

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 8672

839 SCOMM30 : CONFERENCE ON ALASKA'S FUTURE FRONTIERS 1979

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 USFPC 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 MR. 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. CARPENTER: Can I just make one more comment?

4 THE MODERATOR: One more comment.

5 MS. CARPENTER: 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. CARPENTER: 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 Lullooers 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 term 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.