

2-10-87

Meeting

COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN TODAY'S TELECONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 10, 1987

Note:

All figures in this document were taken from "Inventory of Communications Facilities Serving Alaskan Communities", 1987 edition, compiled by the Dept. of Administration.

Anchorage:

Population: 243,829

Number of Telephones: 174,069

Anchorage receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
-	X	X	X	X	X

Barrow:

Population: 2,943

Number of Telephones: 1,304

Barrow receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	X	-

Bethel:

Population: 3,681

Number of Telephones: 1,788

Bethel receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	X	X	-	X	X

Dillingham:

Population: 2,004

Number of Telephones: 1,002

Dillingham receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	X	-

Fairbanks:

Population: 27,103

Number of Telephones: 23,259

Fairbanks receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
-	X	X	X	X	X

Galena:

Population: 894

Number of Telephones: 351

Galena receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	-	X

Glennallen:

Population: 477

Number of Telephones: 954

Glennallen receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	-	X	X	X

Haines:

Population: 1,154

Number of Telephones: 760

Haines receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	X	X

Homer:

Population: 3,373

Number of Telephones: 3,355

Homer receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	X	-	X	X	X

Hyder:

Population: 79

Number of Telephones: ??? (Figure not in Inventory.)

Hyder receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	-	-	-	X

Juneau:

Population: 23,729

Number of Telephones: 14,828

Juneau receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
-	X	X	X	X	X

Ketchikan:

Population: 7,633

Number of Telephones: 6,260

Ketchikan receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	X	X	-	X	X

Kodiak:

Population: 6,069

Number of Telephones: 4,574

Kodiak receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	X	X

Kotzebue:

Population: 2,235

Number of Telephones: 965

Kotzebue receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	-	X	-	X	X

Petersburg:

Population: 3,137

Number of Telephones: 1,370

Petersburg receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	X	X	-	X	X

Sitka:

Population: 7,611

Number of Telephones: 3,422

Sitka receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
X	X	X	X	X	X

Unalaska:

Population: 1,630

Number of Telephones: 479

Unalaska receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
=====					
X	X	X	-	X	-

Valdez:

Population: 3,687

Number of Telephones: 1,719

Valdez receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
=====					
X	-	X	-	-	X

Wrangell:

Population: 2,376

Number of Telephones: 1,084

Wrangell receives:

RATNET	APBC-TV	CABLE-TV	OTHER-TV	APBC-RADIO	OTHER-RADIO
=====					
X	X	X	-	X	X

REMARKS OF JOHN CLOUGH TO
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
February 10, 1987

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Special Committee today. I was heartened by the chairman's opening remarks to the effect that there appears to be agreement on the issue that the Legislature should approve funding for public broadcasting in Alaska. I will therefore direct my remarks to the suggested topic of how public broadcasting plays a significant part in the daily life of Alaskans and the consequences should public broadcasting be discontinued.

I should preface my remarks by explaining my own personal connection with public broadcasting in Alaska. For the past year, I have been the legal counsel for KTOO Television and Radio here in Juneau, Alaska. In the course of my work with KTOO, I have had the great fortune to be exposed to many aspects of public broadcasting in Alaska and to appreciate the tremendous effort put forth by hundreds of people throughout the State to deliver these services to the Alaska public. However, I want to emphasize to the committee that I am not here today in my capacity as legal counsel. Instead, I offer these remarks only as the testimony of a subscribing member of KTOO, a resident of Juneau and a concerned Alaskan.

The immediate effect in Juneau of termination of State funding for public broadcasting would be the short-term demise of KTOO. The economic consequences of such action cannot be ignored. As Representatives Ulmer and Hudson are all too well aware, the recent announcement by the United States Coast Guard that it will be moving approximately seventy-five paid positions from the city has been generally perceived as a devastating blow to Juneau. KTOO radio and television employ approximately thirty full time paid positions. While not quite on the same scale as the projected Coast Guard reorganization, the termination of those positions could not help but have a tremendous negative impact on our fragile local economy. I can only presume that similar scenarios would be acted out throughout the State if the Governor's proposed budget were adopted.

As drastic as the economic consequences might be, I believe that the greatest danger inherent in terminating or severely curtailing funding for public broadcasting in Alaska would be a deterioration in the quality of life presently available to the citizens of our State. By "quality of life" I do not refer to a standard of living or some other type of financial indicia. Instead, I speak of the contributions made by public broadcasting to Alaska's complex network of social, cultural and political interaction.

As you listen to testimony from around the State, you will certainly hear many different examples of how public broadcasting contributes to this quality of life on a daily basis. I would like to focus my remarks on one specific aspect of those contributions, that being providing information to the public concerning Alaska's political issues. In my opinion, for a number of years public broadcasting has provided the most significant media forum for examination of political issues in Alaska. The tremendous role of public broadcasting in this regard was graphically demonstrated in the coverage and debates provided during the most recent state-wide elections. As Representatives Hudson and Ulmer may recall, I had the distinct honor of participating in one small portion of the coverage regarding the legislative elections here in Juneau. After my participation in the debate forum, I received feedback from literally scores of citizens in Juneau. The citizen reaction was almost overwhelmingly positive to the role public broadcasting had played in presenting important questions and answers to Alaska's voters.

State-wide election coverage is, of course, the "Super Bowl" of political reporting in Alaska. However, public broadcasting plays just as important a role in providing a forum for political discussion on a daily basis throughout the

State, in the form of extended television news broadcasts, radio broadcasting of municipal hearings, issue oriented programming, the most expansive legislative coverage operating in the State and a host of other services. I cannot stand before you and state that every Alaskan benefits from these services on a daily basis. However, I can state with conviction that public broadcasting provides the only media forum for coverage and debate of Alaskan political issues on a daily basis. If that service were eliminated or severely curtailed, I believe that the quality of Alaskan life would be diminished.

Public broadcasting in Alaska is nothing more, or less, than a reflection of ourselves as Alaskans. At times it has been confused, disorganized and often controversial. More often, however, it has been progressive, daring and enlightened. For myself, I would like to see those qualities of Alaskan life preserved and am willing as an Alaskan to bear an increased tax burden to maintain public broadcasting services.