound air freight, is
21 right around the corner. So perhaps a mix is appropriate,
22 with due concerns for the areas effected.

23 Now, some specific things: We have an example of
24 a State maintained, federally financed road in Bethel,
25 which connects the airport to the communities. This is a

1 good thing. We need this access. But it is a road built
2 to inappropriate standards and is hardly maintainable at
3 any cost, but could be a lot more easily maintained, if it
4 was not mandated that it be blacktop, which is hazardous in
5 the summer, deadly in the winter, and breaking a good part
6 all the time. So local knowledge does play a part there.

7 I should like to reiterate the absolute necessity
8 ours region of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Road. It does not have
9 to be a blacktop super highway. A maintainable gravel top
10 could be just beautiful. And certainly saves costs on
11 maintenance. I think anything else I have would be
12 submitted to you in the copy I passed out. Are there any
13 questions?

14 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Guess was concerned about
15 the energy potential and costs that evolved therewith.

16 Mr. Fairbanks.

17 MR. FAIRBANKS: I have lived in Western Alaska
18 for six years now, and one of the main things, if I could
19 say I've studied anything, would be transportation and the
20 threat of roads to rural Alaska. I have gone to many
21 villages, many people, trying to get a consensus from
22 people about how they feel about it. The consensus I have
23 from the local level is one of fear.

24 People have said in this room just the Department
25 of Transportation have plans at this moment. Yes, they

1 have plans, they always have shelves full of plans to do
2 many things. Right now they have plans for about 3,000
3 miles of roads in western Alaska, roads which have not been
4 mandated by the people, but which have been pushed by
5 special interest groups, the majority of them not being
6 Alaskan.

7 Just two things about the consensus that I felt:
8 One, the regional areas should be the major planners of
9 transportation, into their regions and in their regions if
10 that they know what they want and they don't know what they
11 don't want.

12 I've just got so many pent up feelings about this
13 thing, that we've got so many different people in this room
14 wanting so many different things, and we've got to make
15 sure we make the right decision, because if we don't, we
16 are not going to have Alaska any more. We are going to
17 have L A, anything. If we make a decision, instead of
18 making it right now, let's wait. Let's wait until the
19 technology is there that won't screw up the environment.
20 And the people of the bush are just worried about this.
21 They are worried that they are going to be mandated or
22 something that is going to screw it up. So that's about
23 all I can say about it.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

25 Abi Dickson.

1 MS. DICKSON: I think I have to agree with everything
2 just than everybody has said in this room. There were
3 several points all pretty much agreed on.

4 One of them is that we have to integrate every
5 system that we work on. Integrate means it's got to work
6 forever because we are going to use it. I think we have to
7 deal very, very realistically with our energy problems.
8 The system that we've got now just gulps fuel. They are
9 dangerous to the environment. They are destructive of the
10 human energy potential. We have to deal with the social
11 implication of what we are doing. And I would like to see
12 that we do try and emphasize our minds and try and come up
13 with some alternatives. In the northern part of the State,
14 you can have very extensive system of well made trains in
15 the center, so people can could get around on foot, by
16 doing that. I am not suggesting that we go back to the
17 dark ages, but that we start using our human potential to
18 travel around.

19 I understand the air problems of flying around.
20 I live out in the chain, and there is only two ways to get
21 there, and one's by boat and one is to fly. And it took me
22 a month and a half to come into town. I would like you to
23 see that. We asked the Legislature to respond to the
24 wishes of this group and to the whole. In other words,
25 everyone in the State wants a say in the structure of the

1 system that we are going to create. The Department of
2 Transportation has got to be the response to people in the
3 area. They are the ones that live there. They know their
4 environment. They know what they want. Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn?

6 MS. FLYNN: I am going to state what I said yesterday
7 about the need to develop and maintain the smaller airports
8 in rural Alaska, also to maintain existing new ones rather
9 than old ones.

10 I'm no transportation expert, just a human being
11 who has felt the effects of the development of the
12 transportation systems, but not only in this state, but
13 three or four other states. And I can't deal with the
14 system in Ninte or Nome or Steetomute or any other place.
15 I don't know anything enough about it. But I think I can
16 deal with it here in Anchorage. And I want to go back to
17 the opening statement that I made yesterday when we were
18 reducing ours and applied roads to.

19 As go roads so go the development. Some people
20 look on that as very good. Some people as very bad.

21 Let me take a middle ground and say something
22 about Anchorage. Sometimes the population follows the
23 development. Sometimes you have the exact opposite effect.
24 And as we build roads, we encircle otherwise healthy
25 populations, and we watch those roads strangle

1 neighborhoods and we watch them dry up and die from the
2 outside in. We are closing school in Anchorage, not just
3 because we are losing kids, but because they are moving.
4 People don't want to live next to super highways with their
5 little kids. There are few things in the world more
6 threatening than having large high traffic volume roads
7 next door to you or close to you.

8 I think it very seriously impacts the mental
9 health of a community on how roads are planned and built,
10 where they go and how they go. And all you have to do is
11 walk around this community. You don't have to stay
12 downtown to see it. You can start going out in our rural
13 areas and seeing the mistakes we have made by building
14 major roads and watch them kill off the entire
15 neighborhoods. The pity of it is, is people want to move
16 out and leave it all behind. What it leaves behind is the
17 poorer people, oftentimes the minorities. And they are
18 stuck there. They don't have the means out and they can't
19 spare.

20 The fact of what I am saying is assess the need
21 and figure out what the impact is going to be. Because the
22 impact might be the death of a core developed community.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Carlson.

24 MR. CARLSON: Madam Chairman, yesterday, I stated
25 that I felt there had to be some equalization of both the

1 costs and the transportation energy in the United States.
2 And as it leaves today, it seems that is a great field of
3 road to because of the Anchorage people going to the
4 neighborhood with their beer cans and soda cans.

5 The other side of that if we were to bring in a
6 cash economy remote areas. There has to be access to jobs.
7 There is almost a total unemployment problem, as I
8 understand it and have studied it through the years. The
9 people want to work, but they want to work where they have
10 access to both homes and the jobs. And that is pretty
11 limited to the rural areas. The job opportunities are
12 pretty scarce. So I think without an integrated reasonably
13 economic means of transportation, the access to employment
14 is very restricted. So I think when we talk about a
15 comprehensive transportation system, access to employment
16 has to be one of the reasons for achieving.

17 I think that child should have system to what
18 type of transportation to be built or if they don't want a
19 road or don't want more than a one way street then they
20 shouldn't be concerned about the cash economy. They ought
21 to stay on the subsistence life style and not the life of
22 employment opportunities.

23 So I think that has to be talked about in an
24 integrated transportation system, access to employment.

25 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. No questions. You won't

1 believe this, but it's 11 o'clock, and we did it in an hour.

2 Mr. DeLISIO: Madam Chairman, we missed one
3 important person in the room, who I am sure has something
4 to contribute and that's yourself, and I, for one, would be
5 most interested.

6 THE MODERATOR: I would yield to Mrs. Flynn, Mrs.
7 Guess, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Degnan's views. Let's take a
8 recess.

9 (Recess)

10 THE MODERATOR: We've covered education. We've tried
11 to cover transportation. The next on the agenda is health
12 and government services.

13 Now, we've outlined education to a degree. We've
14 outlined transportation to a degree. The suggestion has
15 been made that we break up into small groups to round out
16 the outline and come back to the group as a whole to see
17 how these statements will fair. We have approximately 45
18 minutes. It's 11:15, 45 minutes until lunch time. Now, it
19 is ours conference so we don't have to really keep too
20 strict of hours, except that we have to be out of this room
21 at 4:30. And we can meet in room 301 at 8 o'clock tonight.

22 So shall we go with health?

23 MS. FISLER: Madam President, isn't there any way we
24 can meet until six? You know, this is the second day we've
25 gotten kicked out of here at 4:30. It seems like we are

1 getting shafted again.

2 MR. VAN DOREN: Mrs. Fisher, I can double check on
3 this, but we are supposed to vacate this room at 4:30.

4 MS. FISHER: I am not opposed to vacating this room.
5 I haven't become that emotionally attached to it. But the
6 thing of it is I would like to continue until six o'clock
7 because I am going to have a lot more energy until six
8 o'clock than I am any time after 5

9 MR. VAN DOREN: I will look into it and see what I
10 can do.

11 MR. GIBSON: May I suggest the group activity might
12 occur between 4:30 and six when we have had an opportunity
13 to consider other things which may have a impact on these
14 two things that we have discussed this far. And then the
15 face is at a premium for the whole group might be a time to
16 make a report for the day to bring back, say, at eight
17 o'clock for consideration by the group. And I would
18 suggest that.

19 THE FACILITATOR: Then at this time we will proceed then
20 with the health portion of the agenda.

21 Mrs. Guess. It's fine with me. I am going to be
22 very provincial in the energy area. I am very concerned
23 listening to us in other areas that we will never get to it.
24 And I think that you can look at every single topic here
25 and you can go right back. You can go back to energy. You

1 look at finances, you look another all the resources. You
2 look at any kind of services. And so being very provincial,
3 I will make a motion that no later than two o'clock this
4 afternoon we begin to address energy.

5 MR. EKVAL: Second.

6 THE MODERATOR: Motion has been made by Mrs. Cuess
7 that we address energy sometime before two o'clock this
8 afternoon.

9 MS. DAVIS: No later than two.

10 MS. FISHER: Don't we reconvene at 2?

11 MR. GIBSON: Don't we supposedly have a two-hour
12 lunch break?

13 MS. CUESS: No, I.

14 THE MODERATOR: All those in favor say aye?

15 (Complying)

16 All those owe supposed?

17 Motion carries.

18 health, another suggestion has been made to keep
19 ours statements, I know it's hard, but as brief as possible
20 in order to go around as quickly as possible, so I would
21 ask please keep your views, keep your statements brief so
22 that we will be able to do as much as possible in the time
23 that is allotted to us.

24 THE MODERATOR: I can't lip read.

25 Okay, Mrs. Davis, would you like to start out?

1 MS. DAVIS: No, I wouldn't.
2 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Croft?
3 MS. CROFT: Mrs. Fisher, I think.
4 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher.
5 MS. FISHER: Well, my first reaction to the subject
6 of health is with a great deal of indignation and
7 frustration, frustration because things that were set up to
8 help people were not, and I am thinking of Medicaid in
9 particular. We are seeing a lot of women come to the
10 center who are not able to use Medicaid. These are people
11 that would qualify, but because they cannot find a doctor
12 to accept it or they sort of fall through the crack of
13 somebody's regulation which does not apply.

14 I would like to see the Medicaid overhauled
15 completely so that it serving the people it's intended to
16 serve. I am going to let it go at that, because I am sure
17 that other people have comments that I will agree to, too,
18 and I don't want to monopolize the time.

19 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter?

20 MS. CARPENTER: Can you come back to me later? I
21 have to find my notes on this.

22 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Crow.

23 MR. CROW: I pass.

24 THE MODERATOR: MS. FATE?

25 MS. FATE: Under the health, again, we have State

1 boards; we have local boards,, we have P H S boards, and
2 for health and planning in the State of Alaska. And I
3 think there should be a coordinated effort of all these
4 that are providing policy making in regard to health. I
5 would like to see a continuance of board of commerce for
6 not only medical, doctors, dentists. but this we've got to
7 continue.

8 And also, transportation as we talked about, is
9 another very important thing is updating best routes,
10 because the patients do not get the health care in that
11 village except for a health aid or in the rural.

12 Communication is so important, ours telephone
13 lines. And where emergency is usually not working in the
14 small villages, there is just one phone. There sometimes
15 is an incoming route but not an outgoing route, and maybe
16 we could use -- get the use of -- and I don't know the name
17 of it -- television.

18 THE MODERATOR: Telecommunication.

19 MS. FATH: Where the doctor could diagnose the
20 patient that is in that city.

21 MS. CUESS: Satellite.

22 MS. FATH: The outgoing I am thinking more of.

23 MR. DELISIO: Telex.

24 MS. FATH: Also two way. Also I would like to see
25 this. There might be a possibility. The USFSC Pendex

1 (phonetic) are priorities of health care, whether they are
2 a physician or dentist, should have some sort of evaluation
3 stand like other priorities of medicine in the State of
4 Alaska

5 MS. CARPENTER: Could you repeat that?

6 MS. FATE: For instance a private physician in a
7 community has to pass a board exam. A physician under
8 USPHS do not have to pass that board exam. But they could
9 come here and practice on the individuals who are usually
10 people who cannot have a choice of dental or medical
11 services and usually do not have another diagnosis and
12 usually most likely do take that one step. And it may mean
13 their life. So I really feel USPHS Pender Medical Services
14 in Alaska should have some sort of screening process.

15 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mrs. Carpenter.

16 MS. CARPENTER: In our area, we have two primary
17 concerns: One is preventative programs for otitis media
18 and other chronic conditions that are extremely serious for
19 children.

20 And the second is expanding to poor for alcohol
21 problems. Alcohol is the primary social problem in our
22 area. And we do need additional support in dealing with
23 that. And we have developed some programs that are working.
24 Some of the programs in the villages we are getting whole
25 communities that are behind good alcohol programs that are

1 being helped and rehabilitated. But the funds are
 2 extremely limited. And we feel that a larger percentage of
 3 the money that is earned from alcohol sales in this State
 4 should go to deal with some of the problems that alcohol
 5 causes.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

7 Miss Freeman?

8 MS. FLEMING: Laura Fleming. I don't have any
 9 specific things to address in this regard, but I tend to
 10 feel that the social and economic health of the State is an
 11 extension of the mental and physical and spiritual help of
 12 the people who live in the State. And I do feel that the
 13 State has a responsibility to the citizens in this regard.

14 In too many places, good health care is available
 15 only to the people who can afford it. And the people who
 16 need it the most can't afford it and they can't get it.
 17 And I think that that's an equality which needs to be
 18 rectified.

19 The Constitution offers equality for people, but
 20 if you are not healthy and you can't function, that's not
 21 equality. And I think that we could work towards offering
 22 a program of health care and alcoholism prevention, which
 23 is especially a problem in Southeast Alaska, for every one.
 24 This is something that they are trying to work on, they are
 25 trying to create, but it's falling short and it's not ready

1 yet to serve the people. I think we need to put as much
2 energy into that as possible.

3 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Ekval.

4 MR. EKVAL: I don't have a statement to make on the
5 subject this morning.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mrs. Degnan.

7 MS. DEGNAN: I've got two areas. I think education is
8 very important. The school system to teach or encourage
9 young people to look after number 1, their physical health,
10 and to know how to keep themselves healthy, because that's
11 very important. You are the one responsible for your own
12 health.

13 Number 1 is the individual responsibility. And
14 the other area is this that we have had surveys going in
15 areas that don't have health care and local input has been
16 asked and I have never really seen, if I may back up,
17 follow through on what, you know, concerns have been voiced
18 in the past on, you know, health needs in Alaska, and only
19 those that, you know, get to the hospital.

20 You can't afford to get sick if you live in the
21 Bush. So, number 1, you've got air transportation in.
22 You've got to know where to go, where they will be able to
23 take you. And I think what would be critical is the State
24 has a policy for access for individualisation. It's kind
25 of like a health, -- to also enable the emergency cases to

1 get immediate care without having to wait.

2 TEL MODERATOR: Did you have something?

3 MR. EKVAL: I do have a statement to make, I think.

4 As health care costs are escalating and there is talk of
5 national health insurance and essentially if you don't have
6 insurance and you fall sick in this country, you may
7 mortgage the rest of your life paying off hospital costs
8 and things like that. I think we are going to have to come
9 nationally, and I think we are in some degree already, to
10 a point of view where a holistic preventive approach to
11 disease and general health is emphasized. And I think
12 that that's going to start to some degree with the larger
13 corporations, the insurance companies. And I think one
14 sees it already in national media in advertising,
15 encouraging people to get out and get healthy, making being
16 healthy and physically fit something that's desirable from
17 all points of view.

18 I think the State of Alaska should adopt an
19 attitude -- I am not talking about programs but it's easier
20 to adopt programs than it is to adopt attitudes -- towards
21 a, perhaps, nontraditional or nonmedical model approach to
22 health care and prevention of disease which views the whole
23 body, the environment, and not necessarily sort of a Band
24 Aid or fix up approach to making people well but instilling
25 in people a sense of what it is they need to do to stay

1 healthy.

2 And I predict that we will see on a very large
3 scale, large corporations trying to keep their health care
4 costs down, encouraging people, giving them incentive,
5 economic incentives, any number of things, running,
6 swimming, playing handball, basically following regimens
7 which keep their bodies fit. And I think until we begin to
8 adopt an attitude that the body has homeostatic tendencies
9 to keep itself well and that we must do everything to
10 encourage them through tax incentives, I don't know. This
11 is sort of a long terms, long terms kind of approach that I
12 think ultimately we should look at them.

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

14 THE POLLERATOR: Mr. Davis?

15 MR. DAVIS: I pass on health.

16 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Pelisio.

17 MR. PELISIO: Again, I come back to sort of a
18 conceptual approach. I don't have any real precise
19 concepts. But I think in this field as in others, our
20 government, with its wealth, should be using economic
21 incentives to get private enterprise to solve a lot of our
22 problems and to take on these problems. One of the things,
23 of course, is we talk about the inability of people to
24 afford health care services. One of the reasons that poor
25 people can't afford health care services. I think rather

1 than giving hand outs to take care of their medical
2 problems, give the people a means to take care of their own
3 problems.

4 Among the things that might be considered in the
5 areas for incentives, for example, let's break away a
6 little bit more from the concept that only a doctor can
7 take care of ours needs. Doctors are tremendously
8 expensive as we all know, and I will not going to promote
9 that.

10 We find that paramedics and nurses are given the
11 capacity to use their skills. We could encourage the
12 concept of using quasi-medical people to deal with an awful
13 lot of ours medical problems at a heck of a lot less
14 expense, and again, they would be providing it as a private
15 enterprise function.

16 With regard to medical care delivery, one of the
17 highest costs, of course, are hospital costs. And one of
18 the reasons we are told that hospital costs are so high is
19 you are going to provide high technology and I think
20 Alaskans have access to high technology medical invention.
21 As a matter of fact, the scanners, and so on, can scan the
22 entire body and diagnose incredible things in three
23 dimension. The centrifuge systems where you put samples of
24 fluids and you can get computer diagnosis of all kinds of
25 conditions instantaneously at very low cost.

1 The problem is the initial investment is so high.
2 The hospitals say they have to justify their high costs to
3 acquire the
4 investment of the intensive care units, these sophisticated
5 technological devices. Maybe what the State could do is to
6 make low interest loans or even capital contributions to
7 privately owned hospitals to acquire this equipment, and
8 then, of course, let the hospital charge for the operation
9 of it. But the operational expenses are frequently not
10 that great.

11 But again to put the incentive on the private
12 enterprise, for the State to provide the seed money in a
13 sense to provide the encouragement, even sometimes the
14 training to learn how to use these things.

15 The idea that Mary Jane has is an excellent one
16 and I think it meets your problem in part about the Medivac
17 concept about your telecommunications diagnosis and
18 treatment. A lot of what can be done nowadays is not just
19 what the doctor can see the patient. The doctor can
20 actually feel the patient. The doctor can actually be
21 inside the patient doing things, can be administering the
22 patient medications and all kinds of things by remote
23 control in electronics. Again we ought to be encouraging
24 private enterprise. I represent a client, Arctic Telecon
25 Association, which is owned by the people of the Arctic

1 slope from low interest borrowing of the association, which
2 is going to be repaid out of revenues generated from the
3 telephone system. They hope to be able to provide many of
4 these collateral services, not just a few, so you can pick
5 up a telephone and talk, so the doctors can treat patients
6 in villages, so the people can hold conferences and
7 discussions at long distance, so on and so forth. But the
8 villagers don't have the money to instigate something like
9 that. You need the seed money, the incentives. So we are
10 just kind of going back to the old saw I have been
11 hammering.

12 Alcoholism. I think it's a sad affair that we
13 are treating alcoholism by government programs and
14 government employees. I think we ought to be treat
15 alcoholism by private enterprise, who maybe has to contract
16 with the government and maybe a large source of their
17 revenue would come from the government, maybe because
18 people can't afford alcohol treatment can. But they have
19 some standards of performance that they have to meet. If
20 they can't cut those standards, somebody else is standing
21 in line saying, "I can do a better job, and I can provide
22 this alcohol treatment better than this other fellow, so I
23 ought to be the one." So maybe there are five or six that
24 are providing competing services in our society.

25 I think we ought to get away from the panacea

1 that government can and should do everything for us. As I
2 talk, I am sure some of you get the feeling that I have
3 kind of an axe to grind with bureaucrats. But in truth, I
4 think we have to realize it's not the bureaucrats all doing
5 what they are doing. They are doing what they are doing
6 because we asked them to, we have given the opportunity,
7 and they have the natural inclinations to use and abuse
8 those opportunities just like we do in the opportunities
9 that we have.

10 But the problem is we are so used to them solving
11 ours problems for us that we are complaining here that we
12 don't have input in roads. We don't have input on health
13 needs and things like that. The difficulty is when we are
14 often asked for input, we say, "Gee, let somebody else talk,
15 let somebody else take care of it. I'm too busy. I've got
16 to take care of my own personal problems." We don't
17 provide the input, we don't provide the solution to the
18 problem.

19 We've got to break ourselves away from this. We
20 have to have a system where the man can demand and given
21 the opportunity to be independent, and the government is a
22 helper and sometimes an innovator, maybe, but we are the
23 ones that have to get the job done.

24 TIL MOHAWATCH: Thank you.

25 Mrs. Cooke, Margaret.

1 MS. COOKE: I agree with Fran. I think education on
2 health, welfare is very important, especially the villages
3 where there is no access to a doctor or a hospital. and
4 where there is a hospital like in Bethel, I think even
5 though there is a hospital, it's understaffed, and with a
6 new hospital coming up, there is no funding for -- it's not
7 funded enough for a staff, and there is no funding for
8 housing for the staff.

9 And I think the other thing in the health area we
10 are too look at is housing. In some of the villages there
11 is housing in the villages. There is government housing
12 coming in, but it's not -- plus the thing I see with the
13 housing, the majority of the funding is spent here in
14 acreage or wherever it's funded out of. A bulk of the
15 money goes to administration.

16 And just this last week my husband was in the
17 village and he came back and he couldn't believe what he
18 told me. He said he went into a village to a married
19 couple who had seven kids. He said they were living in a
20 10 by 12 house. And I couldn't believe it.

21 We live -- in the summer we live -- and that's
22 for health problems, he went in there. There was two beds
23 in there. The ceiling was leaking. A couple of rooms and
24 seven kids. And I think health problems is one of the
25 things we should look into: In the summer we live in a 10

1 by 12 by 14 with three kids and that's hardly enough room

2 THE MODERATOR: Margaret, are you from Bethel? Is the
3 hospital --

4 MR. COOK: We have a new hospital there now, but a
5 new hospital is coming up and should be opening up pretty
6 soon, but the funding isn't there. It's not funded
7 adequately.

8 THE MODERATOR: Is the hospital that is there now, is
9 it a HHS?

10 MR. GIBSON: Yes.

11 MR. COOK: Uh-huh.

12 THE MODERATOR: Are there any training facilities that
13 are going on in the hospital?

14 MR. COOK: I don't know that much about it, but
15 there are training programs with like Bethel Hospital and
16 USFHS work closely together. They have training programs
17 for kids. But I think there should be more on preventive
18 health, what to do with our different (pause) well,
19 especially for village people. Education on what we can do
20 for ourselves or prevent sicknesses.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

22 MR. DAVISON: I second Margaret and everybody else
23 who has talked about preventive medicine. I think that is
24 an area that needs a lot of emphasis and focus and input
25 from a lot of people.

1 The one area I think is really important, the
2 mental health. The headline in the paper this morning
3 points out to me the absolute utter failure of our system
4 to deal with mental health problems. Here is a 16 year old
5 and 17 year old kids a boy and his girlfriend, in Anchorage
6 arrested for the murder of a taxicab driver. That is an
7 extreme case, but I think there are a lot of kids that have
8 emotional problems that put them in McLaughlin and get them
9 in trouble with the law.

10 I don't think the answer is real easy, but I
11 think they come from a lot of directions to solve these
12 kinds of problems and I think in the preventive area to
13 give these kinds of kids an opportunity to deal with their
14 problems and to have a healthy environment in the school
15 and in the community, and I think this is what you have to
16 look to.

17 I think this relates to some of the other subject
18 areas we are going to deal with. For example, in terms of
19 education, this film we saw and the programs we heard
20 described to me this morning to me is an excellent example
21 new in the area of education you can work with kids who
22 have emotional problems or some problems or kids that don't
23 have problems. I think we should have more counseling in
24 the schools. I think we should have a different array of
25 opportunities for kids with problems to work them out and

1 to have opportunities to develop transportation in other
2 areas that people in some of the rural areas need. If they
3 have some health problem, it's sometimes difficult to get
4 into a hospital and to get to the best medical care. I
5 think that to me emphasizes the need for the airports to be
6 in good shape and have the right equipment to get in and
7 out of there in different types of weather.

8 It's frustrating, I have been in villages and try
9 to get out and you are there for two or three days because
10 it's storming and the runway washed away or something like
11 that. And if somebody is in a critical condition, it could
12 be a matter of life and death.

13 In the area of law and justice, I think that
14 there is a lot more than what we can do in terms of
15 rehabilitation when people have gotten in trouble rather
16 than putting them in jail. Rehabilitate them. Again, this
17 is a mental health area.

18 In terms of recreation and community projects, I
19 think we should try a way to develop opportunities just
20 right in the local level, and communities within cities, so
21 that young people have chances to grow and develop in
22 healthy ways.

23 And then the area of finances which we will get
24 into later, we've got to learn about financing health.
25 Another article is this hospital, 5 million bucks short. I

1 don't have the answers to that, but maybe somebody could
2 get into the financing of health, somebody who has
3 expertise in that area. There seems to be a few problems.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Chapados.

5 MR. CHAPADOS: I am not too familiar with the current
6 situation as far as health care in Alaska is concerned. I
7 still think that we are here, of course, to try and develop
8 some thoughts and to pass these thoughts on to the members
9 of the legislature who are concerned about the level of the
10 services that the State should provide to the people of
11 Alaska. And I am not an expert in this field by any means
12 and maybe someone can address that. But I think in terms
13 of, there is probably several areas in health that need to
14 be looked at. And I think we have to, in order to maintain
15 the high standard of health throughout the State we have,
16 there are certain standards that have to be met and there
17 are other things that are carrying on. I suppose they
18 examine foods in restaurants and all these things are a
19 part of the services that have to be performed. And I
20 suppose the State is the place where this has to be done.

21 I would say if we had a satisfactory level in
22 this area of performance, that perhaps we are on the right
23 track and that we just have to meet the costs of inflation
24 and the increased population, whatever, that would be
25 necessary to fund these programs. I am not sure where the --

1 what the situation is regarding the real health problems.
2 Just how bad are things in Alaska with respect to whether
3 or not people are getting proper care.

4 It was mentioned that only those people that can
5 afford it can get medical attention. I would think that
6 what we are trying to do in the State, and if there has
7 been a lot of money appropriated, we are trying to take
8 care of the people who can't help themselves and are not
9 able to meet costs. If this is the case, there is
10 something wrong with the delivery system and that's got to
11 be looked at and improved on and streamlined on so the
12 money that is the expense gets back to the people that need
13 the help. I am one person that is opposed to hand out,
14 people who are not worthy of hand out. But boy, if
15 somebody needs help, I think it's ours responsibility to
16 get it. And it's a quality type of help.

17 where do we stand as far as, should we tell the
18 legislature that the responsibility for health is limited
19 to certain areas or to a certain extent?

20 We talk about private enterprise coming into the
21 picture and I think that's good, because I think that the
22 State can do a lot to provide the leadership and perhaps
23 the wherewithall, but I think we ought to give our tax
24 paying citizens and people in enterprise, private
25 enterprise an opportunity to make a few dollars and perhaps

1 they can pay taxes. Perhaps this is the one way we might
2 meet some of the concerns that Steve has.

3 That's all I have to say.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

5 MR. CARTER: I don't have anything to add.

6 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper.

7 MR. COOPER: I listened to the comments coming around
8 the room. And I think we need to realize there is no way
9 for enough money for the State to ever provide all of the
10 health care that everyone feels they should have because
11 it's a nonending escalator. We have to get back to the
12 basic premise that some people feel they get a sliver in
13 their finger, they need to go to the hospital. Others a
14 sliver, why you take care of it yourself. So I guess what
15 I am saying is that if the State is going to be in a
16 position of insuring that every one has all of the health
17 care they feel they need, we are broke. I think we should
18 say that the catastrophic type of illness, accident, there
19 should be help available. But I don't think it should be
20 left to the individual to make the decision on whether or
21 not they can afford health care because there are some
22 people who can never afford anything. And there is others
23 who will do on their own to the point where it makes us
24 feel real bad that they are, in effect, taking care of
25 themselves to that extent, people with broken bones who set

1 them, themselves, and go on about their business because
2 they couldn't afford it to do otherwise. I think that's
3 the gist of what I am saying.

4 I would like to mention though that Mr. Ekval
5 made a comment about physical health, exercise and all of
6 this. But not once did he mention a real fine way of being
7 in fine physical condition. Just to do a little bit of
8 work once in awhile. Just plain productive work has a
9 tendency to keep people in pretty fair physical condition.
10 I am sure Mr. Fairbanks has very little problem with
11 needing to go out and jog in the morning in order to get
12 his exercise, not if he's going to be out in a potatoe
13 field hoeing potatoes all day. Maybe we need to get back
14 to work and help take care of some of our mental health
15 problems and physical health problems.

16 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Carlson.

17 MR. CARLSON: Yes, Madam Chairman, I have very little
18 new to add except I would urge our Legislature to take a
19 new look at our current catastrophic insurance program.
20 In talking to the Commissioner, I don't feel it's properly
21 funded. I think normally it's been the history, at least
22 that I have followed, the low income people normally are
23 taken care of healthwise, maybe not to the degree they
24 would like, and maybe it's not as available as they would
25 like, but normally it's not an additional financial burden

1 even on them. The wealthy have found it's not a big
2 problem. It's the middle income person who is hit and
3 doesn't have a plan with the catastrophic wipe out. And I
4 think ours Legislature without any great new studies or
5 anything could more adequately fund it and maybe take look
6 at what they established originally as the entry level for
7 availability of catastrophic concerns.

8 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

9 MS.FLYNN: Agreeing with a number of things I have
10 heard, I pick out three. I would like to see some equal
11 access to health systems. And I say health systems plural
12 intentionally with some rather creative and alternative
13 methods of doing so.

14 I very, very strongly endorse the idea of
15 prevention, which would include everything from baby
16 clinics, again, sometimes an alternative means, to very,
17 very comprehensive health education. I have heard a dozen
18 people say that, and comprehensive health education, and
19 you used the terms holistic, which means good physical
20 health, the good mental health going along with having a
21 problem, being a productive human being, and feeling good
22 about oneself as a provider or a producer or whatever
23 you're doing. It certainly includes alcohol education and
24 it certainly includes sex education, because that's what's
25 perpetuating all the problems that go along anyway.

1 And I would also echo on cost containment,
2 primarily through prevention, but also in recognition that
3 health care systems more and more are becoming simply a
4 cost of doing business. Health care systems are provided
5 in two ways, not just in this State, but all over this
6 country. They're provided by the government as a direct
7 subsidy to people, or they are provided by an insurance
8 program paid for through either a union benefit or part of
9 one's job and persons temporarily out of work, Dwayne said
10 it beautifully, persons temporarily out of work or just
11 above the poverty level in that sort of low middle income
12 level are the people who have the worst problems achieving
13 good health care, any health care at all. So I think those
14 areas, access, cost retention and prevention.

15 MR. ARVAL: Madam Chairman, I would add to those two,
16 people who are self-employed who are not part of a plan
17 fall between those.

18 MS. FLYNN: Farmers may get sick.

19 THE MODERATOR: Ah.

20 MS. DICKSON: I think I have to agree with the
21 holistic approach to this whole problem. I can't emphasize
22 that enough. I also think that we are dealing with
23 prevention. We also have to streamline our present system
24 of, well, just our present system. But I just think we've
25 got to emphasize the holistic approach in our whole

1 education and preventive maintenance of ourselves

2 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr. Fairbanks.

3 MR. FAIRBANKS: Just have three things: number 1,
4 health education programs should be better funded. Right
5 now the health education programs in Bethel are such as
6 they are in a crisis, they were fund for a little while and
7 then they don't have any money for the health aids. And
8 it's very substandard.

9 Alcohol abuse is a major medical problem in rural
10 Alaska today and it should be recognized as such. If we
11 did not have a lot of alcohol abuse then a lot of ours
12 health problems in the rural areas wouldn't be as bad. And
13 we need to change from crisis management in the health care
14 field to preventive medicine. And right now the output of
15 health care in the bush is only such that they can provide
16 for the crises. And nobody is providing for preventative
17 medicine. That's about all I have to say

18 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

19 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Fairbanks said a lot of things I was
20 going to speak about. I think if we were to send any
21 priority, however, to the Legislature for its most critical
22 and immediate attention, it would be in the area of alcohol
23 abuse and its attendant ancillary problem. This is
24 probably ours number one crime problem, probably ours
25 number one health problem in the state, certainly of rural

Alaska, and I doubt that urban Alaska is much better off.

Two brief comments on the educational preventive thing. Such programs of paraprofessional education which I have heard recommended here are, indeed, capriciously, carelessly and infrequently funded. The health services in the villages could be vastly improved by helping train and fund the training programs for the paraprofessionals. I have seen great things that they are doing, both in crisis management and again preventative work. They need to do more.

The last thing is that ours communications system in rural Alaska in support of health services in an absolutely indefensible shambles. Many millions of dollars were appropriated for a system to do this. That had been goodness knows how frittered away, but we still have absolutely intolerable unsupportable communications relative to health in the State of Alaska. I would not recommend that we load it on the satellite. I would recommend local, supportable, economically feasible and locally repairable microwave or VHF systems. Amen.

THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Guess.

MR. GUESS: To add a little different note, based on my experience, I see a need for the realistic planning for the delivery of community health services which ultimately impact the health of the individual. And I am very

1 specific, and you just know right where I am coming from,
2 it will go back to energy. It's your sewer and water
3 systems.

4 When these are planned for, consideration must be
5 given to who will and who can pay for those services. Is
6 it going to be the State? Is it going to be the local
7 community? Is it going to be the individual? And
8 specifically, I will give us four examples that have come
9 to the attention of my bureaucratic shop in the last year.

10 The city of Hoonah, for its water and sewer
11 system, owe the Utility \$42,000. Minto had the power
12 turned off to its water system because it was unable to pay
13 a \$38,000 bill. Skagway, as you may have read, is refusing
14 to hook up to the sewer treatment plant. Ambler has eight
15 lift stations for its sewer facility. That's to take the
16 stuff up the hill. Anchorage has nine.

17 These community health facilities are directly
18 dependent and the costs of them relate to energy. We go in
19 and say, "Don't worry, we are going to build a system and
20 you are going to maintain it." And I do not think that
21 realistic planning has gone into what we've seen so far.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 MS. GOLDS: Could I make an aside, just one thing, I
24 wanted to comment on Mr. Davidson, because I felt like a
25 minority of one yesterday. On the head lines, when you

1 read the paper about the two young people charged with this
2 awful thing, read that neither one of them were enrolled in
3 a high school.

4 MS. FLYNN: Oh, the Anchorage public schools.

5 MS. GUESS: And they wouldn't have a need for a
6 post-secondary school.

7 MR. DELISIO: They might have a need but they wouldn't
8 have an incentive to use it.

9 MR. CAZLEY: I don't have anything to add.
10 Previously most of it has been said here. I was glad to
11 see Mr. Carlson point out how you can't afford to be ill or
12 sick nowadays. And I wish I shared Mr. Delisio's
13 enthusiasm about what technology will do for us, after
14 observing the age of the pills and so forth, what it has
15 done.

16 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Davis.

17 MS. DAVIS: I agree with most of the things that have
18 been said around the table, and I feel as we blueprint for
19 the '80s that we have to give some special consideration to
20 some of the people that fall through the cracks. And
21 that's the senior citizens and teenagers. When you think
22 about state facilities, you know we have AFI. You know we
23 have really no other place. We have AFI. We also have the
24 McLaughlin youth center for the juvenile delinquents. For
25 those that aren't in trouble with the law, we have nothing

1 to provide for them except for some of the private
2 facilities that we have and not having enough. We often
3 have to ship especially teenagers out to the Lower 48. So
4 I feel we have to display special emphasis on that,
5 providing the health services that they need in mental
6 health as well as physical health, whatever they need to be
7 provided for them.

8 I also think that we need to pay special interest
9 ours senior citizens making sure that their needs are being
10 met because more and more people are beginning to realize
11 that they prefer to stay here in Alaska rather than stay
12 here until they retire and go somewhere else in the Lower
13 48 to stay. Because of the high costs of medical expenses,
14 a lot of them choose to leave the State against that you
15 their own wishes.

16 Another area I have some concern about because I
17 as a woman is the fact that I feel that women are not
18 treated fairly when they go to the doctor for examinations
19 to be treated because of something that's wrong with them.
20 A lot of times, the doctors do not want to seem to get to
21 the cause of the problem; they just want to treat the
22 symptoms. In other words, if a man goes, they feel that
23 there is something physically wrong, and they feel that
24 they came to see what they can do to discover the cause of
25 it. If a woman goes, they feel that they can give them

1 tranquillizers and other things that will take care of their
2 little ills. And I think there should be something in line
3 to correct that.

4 MR. CHOW: Funny.

5 MS. DAVIS: This is not funny. It's true. That's
6 one of my main concerns. I also feel that nurses are not
7 treated fairly in this health system because, if you notice,
8 a lot of people state that doctors need not be available to
9 provide all the medical treatment, that it could be done by
10 others, and they push towards doctor's assistants or all
11 the other names that they might want to call them, but the
12 the person who is trained a doctor's assistant act on behalf
13 of the doctors.

14 On the other hand, we look at nurses who have
15 more than 4 years of education and gone beyond that, and
16 all you want them to provide is bedside treatment to the
17 patient, and I think we could get better use than the
18 capacity than we use them, and the aids.

19 THE MODERATOR: We have Mr. Fison with us this morning.

20 MR. FISON: My main concern is in the area of
21 prevention realizing that treatment is necessary. But we
22 continue to build bigger and better hospitals at the bottom
23 of the cliff and we haven't built too many fences at the
24 top yet. In other words, we need to prevent people from
25 falling over it we can. And part of the problem is that we

1 are spending more and more on, let's say, dealing with
2 alcoholism rather than trying to get at the root of
3 alcoholism, which is the problem of many times people not
4 having the kind of emotional stability, not having good
5 self-image, which was already mentioned, emotional and
6 mental health.

7 The medical profession estimates go as high as 75
8 percent that most illnesses or all illnesses, except
9 accidental illnesses, begin with emotional stress and grow
10 over the years. We have very few programs dealing with
11 these. I just learned of one program in other states.
12 They are having kids with high blood pressure and who are
13 overweight, coming an hour early to school giving them
14 special exercises and special attention giving them
15 treatment and education so later in life they won't have
16 the problems as the other kids won't have.

17 I think if we spent money on preventive health,
18 we would have to spend much less on the other end if we had
19 to deal with it in a medical way. That's my feelings.

20 THE MODERATOR: Five seconds.

21 MR. BLISS: Just the thought occurred to me the idea
22 of this holistic health concept, biofeedback, for example,
23 training people to understand what is going on within
24 themselves and to what extent they can control them by will
25 is an area that we badly need to do a lot more analysis in.

1 and perhaps it requires some means to make it available.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

3 MS. CARPENTLER: Can I just make one more comment?

4 THE MODERATOR: One more comment.

5 MS. CARPENTLER: Quickly, in the Bethel area we have a
6 very successful EMS program. I would like to remind
7 everybody that accidents are the highest cause of death in
8 Alaska, and that we do need accident prevention programs
9 and training for EMS, and ambulance services.

10 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

11 MR. FAIR: Just one, protective services, mental
12 health, and drugs are big problem in the villages in the
13 interior, a suicidal mental vacuum. And the State agencies
14 passed an act last year with regards to funds, low interest,
15 and facilities. If we could really get to all that
16 legislation, I would say early detection like you did, but
17 quality health care with a family involvement close to home.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, it's approximately ten
19 after 12. We will be back here at 1:15.

20 MS. CARPENTLER: Madam Chairman. Can we start at that
21 time regardless of who is here or not here.

22 THE MODERATOR: We are going to start at 1:15.

23 MR. GIBSON: So there.

24 (Noon Recess)

25 THE MODERATOR: Are you ready? The word is energy.

1 Mrs. Guess?

2 MR. GIBSON: I think this was rigged.

3 THE MODERATOR: Yes, it was.

4 MS. FLEMING: Question? I thought we were going to
5 complete direct services and then energy by two o'clock.
6 Wasn't that the motion we made? By 2, energy.

7 THE MODERATOR: It's 1:25 now. And direct services
8 just isn't going to -- I took it that we would be on energy
9 by two o'clock. If we start now, we will be on energy by
10 two o'clock.

11 MR. GIBSON: I understood that it was to be no later
12 than 2 that we would be into it.

13 MS. FLEMING: I just thought that if there was
14 something pressing that people wanted to say about
15 communications and law and justice.

16 THE MODERATOR: We are not going to forget it.
17 Carolyn is going to be very, very brief.

18 MS. GUESS: I am concerned that some of our tardy
19 ones may have some words to share.

20 MS. CARPENTER: That's their problem.

21 MS. GUESS: I agree that it is their problem. I do
22 not want to say that much initially. I would like to
23 reserve some time in the clean-up slot, mainly because I
24 want to hear the concerns and the ideas that other people
25 have.

1 My job at the Alaska Public Utilities Commission
2 is to react to today's policy and to set rates accordingly.
3 And we are specifically talking in the energy area now.

4 We should be considering long terms goals in the
5 area of energy. But the reason I handed out the
6 compilation of the diesel fuel costs to you was I wanted to
7 show you what I believe is an overwhelming need to look at
8 some kind of short terms or intermediate terms solution to
9 what I think is an overwhelming problem.

10 Hydro is a marvelous alternative. We are all
11 talking about it. It doesn't go on line. Next month, next
12 year, two years from now. The people in Kodiak will tell
13 you that they have been working for two years to get a
14 permit to begin and what I want you to see on this sheet.
15 And, of course, my background is particularly in -- as far
16 as the generation of electricity -- but translate this to
17 heating fuel. It's the same fuel that fuels the generator,
18 is I think we have a crisis. And the crisis is this:
19 Shall it be in the public interest to keep the lights on
20 and the generation going in rural Alaska?

21 Some people say, "You know, if they can't make it,
22 they can't make it." Well, I would like you to consider
23 some of the consequences of not making it. When we talk
24 about health services and the delivery of health services,
25 we are talking about the need for electric energy, keeping

1 the drugs cold. We are talking about not having freezers
2 if we don't have any power. And I could go on and on. But
3 it's a little tough sitting in the slot where we say, "Usual
4 pay 40 cents a kilowatt hour for power." And this is what
5 my shop has said to the residents of the Avak villages.

6 To the people of Bethel we have just approved a
7 rate increase that will be probably 22 or 23 cent power.
8 The people in the urban areas, in Anchorage and in Juneau,
9 are a little bit more fortunate today because Anchorage
10 generates on gas. And the gas, the gas contract is much
11 less. The people in the Anchorage area pay four cents a
12 kilowatt hour. The people in Juneau are paying anywhere
13 from five cents to ten cents.

14 How do we stimulate economic development in our
15 rural areas when the cost of power is so high? Do we keep
16 the lights going?

17 THE MODERATOR: All right, who would like to jump in?

18 MR. GIBSON: Madam Chairman?

19 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

20 MR. GIBSON: Rather than make a long statement, I
21 would like to refer you to my paper mailed in as a people
22 paper on Alaskan oil and energy. I would like to endorse
23 everything that has been said thus far as entirely
24 realistic. I would like to cast our energy problems,
25 however, and our energy challenge on a statewide basis. I

1 would like it to be the sense of this group that ours
2 highest priority for the expenditure of the monies we get
3 from our petroleum reserves go to the conversion to
4 systems as appropriate to get us off petroleum power
5 technology no later than the year 2000.

6 My proposal indicates specific time tables,
7 specific legislation, and specific recommendations for that
8 accomplishment. I should like to recommend to the group
9 that they look it over. It's certainly not definitive or
10 exhaustive. But I think something of this sort should go
11 emerging from this group. We can make a general statement
12 that we need to do more. It's later than we think.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fairbanks?

14 MR. FAIRBANKS: I will pass right now.

15 THE MODERATOR: Ah?

16 MR. DICESON: I think I would like to pass at this
17 point.

18 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper?

19 MR. COOPER: I think that Carolyn Guess probably
20 touched on the biggest single problem with the energy
21 within the state, and that's government. I think we are
22 our own worst enemy. We need to develop hydro, which is a
23 relatively inexhaustible source of power. And the first
24 thing we do is erect such road blocks in the permitting
25 process, that we freeze to death several times over before

1 we can finally get the permit, let alone get the facility
2 built and on stream. We have been 20 years trying to get
3 the permit to build Bradley Lake. And we are assured that
4 we will be getting it probably within the next couple of
5 years.

6 And like I say, I think if the commitment to pull
7 the road blocks out of the way that, rather than a being
8 able to carry this permitting process on for practically
9 forever, that there be guidelines established as to the
10 amount of time that an agency can spend in its
11 deliberations to speed up this process that we can turn the
12 human resource loose to develop this alternate sources of
13 energy, whatever they might be.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

15 Miss Fleming?

16 MS. FLEMING: I can only overwhelmingly support Mr.
17 Gibson's goals as outlined in his paper. I think that
18 Alaska has enough alternative power sources that are
19 regenerative in nature that it will not have to resort to
20 nuclear energy, which at this stage, although it's a
21 wonderful branch of physics, is still in the finishing
22 stage. And when they finally get around to perfecting
23 fuses, it will be great.

24 But I think the dangers are too important. And I
25 would like to see these other things explored explicitly.

1 MR. DAVIDSON: I agree. And self-sufficiency, I think,
2 is also very important.

3 THE MODERATOR: Margaret?

4 MS. COOPER: I don't have much to add to Gibson's
5 paper, but I think with most of the electricity now, the
6 question posed: is should we continue to keep this
7 electricity going?

8 Relatively people were happy before electricity
9 came, but now that electricity is there, we don't want to
10 shut it off. Once we get it, we don't want to let it go.
11 And I think it's essential that some. The electricity
12 bills now are way, way, way high. But even though they are
13 high, the people aren't going to shut their houses off.
14 And I think the alternative sources should be explored, you
15 know, because here, sometimes household income for a month
16 will only go into electrical bills or fuel bills. And if
17 they could, you know, get the fuel down.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Delisio.

19 MR. DELISIO: I think there are two problems. First
20 problem that Carolyn has touched on is one of immediacy.
21 And the other problem is a long terms solution. Obviously
22 what needs to be done now is throw a tourniquet on a
23 gushing wound, perhaps, instead of nursing it and seeing
24 the wound is healed and returned the full use. On a short
25 terms basis, it doesn't seem to me there is too many

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1 alternatives. One alternative is to provide a State
2 subsidy to purchase the fuel or a State subsidy to
3 transport it.

4 One subsidy that wouldn't be difficult to bear is
5 the use of National Guard personnel to fly tanker planes
6 loaded with diesel fuel and someone into these villages. I
7 find that today in our system, our Air National Guard
8 crews are required to fly so many hours a month. And they
9 fly with empty aircraft nine times out of ten with no
10 discernible mission. They are just keeping up their
11 competence, which they must and certainly should do as
12 required by the governor. And if we have critical
13 shortages and the cost of transportation we know is
14 staggering and air we now know is the only way to get it in
15 because the reefs are freezing up and the ocean is
16 freezing. Maybe we ought to use the Air National Guard to
17 put it in.

18 The water projects we talked about, seems to me
19 that rather than fractionalizing our energy production
20 system, we really ought to look at some way to concentrate
21 in it so that we gain some efficiencies.

22 For example, Buckminster Fuller last night was
23 talking about creating a worldwide power grid that we can
24 extend from the United States across the pole from Alaska
25 to the Soviet Union, and Alaska would be the pivotal

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1 location.

2 he was explaining now with the new methods of
3 conducted electricity, you could transmit power with
4 minimal voltage 1500 miles or more, and by increasing your
5 voltage you could transmit it farther on a point-to-point
6 basis. With those kinds of distances available for
7 transmission of power, there is no need to generate your
8 bulk electrical production in a remote village all of the
9 waste and efficiency involved in that. You could produce
10 it in the Beluga Fields fields, where another source of
11 energy concentration is located.

12 Another possibility is transmitting electric
13 energy on laser waves, light beams, and on radio waves,
14 which I understand is another technological concept that's
15 developing. Where electrically power itself can be
16 transmitted through the air, the visible world that he was
17 talking about.

18 Again this seems to me the private enterprise
19 incentive to do this on a long term basis, and disincentives
20 to those who stand in the way.

21 I wish Mr. Carlson were here right now, because I
22 am sure he would have a reaction to what I am saying. The
23 use of Beluga Fields presents a tremendous source of fuel
24 for Alaska. They have a huge tremendous potential of coal
25 and modern equipment to remove the coal. They are finding

1 extreme difficulty to continue to do so simply because of
2 the union practices and the feather-bedding that's going on
3 in the coal industry in Alaska.

4 Those things need to be discouraged, partly by
5 education and partly perhaps by disincentives to the
6 industry that permits itself to respond that way and
7 contract negotiations, perhaps even to the workman who is a
8 party to that thing. What disincentives would be, I
9 haven't really thought it out. But it seems to me it would
10 bear some looking.

11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Charley.

12 MR. CHARLEY: In Copper Valley, we have an electric
13 plant there located in Glennallen. But then 70 miles south,
14 there is a village down there. 50 native people live in
15 that village. And then there is a town. Each one of them
16 has a plant, a local plant. And now what we have been
17 talking about, there is a water, the old hydro plant they
18 had at the Copper River. Town Lake used to supply water
19 plants. And we have been talking about to see if we can
20 revive that old Town Lake land.

21 The property, that tunnel, whether tunnel or
22 underground down to the Copper River, is our property and
23 wouldn't be much problem to get it transferred the total to
24 the electric company, if we can get one started. And the
25 town hasn't got any lights. The only thing they do is, I

1 think there was a man I was talking to last week said they
2 were -- it cost them \$150 a month just for oil alone. And
3 then they were paying so much a month for installment plan
4 with their, what they were paying on the payment, and which
5 runs about 200, \$300 a month for just what lighting they
6 get. That's one person I talked to.

7 The water potential, we have a lot of water
8 potential, because we've got at Town Lake. And if Town
9 Lake wasn't self-sufficient, we could go to Fox Creek where
10 there is quite a volume of water coming out the hill.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mrs. Degnan?

12 MRS. DEGNAN: Looking at energy, I think, in terms of
13 heating your homes and keeping electricity going and with
14 most of the population living in the Anchorage area and
15 paying four cents a kilowatt hour and the rest of the State
16 goes on varying rates.

17 But looking at choices where people want to live
18 in the life style they want to maintain, and shall we going
19 to come up with a solution to high energy costs to where
20 that we will only have what you call modern cities,
21 regionally, where you have one region -- you go in and you
22 have all the conveniences, and then you go back into the
23 small community to survive and live like we have lived the
24 past several centuries. So it's kind of are we going to
25 provide equal access for the leases or do we make sure that

1 people can only give them certain places.

2 THE MODERATOR: You are saying that's for us to decide.

3 MS. DEGNAN: This is for us to decide.

4 THE MODERATOR: This is for us to decide.

5 MS. DEGNAN: This is in the State of Alaska. I think
6 it's a really critical thing where if the costs are ready
7 to be up so high, there is no going into because, you know,
8 centers around are climbing, and development. All I am
9 saying it is a really critical situation. And we are
10 living in a cold climate, and so just -- we are happy in
11 the small village. It hasn't been too cold the past
12 several years. That's all I have to say.

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Ekval.

14 MR. EKVAL: This conference was called because we
15 have millions, if not billions of dollars, extra dollars,
16 because of our own sort of windfall profits on petroleum
17 in Alaska. And it seems to be that there is no more clear
18 cut issue in terms of how we should spend this money then
19 to somehow plow that back into the development of Alaska's
20 energy potential, one way or the other.

21 I don't have any black and white or very clear-
22 cut ideas about how that should be done, except that it's
23 going to get worse. The energy problem is going to get
24 worse before it gets better. And if we have a large amount
25 of money to play with over the next two or three years, it

1 seems obvious to me that we should supplant the use of oil,
2 diesel fuel, petroleum, and so forth, with some other kind
3 of program or programs from retrofitting houses, tax
4 incentives to insulate one's house, to the development of
5 alternative energy sources. And I haven't given it too
6 much thought now that would be done.

7 But to me it's important that the primary use of
8 these monies should being replewed back into the energy
9 field, because I think Carolyn said it earlier, this is the
10 nut around this which all of the problems revolve. And
11 until we deal with that one, health, transportation,
12 communications, they are all really basically ancillary

13 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Davis on energy.

14 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, on energy, I think the energy
15 problem you have here is kind of isolated to oil and gas
16 here. And that's what the United States needs to hear,
17 needs today. And it doesn't help us at all in the rural
18 area, because ours energy to operate ours diesel machinery
19 there is still reliant upon the fuel that's being brought
20 up there. We are not getting it big one way or the other
21 on fuel costs because we still pay the same price we did as
22 we did five years ago even though we got the oil being
23 produced here in Alaska. And I think that any kind, any
24 kind of a -- any more production of oil in the State of
25 Alaska last year, we would look at alternate sources of

energy within the area and I see nothing coming out.

Before, we sought ours resource and developed some kind of alternate energy. I think you all know we have the wind, we have the solar power. If we could develop then first, the areas that use the alternate sources, if they could be developed for us, the oil resources tapped, then I think we can benefit not only from the sale of the resource, but also benefit in terms of developing some renewable alternate energy resource for the rural areas.

MR. FATE: I confirm all what you are saying. I would like to see more study into alternate energy plans, like you said, the wind, the water, thermal, the hot springs. We have a lot in the State of Alaska that are not being utilized. Some of them are privately owned. But we haven't even tackled that or looked into it. There should be a tax incentive program not only in large businesses, or the corporation, but for the home owner.

Again, back to transportation, there should a better route of energy transportation, because you can't transfer the products with passenger. And there is certain regulations. You have to charter it certain size, that we should store energy and get places with not too much regulations, again, but store a larger bulk of energies in the rural areas.

1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Crow.

2 MR. CROW: Apparently we have a Kuskokwim caucus
3 position on this to which I subscribe. And I yield to Mr.
4 Gibson's paper.

5 MR. GIBSON: I am going to pay for this later, I just
6 really know.

7 (Laughter)

8 MS. CARPENTER: Yes, we do subscribe to the statement
9 Mr. Gibson has made and the other statements as has been
10 made here. The Kuskokwim Area does support as a long range
11 solution the immediate Bethel needs, the Colden Gate
12 highway project which has only been been proposed. We
13 realize this does not present a short terms solution. One
14 problem we have in that area relates to the APUC, which has
15 not supported through its regulations the efforts of
16 private utilities to invest money in waste heat recovery
17 systems. And we would like to see the regulations change
18 to permit that to encourage private industry, to utilize
19 modern systems.

20 And we strongly want to see wind generation. And
21 on an emergency basis, the villages must have some sort of
22 a short terms basis. The oil and gas that has been
23 produced comes from rural areas. The transportation
24 systems that do exist, we have subsidized a system in low
25 populated areas. We have extensive road systems in ours.

1 urban areas.

2 Because of those things, the people in those
3 areas have short power. For the short range, we must
4 equalize what rural people are paying by coming up with a
5 subsidy plan for, say, a five year period, that would
6 average out the cost of, the cost of power over the State,
7 and enable rural people to pay no more than that average.

8 And one last thing, we do support the idea of an
9 energy -- regional planning councils for energy that would
10 develop long range plans for fuel efficiency and for
11 alternative energy resources.

12 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Fisher.

13 MS. FISHER: In my opening statements, I made
14 reference to the fact that I supported alternative sources
15 of air, water and solar energy. And I still do. I would
16 like to see incentives given to people to do something
17 about any of these areas on a small scale so that if
18 anything goes wrong, you don't wipe out your neighbor.

19 This idea that if we are going to have solar
20 energy, my God, we have to pave our glass in, a whole
21 valley, to me does not do the job. I think it should be,
22 having people do things on a smaller scale.

23 I was recently visiting friends, and I find that
24 they paid more for electricity than we do. I think the
25 house is for a smaller size. One of the things that they

1 have done is gone to solar for a great number of things.

2 In fact, you will go to the industrial area, and you will
3 go to the stores, where you will buy units that do all
4 kinds of things to your house, cool it or heat it or any
5 number of thing.

6 I went to a Fairbanks committee and listened to
7 man telling me about solar energy in Fairbanks, that it
8 became too hot and that held the pipes together melted, but
9 that was sort of something that could be rectified. And I
10 think that much should be done to encourage the small
11 inventor-type people to work up things for their own homes.

12 I think there should be tax placed on the high
13 use cars and the high use buildings. It seems like we
14 bought a house that, when we moved back into Anchorage,
15 that was built over 20 years ago. The rooms are smaller.
16 It doesn't have the cathedral ceiling, the wasters. We
17 enjoy the fact that our fuel bills are less than in Kenai
18 for a comparable house.

19 I think that there is much could be done in the
20 design of a house. Our builder told us we have the
21 windows on the wrong side of the house. At this point, we
22 can't do anything about it. In building houses of the
23 future, there should be made into lots of capacity
24 solarization.

25 You can build things into the house to make it

1 more economically feasible. We feel it's a God given right
2 to have a glassed in view where we can see a view or
3 something or other. What happens is our view is
4 obliterated, because somebody builds a house right beside
5 you, because they want to look at you, too.

6 I think we have to look enough as to what happens
7 to the people in the rural areas as to say there should be
8 a limit on subsidy. I would not like to see them forced
9 into the city simply because they have cheaper power. I
10 think they should be able to live where they want to, but I
11 think there should be a time limit made with definite plans
12 by the area saying that we are going to combine solar, air,
13 power, and have it ready in a number of years.

14 I was raised on a farm. We did not get
15 electricity until the war came, but because we had cattle,
16 we were able to get electricity. The barn was electric at
17 first and the house came later. I grew up with a wind
18 chime outside my window. I hated the sort of thing, but
19 it provided a certain amount of electricity for a certain
20 use in the house. And I really didn't suffer a whole lot.

21 I think there needs to be somebody some education
22 along the lines of automobiles. And it's a rather
23 difficult subject, because for some people taking away
24 their gas guzzling automobile is a traumatic thing. I
25 stopped at the bus in the morning and watched one person go

1 by at each car, and they have to stop there at the
2 intersection of Fireweed and Arctic. So I get a look at
3 them. So it annoys me. They are using energy that belongs
4 to all of us. I think you are going to have to be
5 assertive to be able to speak up to say, "Go find something
6 else for your ego."

7 For some people, the only way they can function
8 is to wrap themselves in a piece of steel and get their
9 wheels in gear. And I find that this increasingly annoys
10 me. It really isn't all that good for your mental health.
11 I'm sorry.

12 MR. GIBSON: Amen.

13 MS. CROFT: In addition to the remarks by Mr. Gibson
14 which I think are excellent, I would like to also see some
15 study and research in the methods of power transmission.
16 Mr. Buckminster said that hopefully we will be part of the
17 group that's trying to send anybody's journey south. As we
18 would, fund alternative energy sources both individual
19 incentives and agree with the tax on high energy user. I
20 think sometimes the buildings that use a lot of electricity
21 cut right for the amount they use. Nothing like that
22 should ever occur in Alaska.

23 And I have a question of Mr. Cuesco. We are
24 going to have to do something for the short term. Is the
25 best type program one in which we take money from the

1 general fund and put it directly into this subsidy, or is
2 it the best type program where rights are equalized or
3 crossed out by putting it into more of a fund and
4 equalizing it? What is the method for, short terms subsidy.

5 MS. GUESS: I will be glad to respond.

6 Toni, I don't believe I have the answer for the
7 best. There are two Legislature committees and a governor's
8 committee addressing this problem. There are a number of
9 ways you can go. People are concerned that you have to
10 have some incentive to provide an efficient operation.
11 There are proposals -- I handed you out a sheet of paper so
12 you can see the increase of cost of fuel since January. We
13 get new ones every day.

14 Approximately 40 percent of the rate that anyone
15 wastes in the cost of the diesel fuel. So you can see
16 what's going to happen. Some people suggest subsidizing
17 only the fuel cost because people have no control over it.
18 My friends out at Bethel Utility have no control over what
19 happens, and I would like to address that. It's going to
20 caucus with the Kuskokwim group. But other people are
21 suggesting bus bar, which is this wonderful technical term,
22 which means subsidize, you are providing the electricity at
23 the generator. In other words, the maintenance from the
24 generator, you've got the power.

25 One thing, and I know my friend Mr. Gibson is not

1 a friend of this. I believe there is and I understand that
2 there be a directive and there is a solution.

3 As far as I am concerned, there should be one
4 generation source in a community. If the community the
5 utility is the generating source, for the schools, for the
6 cannery, and for whatever else. And you can't make private
7 enterprise hook up. I understand that. They will tell you
8 that it's cheaper. The schools will tell you that it's
9 cheaper. And I will have an opportunity to talk with Mr.
10 Gibson and tell you I don't believe that is. But the
11 larger your source of generation, the more efficiently you
12 are using nonrenewable resource.

13 And my concern is this, if we get to the crisis
14 stage of allocation in this state, in many areas who are we
15 going to allocate to? Are we going to allocate to the
16 utility? Are we going to allocate to the schooling? Are
17 we going to allocate to the cannery.

18 So the first thing I would say before we
19 subsidize is that if you have a certificate, you have a
20 utility. You have one generation source and we should
21 encourage private enterprises. Maybe it's through
22 incentives to purchase the power.

23 But there are a number of combinations in rural
24 Alaska four times what it is in Alaska.

25 MR. GIBSON: 40, ten times.

1 MS. GUESS: You are right, ten times. It just spells
2 problems. I don't think -- I think we need answers from
3 people and suggestion, short terms. And there are going to
4 be a lot of them this next session.

5 THE MODERATOR: Did you have anything else, Mrs.
6 Carpenter?

7 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Davis.

8 MS. DAVIS: I would just like to say that I would
9 endorse Mr. Cooper, his paper. There won't be a lot of
10 people coming from the outside to come in and solve for us
11 that we just better get about our business. And this one
12 thing we are doing is it's well for the university to do
13 instance research. They will come up for about our
14 renewable energy resources for the future. I think it is
15 the responsibility of everybody in Alaska to do their part.
16 As you observe people, they seem to have the other person
17 do without. But I want my share of the pie, and I want to
18 use as much as I want. I think we can eliminate that,
19 educating the public, children in the schools about the
20 energy that we now have so that we will know more at this
21 time and also the future.

22 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Pison.

23 MR. PISON: I think the key word that I feel in this --
24 or at least one of them -- is conservation. We are a very
25 wasteful people. We have gotten into a habit of wasting.

1 And it's difficult for us to retrain ourselves. So I think
2 the key is in education, and if that starts on the
3 elementary schools sufficiently, it will get back home to
4 the parents, and all of the other things that have been
5 mentioned may key into that.

6 However, I think that some economic incentives
7 would be in order. If it were profitable more than it is
8 now for car pooling, or the other way around, if it were a
9 penalty if you didn't, more people might be interested in
10 car pooling.

11 Also, from the standpoint of individual home
12 owners, when you install energy sources in your home, you
13 increase the value of your property. And you are penalized
14 for doing so. Your property taxes increase. I think
15 instead of increasing your property taxes, this type of
16 thing, energy efficiency evolves. And it is said reducing
17 your taxes rather than increasing them. And I think it's
18 just working opposite to what we are wanting. I think that
19 really needs to be looked into.

20 Also the revising of building codes in town would
21 make it possible for energy conservation in that. There
22 are people who would like to rent out a portion of their
23 house which we have the heat anyway, but they can't do it
24 because there are certain restrictions. Maybe some of
25 these restriction are good and I think they may not be.

1 competition in that regard would be of a help.

2 Also from the standpoint of construction policies,
3 there are certainly not things allowed to construction in
4 the energy that could be saved by using alternate materials.
5 And yet it's not looked upon in that fashion because it's
6 purely economic. Or the building trades have axe to go
7 grind in it. These are some of the things that I am
8 interested in and they all, I suppose, tend toward
9 conservation.

10 THE MODERATOR: We had a couple of late comers, if
11 you would like to have a chance, have a say. Mr. Chapados.

12 MR. CHAPADOS: I haven't heard all of the discussion
13 and I don't know if that means a lot to what I have to say.
14 But I live in Fairbanks where we have a refinery that gets
15 its crude source from the Alaska Pipe Line. We are paying
16 the same kind of money as far as anybody else in the State,
17 as far as the high cost of energy. It would seem to me
18 that somehow or another, this is kind of an unfair
19 situation. The State of Alaska gets the benefit of all the
20 unpaid taxes and that we pay the bill. Some form, it came
21 back to us in another form, whether it's a sublease
22 individual or whoever it goes to.

23 I feel within Alaska I think we ought to have
24 efficiency from the fact that the resources here are within
25 the State, virtually. There is no shortage. There is a

1 fact that there is a lot of discussion at the moment.
2 Regarding -- you will request a gas line, the Arasnutes
3 (phonetic) asked me to support the establishment of a
4 conditioning plant in the interior of Alaska.

5 At the present time, under the ruling of the
6 Federal Regulatory Commission, they have established a pipe
7 line pressure that will include transporting all of the
8 liquids into our gas. The plan is to build the plant at
9 Moser Bay and use probably 50 percent of these liquids.
10 And believe me, there is a lot of them in our gas. The
11 gas line, once it's in production will produce about
12 120,000 barrels of liquid a day. That's a lot of propane
13 and methane and other good things that can be used for
14 evaluated energy. That also could be a source of energy.
15 And it's going to provide more revenue to the State. And
16 they are still going to benefit from the windfall to prices
17 that exist today.

18 I think that somehow another, something, and I en-
19 sure the Legislature has under consideration. In various
20 committees some way to provide at least some sort of a
21 windfall for the people of Alaska.

22 I certainly appreciate the problems of the people
23 in the outlying areas because they do have a transportation
24 problem that's very costly on top of the fact the energy
25 sources themselves are expensive.

1 I don't know whether anybody has mentioned the
2 use of coal and wood. That seems to me I know it has some
3 empathy there with respect to the environment and so on.
4 The problem was anywhere wood could be used and even coal
5 might be used as a source of energy even on the outlying
6 areas because I think the cost of transporting coal could
7 be and the price of the coal at the mine itself is
8 considerably less than what oil or gas would be.

9 In Fairbanks, if I recall correctly, last year
10 they had permits to cut something like a thousand cords of
11 wood. And this year the permits have gone around to 30,000.
12 People are using wood, a lot of wood, in the Fairbanks area
13 right now. You can drive right through town and see stacks
14 of cord wood in front of many homes.

15 For whatever that's worth, these are some
16 thoughts. And I guess my thrust is that somehow if the
17 State is going to get the benefit of the windfall of taxes,
18 I think that should come back to the people of Alaska in
19 some form.

20 THE MODERATOR: We have had a request from Mr.
21 Fairbanks since he did not respond to the questions on
22 energy, he was wondering if he could have someone else make
23 his comments for him, one in particular, Glen Fredricks in
24 the audience.

25 MR. FREDRICKS: Yes, right here.

96
1 THE MODERATOR: Would you like to come up a little
2 closer.

3 MR. FREDRICKS: I am from where Mr. Fairbanks is,
4 middle Kuskokwin area. I keep hearing this windfall tax
5 and what the State has, and what's the abundance of it. We
6 in ours area are trying to locate some funds, maybe some
7 seed funds for hydroelectric up there. We have tributaries
8 going into the Kuskokwin River. That could be used for
9 hydro. We do and somebody mentioned wood. We surveyed
10 ours area over there and we found we had about a billion board
11 feet of lumber and all kinds of wood that could be used for
12 steam processing, electric.

13 And I was wishing if anybody here in this
14 audience or in this gathering here is from the State, I
15 would really like to talk to them because we could make
16 cheaper electricity if the State would give us a hand.

17 THE MODERATOR: We have Mr. Dwayne Carlson who just
18 walked in.

19 MR. CARLSON: No, Madam Chairman, I apologize for
20 being late and I will just pass.

21 THE MODERATOR: Does anybody else want to speak who
22 hasn't spoken before. Miss Dickson.

23 MS. DICKSON: I passed a little earlier. I think
24 everybody has hit on a lot of different subjects. I think
25 that we don't want to lose sight of the fact that ours

1 people in ours State should get some benefit from the
2 windfall profit, from selling ours resource, which is a
3 national resource, which is a State and human resource. We
4 are really paying service in a sense unless we make a
5 concerted effort individually, publicly, and at State
6 levels to educate ourselves and ours people, that this is
7 it. We've just paid along too long. We've not to do it.
8 We've come down to the nitty-gritty of it. We've got to
9 deal on ours energy problem first and everything else will
10 fall in place. That ours energy problem is our number one
11 problem, if we can emphasize that above everything else to
12 the legislature, that will be the most important thing that
13 can come out of his hands.

14 Mr. COOPER: I am sitting here with a real problem,
15 and that is that right today we are starting to get back
16 where we were 20 years ago, in the cost of fuel. Right
17 today it costs less for a gallon gasoline than it did 20
18 years ago in terms of how much labor it -- or how much
19 money it costs or labor it costs to earn a gallon of
20 gasoline. 20 years ago, one hour of shop time in a shop,
21 would be 15 -- or, I'm sorry, gasoline was 40 cents a
22 gallon upon. Shop time was 5 to 50 an hour.

23 Today gasoline is a \$1.15, \$1.20. Shop time is
24 30 to \$25 an hour.

25 So you get -- you get better than twice as much

1 gasoline today for an hour's shop time. And you did 20
2 years ago. 20 years ago I was content with a couple of
3 light bulbs. I was real happy because that was all I could
4 afford. Today electricity is cheap in comparison to the
5 wages paid. So we have a lot of light bulbs. 20 years
6 ago, Mrs. Fisher made the comment, they bought a 20-year
7 old house, the rooms were smaller, easier to heat, the
8 reason being the cost of energy 20 years ago was so much
9 greater than it is today. 20 years ago people didn't build
10 houses which had high volume and high ceilings. We have
11 done it to ourselves. And now we are hollering because we
12 have done it to ourselves.

13 And that isn't a problem that, I don't think, a
14 problem of the future that we are supposed to be looking at.
15 We are supposed to be looking at where do we want to go
16 from here on. And all we are doing is, well maybe what we
17 are saying is maybe we want to go back 20 years. But if we
18 do, that means that we face the reality that energy is
19 expensive and we have to put more of our energy working
20 energy into a large, well-heated home if that's what we
21 want. Or we can make the decision to go back to a smaller
22 house, smaller rooms, and spend more of our time and money
23 on other things.

24 But let's quit blaming someone else for the high
25 cost of energy. It isn't higher in cost. It's just

1 inflation is making it seem higher. In reality, you can
2 get a load of oil and haul from it here to the interior
3 cheaper today than you could 20 years ago or 30 years ago.
4 The volume or the economics of volume, as was mentioned in
5 a generation, also is evident in the manufacturing. It's
6 manufactured here. Certainly the fuel costs more than it
7 did 20 years ago, but it doesn't cost the same amount in
8 proportion, because it is manufactured here.

9 THE MODERATOR: Miss Fleming?

10 MS. FLEMING: I am not in a position to question the
11 figures. They sound viable to me, but I wonder if they
12 ever are time bound and if they will be holding true five
13 years ago. Any time you have a limited amount of something
14 and all fossil fuels are in a finite amount, there is going
15 to be continuing demand for that and people are going to be
16 paying more.

17 In light of that, I think it would be foolish,
18 for the space ship earth, as Mr. Buckminster Fuller fondly
19 referred to it as light, to invest much in harnessing and
20 depleting the fossil fuel supply, when we are being
21 unbarded from energy from space that we haven't even
22 bothered to harness. The rest of the world will need ours
23 nonrenewable resources. We have the power, right now, it
24 seems to me to buy the technology that we need to harness
25 and deliver energy that is just wasted. It just needs

1 somewhere to go. I really think that's the way. And it's
2 not an unpopular view in Alaska, given the many advantages
3 that having nonrenewable resources has given us. But I can
4 see them useful only as a transition. And if we don't jump
5 on it now, the chance will possibly be gone. The federal
6 government has been very slow to move on it for political
7 and other reasons. And I think it's a marvelous
8 opportunity. We can leave the entire nation in sharing
9 this. We can buy the brains.

10 MS. FISHER: Yes, I would just like to make one final
11 comment and I will shut up. That is, I think we need to
12 clean up our act. There was a period of time we were
13 accused of the outsiders of going around with ours
14 Lullooizers and bulloozing our land. We said we don't know
15 what they are talking about. Of course, we appreciate ours
16 land. About that same time, I drove down in an area on the
17 Peninsula and discovered in one afternoon they had
18 discovered an acre of lovely woods and was in the process
19 of burning it up, which makes our argument seem a little
20 hollow.

21 I think we've wasted a good deal of wood, as
22 Alaskan. Part of it has to do with our antiquated land
23 clearing, the reasons for the use of the land. And you can
24 still go down the road and see large burns of rotting wood
25 left over from somebody's clearing project at one time or

1 another. It's too bad that that wood couldn't be used in
2 some fuel efficient stove at some time at the time it was
3 decided to do it in.

4 I think these are some of the things that are
5 coming back to haunt us. We've been messy.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay, let's go around one short time.
7 And then we will let Mrs. Guess summarize the whole energy
8 problem. Mr. Delisio.

9 MR. DELISIO: There is one thing that I neglected to
10 mention is a source of alternative energy that we should
11 take a hard look at. That is satellite solar energy.
12 Apparently there are techniques for transmitting solar
13 electrical power from out of space. We spend a huge amount
14 of money on transmitting television signals to villages.
15 And we probably will spend a huge amount more, and yet the
16 villages won't be able to the use on the TV sets, certainly,
17 if we have the suggestion of using the government money to
18 do this and so on.

19 One other area, it's kind of interesting the
20 thoughts that you get. Well, you know, I think we ought to
21 do more on a small scale basis. If we do, for example, one
22 generation. I would build a wind tower by my home and get
23 a huge amount of my energy need from it. So could my
24 neighbors.

25 But if ours utilities operate like most in the

1 State, it would end up costing me more from the electricity
2 because of the power company. I couldn't tell my excess
3 energy to the power company, which I ought to be able to do,
4 and which will help them out. And they are really
5 penalties assessed new in and tap out. I think that those
6 kind of hinges need to be addressed that we are given the
7 incentive and the opportunity.

8 THE MODERATOR: May I suggest a real short minute
9 break? Just a quicky five.

10 THE MODERATOR: I believe Carolyn has just two quick
11 points to make and we go on to government services.

12 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis.

13 MR. DAVIS: I wonder if we on could try to identify
14 ours problem in the State. We are looking at two different
15 types of energy here. And the first one basically is
16 related to every city in the State here, and that's
17 electricity. And there should be some alternate groups
18 that you can develop other energy uses. In transportation,
19 you have a source of energy that you can point to and
20 that's oil and gas. There is two different kind of energy
21 sources that we are looking at, and I think the Legislature
22 can really take a hard look at it and see if we can come
23 down on the cost on the delivery of this service to the
24 area.

25 THE MODERATOR: Carolyn.

1 MS. GUESS: One point of clarification, Abi came up
2 to me a little concerned about one of my statements. When
3 I made the statement that I believed that an immediate
4 thing that could be done would be to have a single source
5 of generation, that certainly does not mean that you
6 wouldn't tie villages together if you possibly could. I
7 think we should encourage alternative methods of
8 transmission which is being done. There are two
9 experiments that will go on next spring, one in Kuskokwim
10 and one up in Kotzebue area. I think this is terribly
11 important. What I was talking about is one source to
12 generate, one source using that fuel to get the electricity
13 out.

14 I've got some information coming for my Bethel
15 friends in regard to waste heat. We didn't talk about that
16 much. But I think we should get Allstate agencies to
17 encourage ways of using waste heat because it's economical.
18 It's like the sewer and water systems. Somebody has got to
19 pay for it. Figure out. You've got to know what the cost
20 limitations are before it's in front of you and someone has
21 to pay for it.

22 The third thing was that in terms of what
23 Margaret said about the villages in keeping the lights on
24 and they are not going to -- they were happy before the
25 lights came on, but they are not going to turn them off. I

1 say to you this: You cannot make a utility stay in
2 business unless it receives revenue. And some of the
3 utilities that are providing service in rural Alaska have
4 receivables that if are not corrected will put them in a
5 bankruptcy position within a year. And the lights won't be
6 there.

7 I'd like to work with a group from 4:30 to 6 on
8 an energy statement. We are going to do that small group;
9 aren't we? So I would just end that.

10 MS. CARPENTER: Madam Chairman

11 THE MODERATOR: One quicky.

12 MS. CARPENTER: No, no, this isn't on energy.

13 I am just wondering if there is any way we can
14 speed up between now and 4:30. We have two hours, and we
15 have -- in addition to government services, which is I know
16 a concern we were going to next -- we haven't touched on
17 oil and gas or finance, which are two key areas. So I
18 wonder if we could just keep ours -- just mention ours
19 priorities and just, you know, skip the philosophy. I just
20 don't think we have time for it unless we are talking about
21 a policy guideline because we just are not going to get
22 through. Just have everybody just say the points they want
23 to make. And we will move on. And then if we endorse
24 somebody else's statement, just say we endorse it instead
25 of repeating it.

1 MS. FATE: Madam Chairman, just quickly on conveyance
2 of Indian claims and subregions and village lands, there is
3 going to be trespassing, especially on the wooded area.
4 It's going to be closed to users, and I am afraid we are
5 not putting this into ours plan. Also, we are not tapping
6 on surplus or waste energy. We should look into that.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay, next on the agenda is then
8 government services. Under government services we have
9 regional and local governments. We have communications and
10 we have law and justice. Would there be any opposition to
11 start with local and regional government?

12 MR. DELISIO: Would it be possible to sort of lump
13 them all together. You know, when you make your statement
14 make it about all of them?

15 THE MODERATOR: Do you think you could?

16 MS. FISHER: You could lump local and regional
17 government under one and then do either communication, law
18 and justice.

19 THE MODERATOR: I don't think we would could lump them
20 all into one. How about let's go into local and regional
21 government. Would anybody like to hop in on that one?

22 MR. DELISIO: I wrote up and circulated a statement.
23 I sort have been saying this all along, and this applies
24 not only to regional, but it applies to philosophy to the
25 extent in Alaska we can control. It says for every request

1 in government programs for financing participation and
2 regulation, before acting, the government should ask the
3 requester: Is there really a need?

4 Number 2, have you exhausted all other means of
5 resolution of the need? Number 3, what is the least the
6 government can do with government resources in order to
7 meet the need? Number 4, what is the most creative roll
8 the government can play in resolving the need that
9 maximizes private participation?

10 Once those questions have been asked and answered,
11 then the government's roll should be limited to the
12 participation adequate to resolve, consistent with the
13 incentives for maximum participation by the individual and
14 the private sector in general.

15 I would urge that as a policy statement of ours
16 group.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Anyone else on regional
18 and/or local government? Mr. Cooper.

19 MR. COOPER: Could I add to that the supposition that
20 local and regional should be required to provide the
21 services before going to the State to implement the
22 services, because to editorialize a bit on it, there are a
23 lot of things that we like, say, well, let's let Juneau do
24 it. It's easier. We don't have to put so much effort into
25 it. But I think that it shouldn't being just a case of us

1 letting or asking Juneau to do it. We should be, should be
2 forced to do it on a local level. If we feel it's
3 worthwhile doing, we should be willing to do it. If we
4 don't feel it's worthwhile, then we shouldn't have to -- or
5 we shouldn't have Juneau doing it for us.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Mrs. Flynn?

7 MS.FLYNN: Variations on a theme.

8 I think decisions regarding government service
9 ought to be made at the level where the impact would be
10 felt insofar as possible, my point being it ought to be
11 possible in as many as cases as we can arrange it that way.

12 And to that end -- and I guess I am looking for a
13 response from some of the rural people on this -- but to
14 that end, I would like to think that as the unorganized
15 boroughs -- the unorganized borough, as areas in the rural
16 part of the State come to desire services, that they will
17 then take on a class of service consistent with first,
18 second, third or fourth class borough and take on the
19 responsibility for making those decisions in an organized
20 fashion. That was sort of vague. I'm sorry; I didn't mean
21 to put it that way. I am suggesting the organization of
22 local government in the areas of the State where there is
23 now no local organized government as persons desire those
24 services.

25 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

1 Anyone else on local or regional government? Mr.
2 Davis.

3 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chairman, I really have a problem
4 with trying to enforce local control versus local resources,
5 because I think if they are going to administer any kind of
6 service within any area, is that you are going to have a
7 minimum amount of operational money for operational funds
8 to have some kind of control over regulations within any
9 area or within any city, you know.

10 And to try to classify them is that they are a
11 little different in what kind of services you want. We
12 probably don't want as much service as Anchorage because
13 you've got so many complex problems. None of your complex
14 problems really relate back to the villager. Ours are very
15 simple. We need a minimum amount of administration. The
16 problem I have here is we don't have that kind of resources,
17 unless there is some way you can allocate funds, so the
18 funds equally go out to all areas. I can go along with
19 trying to have local control here.

20 MS. FLYNN: How about something like a REAA. That is
21 the beginning of the service level.

22 MR. DAVIS: I feel that would be kind of informative.
23 But I feel we have to have a minute amount that you have to
24 offer.

25 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Carpenter, did you have something?

1 MS. CARPENTLER: There 's no way at the present time
2 that rural communities in the unorganized borough can
3 support even basic services with the existing system. The
4 only thing we can do is qualify for grants. Revenue
5 sharing is inadequate. And I would -- I would urge that
6 revenue sharing be increased. I agree with Mr. Cooper that
7 as much as possible should be done at the local level.
8 People in the bush generally do not want things run from
9 Juneau. I think that may be a misconception on his part.
10 Juneau is where the money is. We would much rather take
11 care of those needs locally and we can do it much cheaper.
12 And we do need revenue sharing just for basic local
13 services.

14 Also another possibility to consider is the local
15 income tax with credits applied against the State income
16 tax so that, so that the money comes into the rural areas.
17 It is being paid.

18 Third is that right now, the fish processors who
19 are, many of them, from outside, are paying very, very --
20 they are making substantial profits and paying very good
21 into the areas where the resources are coming from. And we
22 do need to have a higher fish processing, taxes -- not
23 taxes -- so some benefit can come into the local areas.

24 And fourth, the borough government's are formed;
25 they must be small. They must be small. We do not assist,

1 because of ours communication and transportation
2 limitations, to be extremely expensive to try to manage.

3 Just with the REAA system is so incredibly
4 expensive, and the costs for the village people with Bethel,
5 Bethel feels that its needs aren't adequately met because
6 it's the only community. The other community feels that
7 Bethel dominates. It just doesn't work.

8 MS. FLYNN: Isn't it nice to hear that?

9 MR. DELISIO: A regional problem within a region.

10 MS. CARPENTER: And we don't have the rights set up
11 to make large regional governments at this time. So if an
12 organized borough, if mandated, it must be small enough
13 that it can be adequately managed.

14 THE MODERATOR: Regional and local governments. Mr.
15 Fairbanks.

16 MR. FAIRBANKS: I agree with Ms. Carpenter on
17 everything she said. I just want to support about
18 everything she said about boroughs. The people up there in
19 Calista region, they are so worried about being mandated a
20 borough Arbister Jeluski said the other day it looks like
21 we are going to be forced into a borough and the people out
22 there would like the boroughs to be small, not encompassed
23 in like the Calista area. We would like it broken down
24 into following the school systems or smaller, simply
25 because it's such a diverse area that Bethel, for instance,

1 will not do the things for the people in the up-river
2 regions, so small boroughs, if they have to have boroughs. That's
3 about all I can say.

4 THE MODERATOR: It's communications.

5 Local regional government. Are you ready to move
6 to that?

7 MS. DAVIS: We talked about State and local -- I mean
8 regional and local government's. Are we not going to
9 address anything pertaining to State government?

10 MS. FISHER: Where would you begin?

11 MS. DAVIS: I would like to go on record saying that
12 I endorse the statement that was passed out by Dr. McGinnis.
13 And I don't know if everybody got a copy of it. And he has
14 done a real detailed report that he summarizes in these two
15 pages, and I want to endorse this.

16 MS. FISHER: Where did you get that?

17 MS. DAVIS: I got it from him. There is a lot of
18 issues that we don't have time to go into. And the work
19 has been done for us. Areas have been identified. And one
20 of my main areas of concern is welfare payments to AFDC
21 recipients, paying them at the right of \$120 per individual
22 or \$350 per mother and a child not being enough money to
23 even meet their basic needs. That somewhere needs to be
24 addressed. And it is addressed in the summary of this
25 paper.

1 MR. CARTER: I think the good doctor didn't want
2 those to fall into unfriendly hands.

3 MS. DAVIS: What did you say?

4 MR. CARTER: Nothing, I've been blighted.

5 MR. CAZEWAY: I generally endorse everything that was
6 said, but likely, in the petition on revenue sharing, I
7 think the State exercised too much decision by earmarking
8 funds for specific purposes. And I would like to see the
9 local community receive their allocation of money and they
10 decide what programs to be used.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 MS. CROFT: Do we get a copy of McGinnis' paper?

13 THE MODERATOR: Anybody who hasn't spoken before on
14 regional and local government?

15 MS. PICKSON: Just a comment on some of the things
16 you are speaking about. If you are going to be forced into
17 an unorganized -- I mean into a borough system, you
18 mentioned the system doesn't work. When you get down to
19 local and regional levels of government, don't ever lose
20 sight of the fact that if the system doesn't work and you
21 don't like it, you can always change it to make it fit and
22 to make it work. This is what you are -- this is the
23 nitty-gritty of working in a local and regional level. We
24 need to exercise some ingenuity here. If we don't have a
25 tax base and you want some services, I don't think it's too

1 much to work something out on a trade and barter system.
 2 You could -- one of the gentlemen over here says he's got
 3 all this lumber, a billion board feet of lumber, he may not
 4 have a tax base, and it's a real resource, and they might
 5 use the revenue to pay the tax somewhere else.

6 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Fate, did you have something?

7 MS. FATE: Yeah, on government's that are already
 8 existing, local and regional, for better communication,
 9 especially in their plans asking to the public and letting
 10 the public know. I am thinking of meetings that are
 11 relevant to some regulation changes and using it properly,
 12 whether it's in the media or a newspaper, where those
 13 people will definitely receive it.

14 Another thing is coordination of programs so
 15 there is no duplication. These with State, federal, with
 16 regional, nonprofit, and subregion nonprofits, and village
 17 and incorporated city that are all working on this same
 18 programs. And also, the residency longevity this should be
 19 extended from one month, if possible, to a longer period of
 20 time, maybe three years or five. And that's it's.

21 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Flynn.

22 MS. FLYNN: Yeah, I have long had the feeling that
 23 government is very, very good -- at all levels of
 24 government -- are very, very good at one thing and that's
 25 collecting money. But they are not always very, very good

1 at spending it. And it kind of goes back to something I
2 think you said, Steve, when we were talking about health
3 care. And you said, "Why in the world is the government
4 health care in the alcohol treatment program?" It occurs
5 to me that I sit on a local health board that does just
6 that. It takes a block of money and it puts it out to bid
7 and anybody can bid on it. I mean any reasonably qualified
8 organization can bid on it. In fact they are private
9 contractors very often that come in for it. I think that
10 should be one of the things that we should be encouraging
11 more. That while government is doing a great job of
12 collecting money, what we should be doing is encouraging --
13 I hesitate to use the terms private enterprise. I guess
14 it's private enterprise, but encourage individuals and
15 groups and private businesses as well as public
16 corporations to provide the services and utilize the money,
17 bid for the money to provide the services, much the same
18 way you would put out a bid for any other kind of services,
19 a bid to build a building.

20 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper.

21 MR. COOPER: A point of clarification. When I am
22 talking about regional government, I am, in effect,
23 thinking in terms of boroughs, which basically cover a
24 wider region than a city. I am not thinking in terms of
25 the All-Clain Settlement Act regions. I want to make sure

1 we are not missing basically what will be or what are
2 private corporations with public enterprises or public
3 entities, which are city, borough, and state.

4 And then a further clarification, or something,
5 may be the way we could encourage more local government
6 would be through the revenue sharing. Revenue sharing
7 being put out to the local level only -- I mean funnelled
8 only through local government, rather than the State
9 providing the local government services that could be
10 provided by incorporation of a city or a borough, and then
11 then receiving those revenue sharing and taking care of the
12 problem, at the local scene.

13 THE MODERATOR: Did you want something, Mrs. Begnan?

14 MR. BEGNAN: Yes, as far as, you know, the unorganized
15 borough, all the small communities were mandated to
16 incorporate either as first or second class cities, so you
17 do have local government which is, you know, funded through,
18 you know, revenue sharing.

19 And I think that if there is going to be
20 mandatory regional government, that is the local people
21 that would vote whether or not they want to have that
22 formed and then the size of the boundary or whatever. But
23 it has to be done with your local level if a regional form
24 of government is demanded.

25 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mrs. Carpenter. I have a

1 statement on the subject of reapportionment that comes up
2 here. It doesn't seem to be addressed anywhere else.

3 THE MODERATOR: Go.

4 MS. CARPENTER: Our concern in the rural areas is
5 that reapportionment, although we already have large areas
6 that are fully represented, that we would have virtually no
7 representation at all. And we would like to propose a
8 Constitutional change providing that if reapportionment
9 occurs and rural representation is strictly limited in the
10 Legislature, that the senate be organized to represent
11 geographic areas such as -- regional areas, much as the
12 United States Senate is.

13 MR. FLYNN: It's been thrown out of the U.S.

14 MR. COOPER: Can't, federal constitution has thrown
15 it out.

16 MR. DAVID: How come the federal government is using
17 it?

18 MR. DELISIO: It's okay for them but it's unconstitutional
19 for us.

20 MS. CARPENTER: Apparently it is. This has been
21 discussed in other groups and apparently this is possible.

22 MR. DELISIO: The Supreme Court has ruled on that
23 specific issue and it says one man, one vote.

24 MR. FLYNN: Person.

25 MR. DELISIO: One person, one vote. Excuse me. And

1 when the argument was made the United States Senate and the
2 accounting fathers in their wisdom felt it was a dual
3 representation taken into account, the Supreme Court said
4 the Constitution specifically permits that at the United
5 States level, but it is not permitted in any other level.

6 Mr. COOPER: It would take a federal Constitutional
7 change.

8 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Croft.

9 MS. CROFT: About one of the things that people have
10 been discussing if you grant that we couldn't do that --
11 there are some petitions going around saying you might not
12 be able to. But you can't do that, the very least we might
13 be able to do is increase the size of the Legislature, so
14 that the proportional representation might drop, the actual
15 number of representatives doesn't drop or at least it
16 doesn't drop so low that someone has something the size
17 twice the size of the State of Texas in order to cover to
18 represent it.

19 Along those lines, we have a vote coming up on
20 the ballot in '82 asking whether we want a Constitutional
21 convention. I would like to have us go on record saying
22 that that request for the public to decide whether they
23 want a Constitutional convention be on that 1980 ballot
24 instead of the 1982 ballot so that we could possibly have a
25 Constitutional convention before reapportionment takes

1 effect.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay, are you ready to go on to
3 communications?

4 MS. FLYNN: I just want to voice absolute opposition
5 to what Mrs. Croft said.

6 THE MODERATOR: I will second: Mr. Carter.

7 MR. CARTER: I would like to publicly announce my
8 support on the form that Mr. Delisio passed around
9 regarding preparatory steps to take over when the
10 government request the financing or passed on to the
11 legislature. That is what we are supposed to be doing is
12 helping establish policies for the State. And I think it's
13 very good that most of us are eventually getting around
14 wearing the hat off the taxpayer. At least if you are
15 involved in local government, you have to listen to it.
16 And involving yourself as attacks pair, you have to stop
17 and think about these other things. Most of us talk about
18 we would like to see less proliferation of government, less
19 government or as little as possible. And then we turn
20 around and talk out of both sides of our mouth by asking
21 for everything under the sun. And I think some restraints
22 need to be voiced. And I think Mr. Delisio did a fine job
23 of expressing it on this policy paper.

24 THE MODERATOR: Are you ready for communications?

25 MS. GUESS: I would like to say one thing on the

1 Constitutional convention question. I prefer the process
2 of amendment as opposed to the Constitutional convention.
3 The people will make the decision, but I think if their
4 concerns about apportionment that we could go that route, I
5 continue to be concerned about polarization, and I think
6 that the thought of a Constitutional convention right now,
7 with all the various factions, could leave us with a very
8 shabby document.

9 MR. CARLSON: Madam Chairman, Dwayne Carlson, I would
10 like to associate myself with Mrs. Guess' remarks.

11 MS. CROFT: I want to ask. If it goes on the ballot.
12 If it goes on in '82 I think we are going to have it in any
13 way in '82 and I think it would be better to do it before
14 apportionment rather than after.

15 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fleming.

16 MS. FLEMING: I just wanted to address Toni on that.
17 The function of having it on the ballot in 1982 is
18 presumably to get a greater cross section of the
19 population's opinion on the matter because it is something
20 that affects everyone.

21 And since the great fears do revolve around special
22 interest groups. You kind of give them another edge by
23 having it on, not on the general election ballot.

24 MS. CROFT: It's an advisory vote either way, either
25 in '80 or '82.

1 MS. FLEMING: That's true.

2 THE MODERATOR: Are you ready for communications?
3 Ready for communications.

4 THE MODERATOR: Would someone like to start us out
5 with communications.

6 MS. FLEMING: I would like to have my friend Larry
7 Golden recognized and just say a couple words about
8 communications.

9 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Larry Golden.

10 MR. GOLDEN: That's right.

11 THE MODERATOR: Are you in the audience?

12 MR. GOLDEN: Yes, I am.

13 THE MODERATOR: Would you please stand?

14 MR. GOLDEN: Certainly. I was involved in the initial
15 set up of the tele-communications conferencing and that is
16 presently working. And we are involved in planning a
17 statewide structural communications network. Some of you
18 may be hearing more about it in the not-too-near-distant
19 future.

20 In any event I want to propose the discussions
21 regarding Sue's telecommunications that you people think
22 very seriously about the social and political consequences
23 of evolving the telecommunications systems in the State of
24 Alaska. Some of the impacts of telecommunications are very
25 evident to us. People in small villages can see the

1 benefits of improved phone service, emergency medical
2 service. It touches them in a very concrete way in their
3 day-to-day lives. But some of these other implications of
4 telecommunications aren't so obvious at first glance. And
5 I am asking that you address some of these. These are very
6 broad policy matters. And the public tends to think that
7 this one area is so complicated that only engineers and
8 attorneys are qualified to deal with it. And it's a broad
9 policy the public has to get involved in. It is my own
10 thinking that up until this point in time,
11 telecommunications policy has suffered in Alaska because of
12 the not well thought out year towards social goals.

13 I want to make a very quick association between
14 broadcast technology and nonbroadcast. In broadcast you
15 are talking about a large number of people who are getting
16 some message at a source at a given point in time. You
17 watch it and listen to it; you like it or you don't like it.
18 And not much you can do about it. That technology is very
19 expensive as well, highly centralized.

20 On the other hand, there is a possibility for
21 technology that is decentralized the way they work. The
22 telephone is an example. The telecommunications is an
23 example of that. In an interactive system, you get to talk
24 back to the source of information and request the kind of
25 information that you want and change of shape in attitudes

1 and behavior. These technologies are very inexpensive and
2 they should be looked to as the social tools as the device
3 that you can use to create the society that you want.

4 On the bottom line, telecommunications effects
5 all the issues that you can deal with.

6 You have just finished talking about local
7 government and regional government. I would say that
8 that's axiomatic. When people have more access to more
9 information, and they know what's going on in the community,
10 in their own State communities, they demand to have a
11 process and make decisions for themselves. I think you
12 will find that as telecommunications evolve to where people
13 can find out what they want to find out and where they want
14 to find out, they will start getting more control in their
15 own communities and start planning for their own needs.

16 And you will see a decentralization of power
17 within the State and within the national scene. And I
18 think that these are the sort of things that you should be
19 working towards or at least discussing. Do we want to see
20 government decentralized? If so, what can we do, what
21 telecommunications services to bring this about, because
22 that's going to be the whole nuts and bolts of the whole
23 thing.

24 Then with respect to the area of broadcast,
25 whether it's television or radio, I have very strong

1 concerns that with the importation of national television,
2 we are going to see a lot of the cultural values of Alaska,
3 whether they are traditional native values or just the
4 values that have permeated Alaskan life even in the cities
5 for the past 34 years. Those values are going to be
6 changing as exposed to entertainment programs from all over
7 the country. That's all well and good, I suppose.
8 Everything changes. And we can't live in a vacuum. At the
9 same time, I think it's very important that commercial and
10 certainly public broadcasting in Alaska should be doing
11 more to reflect life in Alaska as it really is today so
12 that we see ourselves, hear ourselves, talk about ourselves
13 some more, help us to find our own identity in the State,
14 and as well do the same thing on a regional basis so the
15 various regions of the State can use communications to help
16 build a common identity, common sense purpose in the
17 various regions, have a healthy respect for themselves and
18 each other. And I just don't think that All In The Family
19 is going to do that for us.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Going around the
21 table, Mr. Davidson, did you have something to add?

22 MR. DAVIDSON: I will pass at this point.

23 THE MODERATOR: Margaret Cooke.

24 MS. COOKE: I think communications, there is just no
25 communications in our villages now. There is telephones

1 in some of the villages, most of the villages now. The
2 telephones we have aren't usually operative. It's really
3 hard to like call between villages.

4 And there is the radio, I think the radio works
5 better than the telephones. I think the communications is
6 not very widely in the rural areas. And it's not there.
7 There is no communication between villages.

8 Like it, in ours area, it's really hard to call
9 between villages. Sometimes it takes days to get from
10 Bethel to Hooper Bay. That's about 80 miles.

11 THE MODERATOR: So you have problems with your
12 communications with telephone and radio.

13 THE MODERATOR: There is no communication. There is
14 telephones in those villages, but a lot of times they are
15 not operated.

16 MS. FISHER: Could we ask her why?

17 THE MODERATOR: Do you know why they don't operate?

18 MS. COOKE: Technical problems.

19 THE MODERATOR: You get a lot of that in busy signals.

20 MS. COOKE: What?

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Delisio.

23 MR. DELISIO: I wasn't going to say anything about
24 communication.

25 THE MODERATOR: Good. Then we will go on to the next

1 MR. DELISIO: But because I represent a client that's
2 doing something about them, again, a cooperative that's
3 putting telephone into the villages, this is an example of
4 a symbiotic relationship that can exist between individuals
5 and some other resources in the states.

6 In this particular situation a study was made to
7 decide whether free enterprise, RCA or some other company,
8 could go and put a telephone system in and continue. They
9 looked at the government and decided the government would
10 be a disaster if the burough was put it in. They decided
11 it on a cooperative. They are going to own the system and
12 pay for it in part out of their rates. On the other part,
13 they share from this pool that is long distance calling,
14 like Alaska is subsidized by the Lower 48 states. And to
15 this degree, the village is subsidized by the rest of the
16 State in their telephoning. The Arctic Slope Regional
17 Corporation has put up over \$100,000 as front money to get
18 the opportunity to get a permit, to get their system, their
19 act in order to borrow money from the Rural Electrification
20 Association and to build their system. I think they are
21 great opportunities. There are also great challenges and
22 great difficulties. It's not an easy thing in the villages.

23 To answer some of the questions that were asked
24 to Margaret here, one of the reasons that telephone service
25 in the villages is not reliable is that you have an earth

1 station that's owned by RCA jointly with the State of
2 Alaska, one telephone. That telephone is in a public place,
3 often times locked up. It's not always a place that's
4 truly public. It's semi-public like in a store. Like in a
5 store there is no access. RCA doesn't have the financial
6 incentive to get out quickly to repair a defect. They
7 don't bother in many instances to train local people to
8 make sure that the building where the equipment is properly
9 vented to where the exhaust vents don't get iced over and
10 hence the equipment quits working and so on.

11 And I think again, here is a situation where
12 local individual effort combined with a seed from the
13 government -- and, of course, we are going to depend a
14 great deal from NEA not just on loan moneys but on training.
15 And we are going to try to train our own people in those
16 villages to have to run their own system.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Fran Dagnen.

18 MS. DEGNAN: Well, we found in the community that I
19 lived in, we found we had telephones since 1964, and they
20 worked a lot better when we were on the microwave system,
21 now we are on to the satellite, and it seems like it is
22 more modern technology, yet at the same time we have more
23 problems with it. But we are a small community up on the
24 Norton Sound and we are one of the very few that do have
25 telephones in each home. And I knew that -- just trying to

1 call to other villages is very difficult because you can't
2 hear half the time what they are saying, and you wind up
3 yelling and spend money for not hearing. And just recently,
4 because of the storms, the high storms that we have had,
5 there were no radio communications, verbal transmission,
6 you know, from Saint Lawrence Island to the mainland. And
7 they have had to transmit the blind and this sort of thing.
8 And telephones weren't operative.

9 So even though technology, it's mother nature or
10 whatever, interferes.

11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Carlson.

12 MR. CARLSON: I guess, Madam Chairman, I would like
13 to respond a little bit to Mr. Golden's comment about maybe
14 not liking or not having the live satellite picture come
15 into our State and upset our life style or maybe teach us
16 what's going on in the rest of the world.

17 I happen to appreciate the morning news and the
18 live news. And I may not like what's on it but at least I
19 can see what's going on in the world. I like live football
20 while women may not. But my set also has an on-off button.
21 I turn it off. And I don't want the government
22 particularly telling me what programs we may or may not
23 receive any more than I want them to tell me what kind of
24 books go on the book shelf. That doesn't help the bush
25 much, but I thought that remark should not go unresponded

1 to.

2 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Ekval.

3 MR. EKVAL: The field of communications is expanding
4 at a more rapid rate than anything else we have talked
5 about today, yesterday, or will likely talk about tomorrow.
6 And I think it's probably the area in which we are becoming
7 more and more future shocked, not only in Alaska but in the
8 world. I think we are having a very hard time handling
9 what communications means to us. This little what we have
10 here is a failure to communicate perhaps between Mr.
11 Carlson and Mr. Golden, is one example of that. Another is
12 the incredible heat surrounding the recent TV Town meetings
13 which was, as I see it, trying to apply broadcast
14 communications to a two-way link up of the public and
15 policy makers, and for all its imperfections. It was a
16 very daring and very bold and extremely provocative
17 experience. Most of the public comment that took place
18 about the TV Town meetings was politics, who did what and
19 who screwed who and had less to do with news, without
20 realizing what an incredible step forward this was toward
21 linking the people in the State and difusing some of the
22 factors that polarize communities and polarize people's
23 opinions. I think it's an extremely sensitive issue. And
24 while I understand Mr. Golden's comments about perhaps
25 preserving some sort of cultural integrity, all the great

1 buzz words of the '70s of local controls and so forth, we
2 have to keep our minds extremely open and realize the
3 degree to which the communication tools can better us and
4 how they can be used as weapons. With it the Ayatollah
5 Khomeini's use of communications in a communications war,
6 basically, ranging a little far afield.

7 I think that as much as possible Alaskans should
8 not become parochial and afraid of the uses of media, and I
9 am afraid. I am concerned that experiments such as the TV
10 Town meetings will not be used in the State because of the
11 heat that was generated around this experiment. I think
12 that it is going to be the most viable way of bringing
13 people together around issues and explaining who we are to
14 other people. We can't overlook this medium and I think we
15 should do as much as we can to explore the different uses
16 of communications, telecommunications, in the area of
17 government, public policy, and just plain cultural exchange.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Ms. Fate?

19 MS. FATE: Yes, I am for a better communication. And
20 I feel that we are still way behind any State in the Union
21 and other foreign countries.

22 We have better communication between the United
23 States and foreign countries than we do within our own
24 State of Alaska.

25 I was born and raised in a village where there

1 was totally no communication except one phone. And if it
2 worked, and it was usually in a public place that was
3 closed. When an emergency time arose and the phone was
4 needed like at night or during weekends, it was usually
5 dark or the phone was pulled off the wall.

6 And there is quite a bit of -- really and truly I
7 want to say -- boredom or a lot of time that's not utilized
8 when you don't have a job. There is no education
9 facilities and there are no interested third parties or
10 amusement places or even a restaurant to go to, or even
11 another person to visit in a city in rural areas. And it's
12 kind of good to get a newspaper even if you have to share
13 it with 20 other houses, that one newspaper, and even
14 though it is old, a week or two. And you don't have
15 visitors as often from out of town. And sometimes a movie
16 you might see three times the same one over and over, but
17 you are gathering and there is a common gathering and
18 communication exchange. I think it may help lessen the
19 problem of boredom, then drinking, then use of drugs, and
20 then maybe abusiveness to individuals. We need live
21 television. We need from it ours Legislature in Juneau as
22 well as Washington D C.

23 Take for instance, Nanley Hot Springs. They
24 found out that they could get TV by somebody going up on
25 hill on a Snow Co. And take up a television and here was

1 television. It happened to be KANC and all the little kids
2 tuned this in. And you should have seen them sitting there
3 listening to long hair music and they loved it and they
4 grew from it and they are interested in music.

5 I am more interested in communication within an
6 area, within and town city, especially for the aged and the
7 handicapped or the ill, because there is no protective
8 services, and at least they could grab to a telephone if
9 they are in need.

10 We do need career education in your communication
11 field within ours own state.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 Mrs. Carpenter?

14 MS. CARPENTER: Mr. Gibson is going to be speaking
15 for ours caucus.

16 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher.

17 MS. FISHER: My few comments have to do with the fact
18 that as a nation we have a communication problem that we
19 are a nation of lonely, depressed people. It's one of ours
20 mental health problems.

21 I think, if anything, there should be more
22 interchange of ideas like this, people getting together
23 throughout the State and talking among themselves. I may
24 not agree with the people around this table, but I am going
25 to be more aware of the problems in Bethel of southeastern,

1 of the places that I have heard about during this
2 conference.

3 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Croft?

4 MS. CROFT: I have several things. One, I think that
5 public policy is best served if the government reserves a
6 hands-off relationship on informational control of public
7 coverage of government affairs. And I would like to see
8 this group go on record to say that radio and television
9 programs set up to report on the government will not be
10 controlled by that government, that some sort of public
11 broadcasting in Alaska will be on a semi-autonomous basis
12 with maybe a regional representation on some sort of
13 control of the board. I think we are in a position that
14 when it was a pilot project Legislature organized something
15 that would emanate from Juneau. We had to see if it would
16 work or not. But we now know that we are going to need
17 that kind of coverage, but year-to-year funding and year-to-
18 year control over those programs is a very dangerous thing.
19 I think the public form was a good idea, but the way it was
20 handled had some serious problems. And we are going to
21 have more and more of this in Alaska and I think we need to
22 set up some sort of system so the government will keep its
23 hands off.

24 Secondly, I would like to see more -- I would
25 like to see us encouraging University of Alaska to use

1 telecommunications for teaching between Fairbanks,
2 Anchorage, Juneau, and some of the rural areas. I think
3 the whole idea of how you teach a course, how you use
4 telecommunications to teach in Fairbanks and Juneau and
5 Anchorage and maybe in the rural area, we have only begun
6 to get into it. And it takes some hardware back up, which
7 I think we should start finding out about.

8 Thirdly, Anchorage is due fairly soon sometime
9 for a cable system, which will have one channel for
10 government access, and I think the State government should
11 be encouraged to cooperate in whatever cable system
12 eventually gets that program in making that government
13 access channel a very viable thing for the Anchorage area.

14 And fourthly, if it's necessary to put some money
15 in libraries, I don't know exactly where this money would
16 go, but I would like to see -- when local programming is
17 done, Alaska Review, various really good programs that are
18 done in various communities, I would like to see some funds
19 to reproduce those, and to have them not only on the
20 library in Juneau, but have them in Anchorage or Fairbanks
21 so that we can get the benefit of the excellent programming
22 that is done in this State.

23 MR. WELLER: I am Mark Weller from Anchorage. I work
24 for Alaska Review. They are available through the film
25 library. That is one source. And the rural communities

1 use that quite extensively.

2 MS. CROFT: Not only the Alaska Review, just money to
3 produce those so you can have them.

4 MR. WELLER: Very expensive and the money has to come
5 from someplace.

6 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Davis.

7 MS. DAVIS: I will pass.

8 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry, I forgot somebody, somebody
9 slipped in.

10 MR. CORNUCH: I apologize for being late and I will
11 pass.

12 MS. DAVIS: I will pass.

13 MR. GAZEWAY: No comment.

14 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Guess.

15 MS. GUESS: Attempting to learn and build on what we
16 have learned in the energy area of what some of the
17 problems are, I guess the only thing I'd like to say is I
18 think we have to again be realistic about the provision of
19 telecommunication services in Alaska because someone has to
20 pay for it. Again, if the entity doesn't have the money,
21 they are not going to provide the service. We are talking
22 about continuing the satellite demonstration project in
23 rural Alaska, and there are many benefits to it. Somebody
24 is going to have to pay for it. People in rural Alaska are
25 having a very difficult time paying their electric bills.

1 The Alaska Public Utilities Commission is the
2 State agency that determines whether a utility such as
3 cable television or the telephone utility goes into bills.
4 And we have to make a determination that 1, there is a
5 public need, and that 2, the applicant is fit, willing and
6 able to provide the service. And when we do that, as we
7 did for the application in the Calista area, and now Hooper
8 Bay has a local exchange. So there are telephones in the
9 homes. We have to look at; is it economically feasible;
10 where will the revenues come from?

11 And so I guess I am going back to my experience
12 of the last four years. If the State is going to pay for
13 certain telecommunication services, that's fine. If the
14 people are going to pay for the telecommunications services,
15 please let's take along hard look and not end up where we
16 are as I mentioned this morning, in sewer and water.

17 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Gibson.

18 MR. GIBSON: I would like to make some general
19 statements first which have not only to do with
20 communications technology, but I have a couple other things.
21 The State of Alaska has constantly been faced with the
22 battle of regionalism, whether this is true dichotomies or
23 imagined ones doesn't make any difference.

24 MR. GIBSON: The State will rise or fall whether it
25 be in energy, communications or anything else, directly

1 that it realizes that the commonality of bush and urban
2 interests are one and the same. The urban areas provide us
3 with services. The rural areas provide us with raw
4 materials. And the communication and the power and the
5 things that are necessary to support those are a statewide
6 concern.

7 To go more specifically to the roll of
8 communications in this State, I was, for a number of years,
9 the man in Alaska who allocated services over the satellite
10 system to remote as well as urban areas. And eventually,
11 the military sold its system to private enterprise, which
12 promised and is on record as having promised to provide
13 service to other areas, not forgetting there is a subsidy.
14 It is the subsidy that the urban areas received or rural
15 areas received because of their density on highway money
16 programs they are using.

17 The private enterprise State partnership in rural
18 Alaskan communications is an unadulterated failure. We are
19 stuck with a single unmanageably large and vulnerable
20 satellite system.

21 Case in point. About a month ago I was on the
22 phone calling Anchorage. And that wonderful glorious
23 satellite tumbled. And we had so vulnerablized ourselves
24 that the jet could not take off from Bethel because the
25 local FAA station could not call over the satellite to give

1 it a clearance and the amateur radio operator in town
2 finally. So there is a scale, perhaps, of economy in super
3 big things. But there is also a diminishing manageability
4 scale on power and communications when you put all of your
5 eggs in one basket, accordingly.

6 I feel that whether private enterprise does what
7 it is supposed to and is obligated to do in this State, or
8 whether the State does it is unimportant. The economic
9 health of our whole state depends on rural, urban
10 communication and intraregional communications, which we
11 have not got.

12 I'd suggest technology that perhaps the best way
13 to go would be an integrated VHF, UHF, or microwave system.
14 They are not as glamorous as satellites, but they are not
15 nearly as vulnerable to the operation of Murphy's Law, that
16 we must learn to live without in the Alaskan bush and in
17 the communities as well. Within that system, all needed
18 services could be provided, television channels, public
19 safety channels, channels interstate, intrastate and
20 international communications. This is the backbone
21 technological system that should be used as a supplement to,
22 not a replacement for the satellite. I think that we are
23 paying some tremendous medical costs, whether it come out
24 of the public or private coffers because there is not
25 adequate dedicated medical channel service to us in the

1 rural areas, and ultimately you taxpayers in the urban
2 areas are footing that bill. You may think it's a giveaway.
3 It's not. It's an integrated system that cannot be
4 separated. So having said that, I think that's where I
5 would like to stop.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Fairbanks.

7 MS. DICKSON: I defer to what Mr. Gibson said.

8 MS. FLYNN: Three things. I think telecommunications
9 in this State is going through a birthing process right now,
10 and I think it's having a lot of very real labor pains. I
11 am concerned with the comment that Eric made that because
12 we have had some bad experiences or at least presumed to be
13 bad by some persons that we now want to shove the baby back.
14 Well, the baby isn't going to go back. It's going to be
15 born and we are going to continue to use this new
16 technology that we've got. And I think we should not build
17 upon it, not ban it. That's it.

18 I would also like to endorse what Toni said. I
19 think that, capital, that '78,
20 '79 and presumably '80, is an outstanding resource. I like
21 that axiomatic conference made there over there by your
22 deference behind you that the more people know about the
23 procedure, the more they demand knowing about the process.
24 I walk walk up and down the halls in Juneau day-to-day,
25 because, frankly, they can pick up more in one camera than

1 I can in one body in my house. I think it's an absolute
2 necessity for that organization to go on. I don't have to
3 use in it Anchorage, but I use it when I am in Juneau, too,
4 and I think that's extremely important.

5 The third thing -- I won't hesitate to mention
6 for fear of something blowing up in the room. We have
7 talked a lot about many people have alluded to the
8 dividedness between urban and rural or the dividedness
9 between the State, period. I think that a great deal of
10 that dividedness has come about over the perceived need to
11 move the capital.

12 Now, I realize there is some very, very strong
13 feelings on all sides of that subject, but I would submit
14 that maybe we ought to give this baby just being born, this
15 kernel of telecommunications, an opportunity to be born and
16 to be nurtured and to grow for just a little while or a
17 little while longer before we plow into the breach of the
18 capitalhood.

19 Mr. CHAPADCS: I would like to confirm the remark
20 that Mr. Carlson made. I would like to confirm Mr.
21 Carlson's remarks and also Ms. Flynn's remarks except where
22 we were discussing the Alaska public forum. I think that
23 needs to develop quite a bit before it's popular in Alaska.
24 To toll that up, I believe that one of the problems we have
25 in Alaska today is that we are governing ourselves by

1 consensus, and I don't think that is a good way to go. I
2 think that what we should be doing is the people in Alaska
3 should be informed of what's going on. They should know an
4 awful lot more about their government than what they do and
5 the manner in which it functions, and they should know the
6 problems of the various areas. If we are going to have
7 public forums and that sort of things, it may be desirable
8 to have regional programs that come from these areas that
9 educate the rest of the public.

10 And then, I believe, that rather than consensus,
11 let's get some leadership and go to the poles and vote for
12 the kind of things that you really believe in. And I
13 believe that's where we weakened ours state government
14 considerably.

15 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper.

16 MR. COOPER: Just some comments on what has already
17 been said, and that is that all around the room we are
18 talking about a need for more modern satellites in the bush,
19 whether it was electricity awhile ago or whether it was
20 communications today or now. And then statement, people
21 are also saying we need to preserve the life style of the
22 bush communities. And it cannot be done. We are going to
23 have one or the other. We are going to have modern
24 facilities or we are going to proceed serving the life
25 style as is. You can't very well say we are going to be

1 modern at the same time.

2 I think we need to make the decision, do we want
3 modern communications which requires a cash society to pay
4 for, which requires a number of people within the area to
5 make it become anywhere near cost effective, or do we want
6 to live the way we did 20, 30, 40 years ago. And maybe
7 some people would desire to go back to that, I don't know.
8 But I don't think we could very well, like you say, have
9 ours cake and eat it, too.

10 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Carter.

11 MR. CARTER: I would just like to echo Mrs. Guess's
12 statement that whatever you get, there is going to be a
13 price on it and a few questions need to be asked. And I am
14 all for modern technology and telecommunications and all
15 those great things, but the answers need to be made first.
16 How much do you want? How much is it going to cost? And
17 who is going to provide the money, the bucks, to pay for it?

18 MR. COOPER: I guess that's what I was saying and I
19 didn't know how.

20 THE MODERATOR: Would you like to break for five
21 minutes and come back.

22 THE MODERATOR: Did we pass anyone?

23 MR. DAVIDSON: I passed earlier, but after hearing all
24 these difficulties with cost and technical difficulties, I
25 wanted to share for consideration alternative forms of

1 communications I have been using down in Homer, and it avoids
2 high cost, and it avoids big government, and technical
3 difficulties and satellites tumbling out of the sky, and at
4 homing pigeons. Now, the range is only up to about 500
5 miles, but I tell you, you get messages back and forth. We
6 have flocks in every village and house, and everybody can
7 have their own flock. There is some nice side benefits.

8 We could have a market for the barley and big
9 delta and environmental things like the hawks would have
10 more food. So maybe we could, seriously.

11 MR. GORSUCH: I didn't know your father-in-law was
12 having such an influence over you.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fairbanks.

14 MR. FAIRBANKS: One good thing about that is that if
15 the communications system of the carrier pigeons does not
16 work, we can always eat it.

17 THE MODERATOR: Would you like to break for about five,
18 then come back? We need to, you all are getting rummy.

19 (Meeting was recessed)

20 THE MODERATOR: We've got about 35 minutes, and we
21 haven't even hit a lot of topics that you would like to
22 have hit by this time. And I'm sorry, but we are pressed
23 for time again. Are you ready for law and justice?

24 MS. CARPENTER: Yes.

25 MR. CECW: No.

1 THE MODERATOR: We will have law and justice.

2 (Laughter)

3 THE MODERATOR: We've got 35 minutes in this room.
4 45 more minutes in this room and then we have two rooms
5 available to us after 4:30. And we have from 4:30 until 3
6 o'clock in the morning. But we are going to have to decide.
7 we are going to have to break at some point in time and
8 break up into the small committees that has been suggested
9 to bring all these good ideas that you see on the wall all
10 into some sort of policy statement.

11 So let's try and tackle law and justice and let's
12 see how much time we have left. And then we will take
13 suggestions after that as to what exactly you want to do.

14 MS. CARPENTER: Madam Chairman, could we -- could we
15 just very briefly just express ours concerns on law and
16 justice and maybe try and take not more than 15 minutes on
17 it and then 15 minutes on finance?

18 MR. CROW: You've got to be kidding.

19 MS. FISHER: You've got to be kidding.

20 MS. GUESS: Madam Chairman. I have a real problem
21 with having a goal of making sure we do everything. I
22 would rather what we do is quality work. And if we can't
23 get to some of them, then I think so be it. But I think I
24 really would rather stand on quality than quantity. I
25 would be willing to go with what anybody wants to do from

1 here on. I ought to be. I certainly should.

2 THE MODERATOR: I really tend to agree with you. We
3 have gone further than we probably should have. We've
4 probably not tackled education as well as some of us might
5 have hoped. We've tackled transportation. We have health.

6 MS. CROFT: Resources is one I would hate to skip.

7 THE MODERATOR: There is a lot we would really hate to
8 skip. Wait, I can't see.

9 MS. CARPENTER: Can we go from 7 to 9, take an hour
10 for dinner and go from 7 to 9.

11 MR. DELISIO: Rather than debating it, why don't we get
12 this done?

13 MS. GUESS: Can we work tomorrow morning? What do we
14 have to do tomorrow morning?

15 MR. VAN DOREN: The schedule calls for a summary
16 decision with all the other groups all morning.

17 THE MODERATOR: Starting at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

18 MS. GUESS: I would like to suggest that maybe a
19 better use of ours time is to work in the morning and then
20 submit the written statements and then the policy makers
21 can take a look at it rather than standing up and reading
22 things that we all have the ability to read later on.

23 THE MODERATOR: I think this is a Maverick group.

24 MS. FISHER: I think that's fairly representative of
25 Alaska.

1 MR. DELISIO: Can I offer something on the justice
2 system? I think I am the only person who is involved in
3 the justice system here on a day-to-day basis. I won't
4 speak about the criminal justice system. But the civil
5 justice system, that I am more involved with.

6 We have a social problem, a social disease that
7 is creeping -- well, it's no longer creeping, it's reached
8 epidemic proportions nationally in this State, as bad, if
9 not worse, as most with regard to civil justice systems.
10 We have a society this is more dense. We are in closer
11 communication. We are in closer contact physically and
12 otherwise. And yet by virtue of ours judicial decisions,
13 by virtue of legislation, by virtue of attitude in general,
14 we are teaching or ours people to be more intolerant of one
15 another than more tolerant.

16 It seems to me that somehow we've got to develop
17 and foster in ours State and ours nation an attitude toward
18 each other of tolerance. I was almost physically sick at
19 the question that was asked this morning. We saw that
20 beautiful film about this adventure education as a method
21 of dealing with children, some troubled and some other, as
22 a form of education, as a form of mental health assistance
23 and so on.

24 And then somebody asked a very pertinent, and
25 unfortunately socially necessary question: What do you do

1 about insurance for the children? For the children you
2 take out -- you know, here we are trying or someone is
3 trying to do something that helps somebody. And yet in
4 ours society, we are encouraged to sue each other at the
5 drop of a hat for dam near anything. Ours judicial system
6 is -- and ours decisions are aimed at giving a person a
7 suit remedy against anybody for anything at any time under
8 the most absurd conditions imagineable. And we are
9 becoming an extremely litigious society. This is terrific
10 for me as a lawyer, in the sense that it means a lot more
11 cases for me to handle and so forth and so on. But
12 somewhere along the way that system is going to have to
13 collapse of its own weight.

14 The Yamanis had a solution for it. They
15 developed a social system in a culture. Which was aimed,
16 as they became densely populated, at being considerate and
17 tolerant of each other. I think you've got to do that here.
18 You can do it a little bit at legislation. Somehow we've
19 got to get the judges who want to do the social engineering
20 from the bench to understand that they are socially unengineering;
21 they are pulling ours society together. And somehow we've
22 got to bring some sanity back to this interpersonal
23 relationship.

24 MR. COOPER: Amen.

25 MR. CROW: Gee whiz. A beautiful statement.

1 MS. CARPENTER: Beautiful statement.

2 THE MODERATOR: Anyone else on law and justice?

3 MS. DICKSON: I would like to recommend that we
4 support this Alaska Wilderness Group and perhaps make a
5 policy statement on it. I think it's a very valuable tool
6 that we should use.

7 Anyone else? Mrs. Carpenter, I would like to refer
8 you to the statement on page D 62, and I would like to say
9 that the basic, the minimum basic safety needs of people in
10 rural Alaska are not being met. There is no -- there is
11 essentially no justice system functioning in many villages.
12 There is no victim assistance. There is no way that people
13 can feel safe in their homes or on the street. And we must
14 have a system for providing local police protection.

15 At the present time, the only way villages can
16 fund a police force is through a CETA Training Act that was
17 not intended for that purpose, which means that when those
18 CETA -- when the person who is hired to be the village
19 policeman has extended the maximum amount of time possible
20 under the CETA Training Act, they have to start all over
21 with another person, just as that person is getting to the
22 point where he can perhaps provide some adequate services.

23 There is a very small State police contingent
24 that is, that is expected to cover a 100,000 square-mile
25 area with two airplanes.

1 Even for homicides, people have to wait three and
2 four days for a State trooper to come. This is incredible.
3 This is the kind of situation that would never be tolerated
4 anywhere else. And we must deal with it. We are paying
5 the social cost of these things many times over in other
6 ways. We must have at least minimum services of that
7 nature in the bush.

8 We need, also, correctional, a correctional
9 program in our region for youth and adults so that people
10 who are incarcerated, can have the opportunity to have
11 rehabilitation programs, work release, be close to their
12 families, whatever is appropriate, but not to take, say, a
13 boy who has been in trouble in a rural area and put him in
14 McLoughlin with kids that are ten times tougher than he
15 ever thought of being. This sort of thing does not work.
16 We would like to have a correctional center that would
17 serve that region. Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Anyone else on law and justice? Mrs.
19 Davis?

20 MS. DAVIS: I would like to go on record saying that
21 I support the so-called Missouri plan. As mentioned in
22 ours book on page D '69, this particular plan provides for
23 the screening of those applicants that are going to be
24 placed for judges. And those applicants are then screened
25 by a group that could be done by the judicial counsel with

1 laymen and other appropriate people being on that rather
2 than having the judges appointed and allowing them to serve
3 forever when they are inadequate in that capacity. I would
4 like to see something being done that's going to make the
5 judges accountable for their action. Why should they get
6 away with doing the things that they want to do, where if
7 it was in another case, they would be removed from that
8 duty. But we have judges that have served for many years,
9 and the people are not satisfied with them, but we continue
10 to let them serve. I just want to go on record and present
11 that I adopt that proposal.

12 I also want to speak on behalf in the judicial
13 counsel on the study that was done. There was some
14 inequality on race in sentences, especially with blacks and
15 native people, because they get longer sentences than the
16 whites for the same charges. I want to know what is done
17 about that, not just denied, but see that something is done
18 to improve it.

19 THE MODERATOR: Mrs. Fisher.

20 MS. FISHER: I have another problem that doesn't seem
21 to have any answer at this particular point. In the year
22 that I have served as director for the Alaskans Women's
23 Resource Center, we find that the third most asked for
24 problem that comes into the door is for legal service of
25 some sort. We have not had any help from the Alaska legal

1 services. They tell us that it has to really be a crisis
2 situation. And I don't know, I thought we had some real
3 crisis come in ours door, but so far they haven't seemed to
4 qualify. And I really don't know the answer. What we have
5 done, as a partial solution, is there are lawyers in the
6 community who will donate time to at least help screen the
7 problems for these women. And this has been a partial
8 solution.

9 MR. CARLSON: Maybe we can send you some of ours.
10 They are even advertising for clients.

11 MS. FISHER: The problem is the clients have no money.

12 MR. CARLSON: I am talking about the freebies.

13 THE MODERATOR: Anything else on law and justice?

14 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman? I would like to direct
15 a question perhaps to Mr. Delisio since he is more expert
16 at this than certainly I am. And that is, I know from a
17 number of instances that there are at least to some
18 extension of legal services to low income and certainly
19 available for those who can afford it.

20 At the middle income categories, however, I find
21 legal service to be exceedingly expensive. And although I
22 would not want to perpetuate litigious society,
23 nevertheless, it does exist and I am concerned that middle
24 income is often times left in the position of not being
25 able to protect their own legal interest. And I am

1 wondering whether or not looking for alternative forms of
2 providing, I hate the terms legal insurance, but something
3 that might represent the possibility of forming
4 corporations where people could buy into for the purpose of
5 some joint legal policy that's available. I know this is a
6 fringe benefit that has been extended to the Teamsters as a
7 part of their package. I don't know how successful this
8 has been on, what effect it has had. But I am wondering if
9 it works just as well to contain or protect people from
10 catastrophic illnesses in the health field, whether or not
11 something parallel might be worth exploring on the legal
12 services. I direct that more as a question rather than a
13 recommendation. It's a concern of mine, but I don't know
14 whether it would become counter productive.

15 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Delisio.

16 MR. DELISIO: Programs developing across the
17 country, mostly through labor unions, which is prepaid
18 legal service. It's a form of insurance benefit like
19 health insurance.

20 My own opinion of the Teamsters program is that
21 it was an unmitigated disaster, not because the idea was
22 bad, but because it was badly administered. People could
23 come in for -- if your neighbor's dog messed on your lawn,
24 you could take him to court through the Supreme Court and
25 the legal services program paid for it, which is a little

1 bit -- that's not serving the need. If it's properly and
2 soundly administered I think it could work extremely well.

3 I am the chairman of the State bar committee that
4 is serving for altering dispute methods. And one of the
5 things we are intending to recommend is the adoption of the
6 Citizen Dispute Center which would provide binding
7 arbitration to the public at no cost, with volunteers
8 lawyers and laymen to serve as arbitrators to handled
9 things like consumer disputes, the kinds of things that are
10 even -- or the types of things that you don't want to go
11 into small claims court, because you don't want to take a
12 day off work. Ours idea is to provide these services at
13 night. Both parties would have to agree. We may get a
14 person who gets a defective rain coat and feels they should
15 get a replacement; people who got a car repair job done and
16 that sort of thing. So you don't need lawyers in that
17 situation. In fact, we are recommending that lawyers be
18 precluded from participating to represent the people
19 because they will come forth and basically tell their story
20 and the arbitrator will find a fair, equitable solution for
21 them.

22 MR. GORSUCH: You are saying group legal services is
23 something we might want to advance?

24 MR. DELISIO: I am saying that the quality American
25 middle class person is applicable in every single field we

1 think of. The very wealthy can pay for the services. But
2 the poverty line people or people below the poverty line
3 can get virtually what they need, but it's the vast
4 majority of people in between that are getting shafted
5 because they can't a forward to pay what they need.

6 MS. FISHER: I sort of would like to dispute that,
7 what seems to have been said about three times. If that
8 were so, there wouldn't be any need for the business I am
9 in. I do see the very poor, and they aren't getting
10 service. A typical example of a woman is where she calls
11 us and says that she has been married ten years, she has 2.5
12 children. Her husband left last night, took the contents
13 of the bank account and the car.

14 MR. DELISIC: She is eligible for legal services.

15 MS. FISHER: She hasn't been able to get it. That's
16 what I am trying to say that is these people that we try to
17 get into legal services, they tell us that they are booked,
18 that they can't take them, that they don't have anyone,
19 that they are overworked.

20 MR. DELISIC: Well, you know, I have to question that
21 a little bit, because they have a long list, for example,
22 of attorneys who sign up to be on an on-call basis for
23 referral. They involve themselves in providing services
24 for entity like, for example, they are representing the
25 North Slope burough against the oil companies on the

1 Beaufort Sea. Now does the North Slope Borough need
2 anybody to provide legal services or free legal services?
3 I don't think so. There are some problems like that that
4 the resources aren't necessarily put where they are
5 legislatively mandated. That's a real problem.

6 THE MODERATOR: Anyone one else on law and justice?
7 Mrs. Croft.

8 MS. CROFT: Mr. Delisio, I have had that same
9 experience in Anchorage with poverty level students who
10 need legal services and are told that they don't need funds:
11 It is, in fact you, true, that they cannot get legal
12 services.

13 MR. DELISIO: I don't dispute that. The mechanism is
14 there. Maybe the funding is inadequate. I do know that
15 the mechanism is being abused, not by your people. But
16 it's being abused.

17 THE MODERATOR: Do we have any more comments on law
18 and justice?

19 MR. COOPER: It should be swift and short.
20 Regardless of the severity in timing on it, it should be
21 short and it should be timely. It doesn't do any good to
22 whip your kids for breaking the window three weeks ago.
23 You only have to give them one whop right away, and it's
24 far more good.

25 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We have approximately 14

1 minutes. Now, we have two rooms that are available to us
2 we have so far covered five topics. Now, what do you want
3 to do?

4 THE MODERATOR: Should we break off into groups?

5 MS. CARPENTER: What about if we went ahead and tried
6 to do financial resources before six, and then used the
7 even for the committee work.

8 MS. GUESS: I think we are going to loose some people.
9 My concern is that we get, you know, some kind of written
10 documentation on what we've done so far. I would really
11 vote for breaking up into ours small groups and utilizing
12 the two rooms.

13 MS. CARPENTER: Then what do we do in the evening?

14 MR. COOPLER: Resource and finance.

15 THE MODERATOR: I doubt very seriously, the way we are
16 going today, if you are going to decide in one and a half
17 hours all that we've discussed, you are going to come up
18 with a policy statement in one and a half hours. I think
19 you are going to be going on into tonight.

20 THE MODERATOR: Will we have this room at 8 o'clock.

21 THE MODERATOR: We have 301 at 8 o'clock.

22 MR. FAIRBANKS: How much time do we have tomorrow for
23 discussion?

24 THE MODERATOR: We start at nine o'clock supposedly
25 with a summary, with a summary of all the work we have done

1 MR. FAIRBANKS: So we've got to be done tonight.

2 THE MODERATOR: That's what we are saying.

3 MR. FAIRBANKS: We've still got to do finances.

4 THE MODERATOR: Not necessarily.

5 MS. FISHER: Madam Chairman, I would suggest that we
6 choose up subjects and sort of parcel out people. I,
7 myself, will not be able to be here tonight. I am going to
8 turn into a mother and go home and mother a chicken this
9 evening, so I won't be here, which might be just as well, I
10 have a tendency to talk too much.

11 THE MODERATOR: Let's take them in the order that we
12 started, and that is education. How many would like to
13 tackle education? Oh, come on.

14 MR. COOPER: May I make a suggestion, that because
15 this group seems to be fairly heavy on education, that we
16 don't load the committee with people from the education
17 field. Certainly there should be someone from the
18 education field on the committee, but I would hate to see
19 the majority of the committee have a vested interest in the
20 education system.

21 MS. FISHER: Why not have the person whose doing the
22 writing go to each one of the beginnings and those people
23 who are willing to be on that committee to overhaul that
24 area to be written down.

25 MR. FAIRBANKS: Transportation is here.

1 THE MODERATOR: Energy is behind me, justice,
2 communications.

3 MS. DAVIS: Education is not up there.

4 MS. FISHER: Madam Chairman, Mrs. Carpenter has
5 something to do that has to do with women and justice. I
6 would concur that it's quite important if she might have
7 time to have it included in the section on law.

8 MS. CARPENTER: Do you have something else?

9 THE MODERATOR: Do you have something else?

10 MS. CARPENTER: Yes, we have something I had trouble
11 with. You are aware of the recent study on the treatment,
12 on the comparative treatment of natives and blacks that
13 brought out some very strong discrimination patterns. The
14 same problem exists in crimes against women including
15 extremely severe cases of battering, sexual abuse of
16 children, and other related crimes. And we would like to
17 propose that a study be done by the State to compare
18 convictions and sentencing practices of crimes against
19 women with similar crimes against males.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay, the suggestion has been made to
21 just hop up and put your name on whatever list you want to
22 work on tonight. You've got nine minutes.

23 MR. DELISIO: May I suggest something else? I think I
24 recall Mrs. Carpenter's saying something this morning was
25 that when we get some of these more articulately or

1 carefully worded and maybe synthesized ideas that we would
2 rather than technically voting them up or down see how many
3 of them everybody is willing to more or less accept even if
4 they don't find a pertinent state of view. And I wonder if
5 in that context, since we haven't gotten to the most
6 critical issue, if some of the people who have ideas about
7 finances and resources would like to try to make up a very
8 carefully-worded written statement to include in that list
9 of things that we are going to word. The problem is we
10 have gotten fewer in number, and I think if you try slicing
11 us any more finely, then you are going to end up with one
12 person, one subject.

13 MR. GORSUCH: That's what we may need to finish.

14 MS. CARPENTER: How are we going to come back
15 together to view, if rewritten?

16 THE MODERATOR: We will come back at eight o'clock
17 tonight.

18 MS. CARPENTER: Okay, at eight o'clock tonight
19 whoever comes will review the statements.

20 THE MODERATOR: When we all come back.

21 THE MODERATOR: Room 301.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

23 MS. CARPENTER: Okay, that's clear.

24 MS. FISHER: Perhaps one person in each of the groups
25 can be responsible for each that all the materials come

1 back.

2 MR. DELISIO: What two rooms are we going to provide
3 right now?

4 THE MODERATOR: Right now we have 1216 and we have
5 1010.

6 MR. GORSUCH: Madam Chairman, could we start with at
7 least someone stepping forward to volunteer to make sure
8 each topic is covered.

9 MS. GUESS: I will be with the energy group.

10 MS. FISHER: I will join her.

11 MS. DICKSON: I would like to be in the energy group.

12 THE MODERATOR: I need leaders, education, I mean
13 education -- no, energy, gas, how about education?
14 Education, going once, going twice.

15 MS. CROFT: I will recommend Peter Gibson.

16 MR. GIBSON: I would prefer to work on education.

17 MS. CROFT: I wanted communication, but I will go
18 education.

19 THE MODERATOR: Toni Croft on education.
20 Transportation, Mr. Davidson.

21 MR. GIBSON: I suggested I would like to be on that,
22 too.

23 MR. DAVIDSON: Sure, I would like to transportation.

24 THE MODERATOR: Would you lead it.

25 MR. DAVIDSON: Lead it, unless somebody else would

1 rather more than happy to lead that group.

2 THE MODERATOR: Health, health. Going once. Abi
3 would you take health?

4 MS. DICKSON: I would really like to work with the
5 energy if I could.

6 THE MODERATOR: Health?

7 MR. CAZEWAY: Could I raise a question on that? Does
8 that include social services. Normally it does. The State
9 does talk about health and social services

10 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else on health? Beautiful.
11 Mr. Cooper.

12 MR. COOPER: I'll take it.

13 THE MODERATOR: We've got education, energy,
14 transportation, health. How about government services?

15 MR. DELISIO: How about that one, in fact, if you
16 don't mind, if we can join that and justice together.

17 THE MODERATOR: Why don't we take communications,
18 regional, and law and justice. Why don't you take them all?

19 THE MODERATOR: We just don't have that many rooms.

20 MR. COOPER: Communications isn't that large of a
21 subject or as vital and it certainly ties into local
22 government.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay, we've got two rooms.

24 THE MODERATOR: I've got a room that will take a small
25 group. I'm in 1105. I think it's 1105.

1 THE MODERATOR: Does anybody else have a room they
2 will volunteer because they don't have?

3 MR. GIBSON: Madam Chairman, I will volunteer the use
4 of my room for transportation group.

5 MR. DAVIDSON: No, I am the leader, no smoking.

6 MR. FAIRBANKS: I suggest the leader for
7 transportation be out on the ledge.

8 MR. DELISIO: There was a major system here all the
9 time and it's appeared. We have education, Mrs. Croft; and
10 energy, Mrs. Guess; transportation, Mrs. Davidson; health,
11 Mr. Cooper; government services, Mr. Delisio. Now, we've
12 got room -- okay, you said transportation could have your
13 room. And your room number

14 MR. GIBSON: 610.

15 MR. GIBSON: They may not have it, they may use it.

16 THE MODERATOR: 610 education, Croft, would you like
17 1010?

18 MR. CROFT: Fine.

19 THE MODERATOR: Energy, Mrs. Guess.

20 THE MODERATOR: We don't know which one is going to be
21 the largest, and that room 1216 that we were in last night
22 is a nice-sized room.

23 MS. FISHER: You could probably get one at least each
24 end. I heard at least three.

25 THE MODERATOR: You don't want 1216.

1 THE MODERATOR: How big is education? Would you raise
2 your hand if you are interested in education. Please raise
3 your hand. Education?

4 THE MODERATOR: How about health, Mr. Cooper, health,
5 how many interested in health?

6 MR. COOPER: I have to have someone that can write.

7 THE MODERATOR: Energy and education in 1216, okay.

8 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Delisio, how about 1010.

9 MR. DELISIO: 1010, fine. Whose going to be in that
10 group with justice communications and government?

11 MS. CARPENTER: Can we join you maybe a little later?

12 MR. DELISIO: If I am not already done.

13 THE MODERATOR: It doesn't look like we are going to
14 have people working on these committees. Do you want to
15 just double up on the committees?

16 MS. GUESS: Where are some of these other people?
17 Where are some of the other people going that haven't
18 raised their hand.

19 THE MODERATOR: I am going to transportation.

20 MR. CROW: There is some small hope on Kuskokwin East
21 that there will be renewable resources.

22 MR. FAIRBANKS: I've got a question with that, how
23 about if somebody goes to the other groups and copy is down
24 from what they found out hand then bring it back and
25 present it to the group, and then we can start from what

1 they've got and we can add ours except theirs.

2 MS. FISHER: I think we are spreading ourselves a
3 little thin.

4 MS. CARPENTER: We can do that at eight o'clock
5 tonight when we come back with the other statements.

6 MS. FLEMING: We should do that now. They are going
7 to be taking it to those statements.

8 MS. CROFT: We have the points that were covered and
9 try to put them together in some sentences.

10 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Cooper.

11 MR. COOPER: You haven't assigned me a room.

12 THE MODERATOR: You can have my room if I can go up
13 and clean it up a little bit.

14 MR. COOPER: If I am going to be by myself I can get
15 my own room and get my wife to write up.

16 THE MODERATOR: That's a good idea, Virginia is not
17 busy. She wouldn't mind.

18 MR. COOPER: No, but I am hoping there is going to be
19 someone to help me on this. Mr. Fairbanks.

20 MR. FAIRBANKS: It's is it okay with the group if I go
21 around quickly now to the other rooms that have the things
22 on the wall and record what they have and bring it back at
23 8.

24 MS. FLEMING: Grant, I will do the third floor

25 MR. DELISIC: By the way, once we get these things

1 written, is there someone that is going to type them and
2 copy them.

3 MR. VAN DOREN: We will try.

4 (Evening Session)

5 THE MODERATOR: I think everyone should have a copy of
6 the education portion, and if you don't, here are some
7 copies.

8 MR. FAIRBANKS: Who does not have one? Anybody else
9 not have education?

10 MR. GIBSON: I went to third grade, is that had
11 education.

12 THE MODERATOR: Toni, would you like to--

13 MS. CROFT: Yeah, I guess so. We tried to put
14 everything in. There has been a couple of suggestions
15 since we finished this. First, should I ask, does anyone
16 have any strong objections?

17 THE MODERATOR: Could you go ahead and read it.

18 MS. CROFT: Why don't you let everybody have time to
19 read it.

20 THE MODERATOR: Let's just read it. Sometimes it
21 sounds better and you won't have any problem.

22 MS. CROFT: We decided to divide it into policy
23 program funding and it didn't always fit that way. Under
24 policy we said. The one that we vote on we passed provided
25 the residents with post-secondary education. We left off

1 the second part that didn't pass. Then to best serve the
2 interests of the State's autonomy should be granted to the
3 college system. The third one is in educational systems
4 including alternative to the University of Alaska systems.
5 We he decided to say educational systems because that
6 included some of the private programs that are trying to
7 teach secondary and some of the others. Under program,
8 give special consideration to minority students through
9 program development and teacher preparation to enable them
10 to achieve at grade level. Secondly, establish a nontraditional
11 educational program to let rural students obtain a bachelor
12 the school without walls open learning concept that was in
13 O'Rourke's (phonetic) paper and has been talked about.

14 MR. GORSUCH: Noncampus phase.

15 MS. CROFT: 3, develop bilingual and cross culture
16 programs and better training to serve minorities students.
17 We kind of threw several together there.

18 Under funding, we tried to keep the funding down
19 to programs that were already in existence that were, most
20 of the time, that were in existence that were just not
21 adequately funded. Revise the State formula funding to
22 provide smaller classes and needed services for children's
23 in grades K through six to insure their success at the
24 secondary and post-secondary level. That's the secondary
25 school foundation level. That would be a good start.

1 Second to explore all alternative forms--and we made it
2 Alaskan University so it could not only be the University
3 of Alaska, but Alaska Pacific University if they could
4 qualify for it. Three, increase the level of funding for
5 special education programs including those for gifted
6 students. And 4, provide funding for inovative pilot
7 programs such as student exchange programs, wilderness
8 experience and special constant programs. That is sort of
9 a catch all for a lot. And I think what George Holman said
10 was that the budget" economy wasn't allowing them any flexibility
11 so that they could use those new programs. We wanted to
12 make sure that we told them they should be able to do that.

13 MR. CROFT: Would you like to explain?

14 MS. CARPENTER: There are a couple of things we
15 inadvertently left out, one was addressing voter needs and
16 the other was a policy of the Board of Regents. At the
17 present time, the Board of Regents policy is that the only
18 student housing is at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.
19 However the Board has also passed another policy which is
20 in conflict with that. They have said that they will not
21 duplicate special vocational programs at the various
22 student colleges. So for example, Kenai has a petrochemical
23 program and Kuskokwin has a fisheries program. They won't
24 switch them. Therefore, they are using the community
25 colleges in sort of a regional VOTEC kind of way. So, if

1 they are expecting students to travel from other parts of
2 Alaska to attend these programs, then they do have to
3 address the need for husbanding, because these are all
4 communities in which housing is extremely critical in and
5 everywhere other housing is just not available. It's very
6 difficult in Bethel to find any kind of housing. So we
7 didn't want to add that. That and the VOTEC statement.
8 And both of these were in O'Rourke's papers. And we could
9 perhaps use that wording that would--

10 THE MODERATOR: Do you want to read it, because I left
11 mine?

12 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

13 The following recommendations are inherent and
14 stated within the paper entitled, "Health and Social
15 Services: Needs and strategies in the 1980s." It is
16 recommended that consideration be given by the legislative
17 and executive branches of the government for implementation
18 during the early years of the 1980 decade.

19 1, public policy in Alaska as developed by the
20 legislative and executive branches of government should
21 shift priority as far as possible from the curative and
22 treatment approach to health promotion, health education,
23 and disease prevention. (Report: Page 1)

24 2, cost containment for all health care purchased
25 by government should be undertaken with a minimum goal that

1 payment and fees for services should not be allowable
2 beyond the increases in the consumer price index for the
3 region concerned (report: Page 2)

4 3, that to the extent allowable by present law
5 and reasonable amendments there to, health and social
6 services delivery programs should be investigated in local
7 government and in private nonprofit corporations with
8 mutually agreeable funding provided by federal and State
9 government's (report: Page 3)

10 4, revenue sharing funds made available by the
11 State government for health services and health facilities
12 should be made available to local government's with the
13 local government's determining the priorities for usage of
14 the funds, whether for services, institutions, or
15 facilities (report: Pages 4 and 5)

16 5, that public policy in Alaska includes studies
17 leading toward the possible revision of all direct service,
18 health expenditures, with the emerging possibility of
19 operating out of the Medicaid program, the development of a
20 unique and comprehensive Alaskan health insurance program
21 or other innovative improved methods for assisting Alaskans
22 in meeting medical costs (report: Pages 6-11 and 13-16)

23 6, immediate attention should be given to an
24 improved catastrophic illness program to bring relief to
25 low and middle income wage earners otherwise ineligible for

1 federal and State assistance including an improved
2 catastrophic illness program for consideration of coverage
3 under Medicaid of the "medically needy" provided financial
4 impact statements are deemed to be within acceptable ranges
5 (report: Pages 11-12)

6 7, the State should consider a revised plan of
7 reimbursement for physicians' services and hospitals
8 whether or not the Medicaid program is continued or dropped
9 including strong emphasis on the free enterprise,
10 competitive systems, and that as a quid pro quo the free
11 market forces be rigidly enforced as demanded in other
12 fields of endeavor (report: Page 16)

13 8, since disease prevention is cheaper than cure
14 and treatment, Alaska should single out several diseases
15 which contribute unduly to the pain and suffering of
16 citizens and lay heavy claims on public funds. Singled out
17 for earliest attention should be: Tuberculosis, otitis
18 media, alcoholism and drug abuse, accident prevention,
19 venereal disease (report: Page 22)

20 9, alternatives to expensive institutional health
21 care (hospitals, nursing homes, residential centers) should
22 be sought including pilot programs in home health care with
23 services available not only from nurses, but also doctors
24 for inhome assistance (report: Page 22)

25 10, financial obligations for emergency response

1 systems should be a shared responsibility between the State
2 and local government's with special provision for
3 communities with low population and tax base (report: Page
4 23)

5 11, since all forms of accidents are responsible
6 for the highest percentage of Alaska deaths and a major
7 portion of health care dollar expenditures, special massive
8 attention should be given to the fundamental causes of
9 those accidents and the relationship there to to other
10 social and health phenomena, and that a bold program of
11 education and prevention be developed (report: Page 26)

12 12, all third party insurance payment
13 mechanisms for health care in Alaska should be required
14 to cover mental illness services in much the same way as
15 they cover physical illness at the present time (report:
16 Page 33)

17 13, legislative and executive branch decisions
18 should be directed toward more extensive utilization in
19 funding of the community mental health centers; several
20 small regional juvenile residential facilities should be
21 provided for mentally disturbed juveniles; in extensive
22 review of the programs of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute
23 and the Harbor View Developmental Center should be
24 instituted in order that their future roles may be
25 determined consistent about changing patterns in delivery

1 of mental health services (report: Pages 33-34)

2 14, that the legislative and executive branches
3 provide for detailed analyses regarding the financial
4 impact of improving the current payment level of \$120.54
5 per month per recipient under the aid to families with
6 dependent children program (under AFDC, the monthly payment
7 for mother and child is \$350 versus \$608 for two persons
8 under the supplemental security income programs) (report:
9 Pages 41-42)

10 15, since \$80 per month per person for certain
11 needy person in the State is not sufficient to deal
12 realistically with those eligible, a detailed study should
13 be provided to determine the future structure and coverages
14 under the general relief and general relief medical
15 programs (report: Page 41)

16 16, the legislative and executive branches of
17 government should attempt to influence more strongly the
18 federal office of management and budget" in order to adjust
19 the official poverty guidelines for Alaska to bring it in
20 line with financial realities and remove the current
21 discrimination against Alaska's needy made possible by the
22 policies of the federal office of management and budget" (report:
23 Page 42)

24 17, that the legislative and executive branches
25 provide for an updated, comprehensive study of Alaska's

1 elderly population, with special emphasis on the adequacies
2 of the financial assistance provided to elderly eligibles,
3 and with special review of the effects of inflation on the
4 fixed income of retired persons (report: Page 45)

5 18, the legislative and executive branches of
6 government in Alaska have recently provided for a
7 comprehensive corrections master plan for Alaska. Those
8 portions of the plan deemed to be acceptable should be
9 strongly supported by the legislative and executive
10 branches in order to improve both facilities and services
11 in urban and rural areas of Alaska (report: Page 52)

12 19, limited and new programs such as treatment
13 alternatives to street crime and New Start center have
14 demonstrated efficiency and adequate rate of success in
15 assisting in the continuing rehabilitation of ex-offenders.
16 It is in the interest of every citizen of Alaska that such
17 X offenders be assisted in developing new life patterns
18 free of crime and deserve adequate staff and financial
19 support to assist in that goal. (Report: Page 52)

20 20, even though public assistance in the form of
21 money transfer payment programs and social services based
22 on counseling do not have the same goals, human service
23 centers in various communities throughout the State should
24 be located in order to serve citizens in a more efficient
25 manner (report: Page 57)

1 21, since Alaska does not operate any social
2 service child care institutions and only one correctional
3 juvenile institution, revisions should be made in the,
4 "Purchase of Services" statutes by amendment in order to
5 fund those privately operated programs giving care to
6 juveniles whose care has been made a State responsibility
7 more nearly on the basis of actual full cost of care (report:
8 Page 58)

9 22, the legislative and executive branches of
10 government should make provisions whereby a reasonable
11 percentage (approximately one percent) of the human
12 services budgets of the State could be utilized by the
13 executive agencies for research and evaluation purposes in
14 order that full data may be available and proper
15 evaluations made to play sound statistical and
16 programatical bases under all expenditures in the field of
17 human services.

18 MR. GIBSON: While we are looking for it, I would
19 certainly like to express my appreciation that that
20 subcommittee did on putting that together. It's nice and
21 concise and clean and very much to the point.

22 MS. CROFT: Thank you.

23 MS. CARPENTER: Which one is that? I don't have my
24 glasses on. Let me dig for them.

25 MR. CARLSON: Why don't you.

1 MR. DELISIO: Why don't you just say where the Board
2 of Regents places a statewide program at a community
3 college issue also provide dormitory facilities for out of
4 town students.

5 MR. COOPER: Or be sure that they are available
6 because in some areas there is a problem.

7 MS. CROFT: On number 8, due to the lack of
8 transportation corridors within the State of Alaska, State
9 policy makers should encourage the establishment of
10 appropriate student housing on a number of campuses within
11 the public higher education system.

12 THE MODERATOR: Could you be a little more specific or
13 do we dare?

14 MS. CROFT: I think yours is better, Mr. Delisio.

15 MR. FISON: They may think we are addressing somewhat
16 of a political football issue between Anchorage and
17 Fairbanks. Fairbanks, the main college, is interested in
18 different curricula in Anchorage College can't be a
19 resident campus because then they feel that would be unfair
20 competition, because the center of the population would be
21 here.

22 THE MODERATOR: I think Mr. Delisio said very well
23 where housing was not available. And this may be tied into
24 the smaller communities.

25 MR. GIBSON: I think this is addressing specifically