

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 86 / 2

857 SCOM30: CONFERENCE ON ALASKA'S FUTURE FRONTIERS 1979

1 2. The State should encourage the creation of
2 regional energy councils to respond to grass roots concerns
3 and ideas to develop alternative energy sources.

4 3. An Alaskan energy plan should be developed by
5 1982 which includes a realistic timetable to accomplish the
6 long-term energy goal.

7 Nonrenewable resources used for energy
8 systems are in a state of transition which requires new
9 problem-solving techniques.

10 Human energy potential should not be diluted by
11 polarization and provincialism, but must acknowledge the
12 immediate challenge that today's energy crisis brings. The
13 cost of diesel fuel in rural Alaska is a crisis, both in
14 financial and emotional terms. Survival and economic
15 development at present in rural Alaska is dependent on the
16 availability and the price of diesel fuel. Until the
17 primary goal of energy-system dependency on renewable
18 resources is accomplished - and a specific time limit
19 should be established - the State should be prepared to
20 assist the people in rural Alaska to acquire and pay a
21 reasonable price for diesel fuel. Any State program should
22 promote the stated energy goal. In no way should a
23 government program foster business as usual, which provides
24 no incentive to convert to other alternative energy sources.

25 It appears logical and appropriate that monies

1 received by the State from the increased revenues from its
2 petroleum resources should be used to accomplish the long-term
3 energy goals and to solve the short-term immediate energy
4 crisis.

5 All State agencies should coordinate their
6 efforts to achieve the long-term energy goal.

7 BETA GROUP TRANSPORTATION

8 It shall be the policy of the State that a
9 transportation system be developed in a manner that serves
10 the economic and social needs of all Alaskans and the areas
11 in which they reside. An integrated system of
12 transportation shall include facilities necessary to
13 accommodate the mode of transportation which best fits the
14 particular needs of the area to be served. Regional
15 representatives will participate in all stages of planning
16 and implementation. And to help facilitate their
17 involvement, there will be established regional advisory
18 committees which shall have representation on a state-wide
19 advisory board that guides state-wide transportation policy.

20 Priorities of an integrated transportation system
21 shall include the following:

22 1. Transportation systems to be developed shall
23 minimize adverse social, cultural and environmental impact.

24 2. All existing transportation facilities shall
25 be upgraded to standards which assure traveler safety,

1 optimal freight rates and minimal maintenance costs.

2 3. Airport and port facilities in rural Alaska
3 will be improved to assure the safety of users and provide
4 adequate medical public safety and service support.
5 Particular attention should be paid to improving and
6 developing airport and port facilities and alternative
7 transportation modes to accommodate critical economic needs,
8 such as the transportation of fishery products.

9 4. When new transportation projects are proposed,
10 full operation and maintenance costs shall be considered in
11 the decision to implement the project.

12 5. Appropriate incentives should be given to
13 private enterprise to develop transportation facilities in
14 the private sector.

15 6. The State of Alaska shall assist in the
16 immediate improvement and development of mass transit
17 systems in urban Alaska.

18 7. As part of a regional resource planning
19 process, the Department of Natural Resources shall
20 undertake a thorough assessment of transportation needs in
21 relation to development of Alaska's renewable and nonrenewable
22 resources.

23 8. The Department of Transportation shall
24 explore innovative and alternative transportation modes
25 that may result in lower freight and fair costs and avoid

1 adverse social, cultural and environmental impact

2 A criterion for evaluating new transportation
3 systems in both rural and urban Alaska shall be energy
4 efficiency.

5 9. The Department of Transportation shall give
6 immediate attention to the development of intraregional
7 transportation systems that do not necessarily link.

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1 FINAL REPORT, GAMMA GROUP

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3 Gamma Group spent the first day setting goals for
4 the future of Alaska. We worked as a committee of the
5 whole. We separated our goals into nine areas.

- 6
7 I. Political/Justice
8 II. Lifestyle
9 III. Transportation and Communication
10 IV. Development
11 V. Human Resources
12 VI. Education
13 VII. Governmental Structure
14 VIII. Economy
15 IX. Community Development

16 It was our plan to come up with means for
17 achieving the goals, but time ran out. Except for the
18 goals under Political/Justice, the means submitted herein
19 were not acted on by the group, but were ideas which had
20 been submitted by individuals in the group.

21 One policy statement which was adopted by the
22 group was that, "Responsible fiscal actions be applied to
23 all goals suggested herein."

24 Gamma Group recommends that a follow-up
25 conference be held. There was objection to the way the
26 conference was planned, namely, that the time frame was too
27 short to do an adequate job.

28 We were just beginning to communicate well with
29 each other when we had to push to produce some kind of

1 report.

2 Gamma Group voted down a motion to call a
3 Constitutional Convention.

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5 I. POLITICAL/JUSTICE

6 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
7 machine:

8 1. Political representation reflects both
9 population and geographic diversity.

10 Recommendations:

11 a. The Alaska State Legislature should be
12 apportioned in accordance with Alaska's constitution which
13 calls for the election of the House of Representatives on a
14 one man one vote basis, and a Senate on a geographical
15 distribution.

16 2. Justice and enforcement of the law is applied
17 equally without regard to race, ethnic group, geographic
18 location, sex or social status.

19 Recommendations:

20 a. Professional and adequate permanent law
21 enforcement service in rural and urban areas.

22 b. Increase the number of magistrates and
23 judges and provide for circuit riding magistrates.

24 c. Legal aid available in rural and urban
25 areas.

1 d. Minority hire in law enforcement
2 positions which reflect ethnic populations.

3 e. Improved recruitment and training in all
4 aspects of law enforcement personnel.

5 f. Courts which are closer to home.

6 g. End to racial biases in sentencing.

7 h. State enforcement of local liquor
8 laws.

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10 II. LIFESTYLE

11 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
12 in which:

13 1. Diverse lifestyles desired by its people are
14 protected and respected.

15 2. The arts and cultural pursuits are seen as
16 integral to such lifestyles and essential to and enhancing
17 the quality of life.

18 3. A harmony is maintained between man and his
19 natural environment.

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21 III. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

22 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
23 machine:

24 1. Aesthetic qualities are incorporated in all
25 transportation and public facilities planning.

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Recommendations:

a. The State DOT-PF should avoid a standardization in highway design through incorporation of aesthetics, through a more holistic approach to planning, through employing people of various disciplines. In order to accomplish this, the State should at times seek waivers of federal standards and/or build the projects with State monies.

2. Any anticipated transportation development would only be implemented based on the expressed preference of the local areas to be affected.

3. There are improved rural air transport systems.

Recommendations:

a. Safety should have major emphasis in development of air transport systems.

4. There is improved and expanded marine transportation, including support facilities, throughout Alaska.

5. There are improved rural communications.

Recommendations:

- a. Improved UHF/VHF/microwave systems.
- b. Improved telephone communications.
- c. Improved uplink systems from regional centers on satellite systems.

1 d. Provide radio stations in regions where
2 they are needed.
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4 IV. DEVELOPMENT

5 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
6 in which:

7 1. The stewardship role of the State for present
8 and future generations of Alaskans in protecting the
9 natural environment, including wildlife habitat and wild
10 and scenic areas, and in preserving air, land and water
11 quality, is recognized.

12 2. Protection of the environment and maintenance
13 of viable ecological systems shall be a major factor in
14 reaching decisions on both public and private development
15 projects.

16 3. The energy needs for a future Alaska shall be
17 based on renewable resources to the greatest extent
18 possible and on localized economical units allowing for
19 maximum self-sufficiency.

20 4. National energy independence is not reached
21 to the detriment of Alaskan citizens and the environment.

22 5. Oil and gas leases should occur only where
23 justifiable and only after the Coastal Resource Service
24 Area plans have been completed and approved by the
25 appropriate agencies.

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2 V. HUMAN RESOURCES

3 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
4 in which:

5 1. The dignity and well-being of Alaskans of all
6 ages, race, sex and economic status are guaranteed.

7 Recommendations:

8 a. Adequate housing, preventive and crisis
9 medical treatment, day care and aid for the elderly are
10 essential.

11 2. The causes of alcohol abuse as an impediment
12 is as an impediment to the full utilization of Alaska's
13 human resource have been recognized and effectively dealt
14 with.

15 3. Private industry is encouraged to assume the
16 responsibility to offset adverse developmental impact in
17 the areas affected.

18 Recommendations:

19 a. Socio-economic studies should be done
20 before the fact, not after the problems occur.

21 4. Good health is a right of the people.

22 Recommendations:

23 a. people should be educated about
24 nutrition.

25 b. funds should be made available for

1 building suitable medical facilities in rural areas.

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3 VI. EDUCATION

4 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one
5 in which:

6 1. High expectations for all students are shared
7 by their teachers and school administrators, and where the
8 opportunity for a enriched education is available to all
9 Alaskans without discrimination.

10 Recommendations:

11 a. A commitment to bilingual education.

12 b. Better standards for village high
13 schools.

14 c. Student exchange programs between all
15 high schools.

16 d. Special programs for gifted and
17 handicapped students.

18 2. The opportunity is provided for Alaskans of
19 all ages to acquire basic academic and life-coping
20 competencies.

21 a. Two-step certification for Alaskan
22 teachers which would include teaching skills and cultural
23 knowledge.

24 b. Stress good health and nutrition as a
25 responsible part of the program.

1 3. Apply to the fullest extent possible and at
2 all educational levels principles and practices of
3 self-directed life-long learning.

4 4. The State assume its constitutional
5 responsibility for edge indicating all public school
6 children.

7 5. Continuing education is provided.

8 6. Compulsory education in all public school
9 systems be 100 percent funded.

10 Recommendations:

11 a. Funds be made available for suitable
12 buildings.

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14 VII. GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

15 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in
16 which:

17 1. Flexibility in the types of government
18 available at the local level and experimentation in the
19 means by which we govern ourselves is encouraged.

20 Recommendations:

21 a. Legislation prevented experimentation of
22 local government structures must be repealed.

23 2. State decision-making is decentralized by
24 means of maximum local public involvement and control.

1 VIII. ECONOMY

2 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in
3 which:

4 1. Maximum self-sufficiency is provided by and
5 for the people, through the encouragement of small-scale
6 self-sustaining business, agriculture, manufacturing,
7 resource and energy utilization.

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9 IX. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

10 Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in
11 which:

12 1. Land disposals are adequately planned by the
13 state and existing land-use patterns, and the desires of
14 the people in the local area are taken into account in
15 order to maintain quality of life.

16 2. Urban areas are assisted by the State to
17 achieve quality urbanization.

18 Recommendations:

19 a. When feasible the State should shift
20 transportation funding from projects which promote
21 automobile dependence to mass transportation.

22 3. Rural housing, water and assuming disposal
23 facilities are designed for suitability to local needs.

24 (Criteria should include energy conservation, affordability,
25 utilization of local resources and know-how, and strong

1 local input in planning and implementation).

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1 DELTA GROUP GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2 OF THE

3 FUTURE FRONTIERS CONFERENCE

4
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6 1. Make money available to local banks for
7 investment in small Alaskan businesses, with specific
8 requirements from the State.

9 2. Make State housing loans available where
10 other housing funds are not.

11 3. Fully reinstate and fund the Veterans Loan
12 Program and include surviving spouses.

13 4. Liquidate by lump-sum the Alaska Native Fund
14 paid for by the State (400 million dollars).

15 5. Do not repeal State income tax.

16 6. Continue an aggressive national advertising
17 campaign to promote tourism.

18 7. Expand and upgrade the Alaska Marine Highway
19 system.

20 8. Reactivate the Capital Site Planning
21 Commission and direct the legislature to proceed without
22 delay for moving the capital according to law.

23 9. Regionalize the telecommunications system, so
24 that regional centers can broadcast via an uplink system
25 regional news, entertainment, public affairs and

1 educational television.

2 10. Legislature should mandate that the top
3 priority of the telecommunications system be the
4 installation of emergency and medical telephone in every
5 village in Alaska.

6 11. Create a single toll area for the entire
7 state for telephone communications.

8 12. Upgrade rural airports to make them more
9 fully operational and safe.

10 13. Expand key rural commercial center airports
11 to provide more economical transportation systems.

12 14. Delay any attempt to organize the unorganized
13 borough until studies made of economical and geographical
14 feasibility of that organization.

15 15. Expand and improve the magistrate system in
16 rural Alaska.

17 16. Improve maintenance and upgrade present
18 State highway system.

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20 AGRICULTURE

21 17. Continue to vigorously promote the
22 development of our agricultural potential so that the State
23 becomes as self-sufficient as possible.

24 18. Establish a Department of Agriculture.

25 19. Encourage in-state production of all mineral

1 and organic elements for use as fertilizer within the state.

2 20. Increase Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund.

3 21. Provide State tax incentives for agricultural
4 production.

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6 FISHERIES

7 22. Stimulate the rapid development of on-shore
8 processing facilities and Alaska-based vessels with
9 development of the bottom fish industry utilizing all of
10 the State's investment and regulatory tools, including but
11 not limited to:

12 A. Loans for Alaskan fishermen and processors,

13 B. State bonds for the construction of ports and
14 harbors,

15 C. Promoting a marketing association to develop world
16 markets for Alaska seafood products.

17 23. Establish strict quality control for all
18 Alaska seafood products.

19 24. Encourage the legislature to investigate the
20 possibility of establishing a policy that would restrict
21 foreign ownership and control of the Alaskan seafood
22 processing industry.

23 25. Support a substantial federal exploitation
24 tax to be levied on foreign vessels fishing and processing
25 in the American 200-mile zone.

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2 EDUCATION3 Opening Remarks
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5 In the spirit of Buckminster Fuller's thesis that
6 the healthy growth of the human mind is vital for the
7 survival of mankind, and recognizing that the preservation
8 of Alaska's unique life-style in the face of enormous
9 pressure for resource development is dependent upon
10 intelligent and creative leadership, the State shall make a
11 total commitment to and establish as one of its highest
12 priorities excellence in the University of Alaska system,
13 including emphasis on social, cultural and physical studies
14 related to the arctic and subarctic and adjacent seas.

15 In the implementation of this program, and
16 providing an incentive to Alaskan families to encourage
17 their children to attend the university system, the
18 legislature shall consider adopting policies of free
19 tuition and other incentives that would encourage all
20 Alaskans who want to further their education to attend the
21 university system.

22 26. Consider adding the Naval Arctic Research
23 Laboratory as a facility for the University if federal
24 funds are withdrawn.

25 27. Develop excellence in vocational and

1 technical education as a basic function of the community
2 college system.

3 28. Provide funding to expand pre-school
4 educational programs as an educational priority.

5 29. Provide an exchange program between urban
6 and rural students in Alaska.

7 30. Continue support for and expansion of
8 community school program.

9 31. Pursue methods to fully utilize
10 telecommunications in all phases of education, especially
11 to support rural schools with regionalized programming.

12 32. Provide adequate funds to support basic
13 literacy projects in Alaska.

14 33. Support expansion of programs for the
15 exceptionally gifted students in Alaska.

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17 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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19 Opening remarks

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21 That in the spirit underlying each of the
22 following policy recommendations, the broad cross-section
23 of Alaskans from every part of the state strongly urge the
24 legislative and executive branches to encourage, whenever
25 feasible, the adoption and implementation of health and

1 social programs which encourage local input, provide
2 incentives for self-help and adopt creative policies that
3 tend to encourage human dignity.

4 34. Public policy as developed by the
5 legislative and executive branches of government should
6 shift priority as far as possible from the curative and
7 treatment approach to health promotion, health education
8 and disease prevention and social service programs and
9 similar approaches recommended for problems.

10 35. Since disease prevention is cheaper than
11 cure and treatment, Alaska should single out diseases which
12 contribute unduly to the pain and suffering of citizens and
13 lay heavy claims on public funds. Earliest attention
14 should be given to tuberculosis, otitis media, alcoholism
15 and drug abuse, accident prevention, and venereal disease.

16 36. Cost containment for all health care
17 purchased by government should be undertaken with a minimum
18 goal that payment and fees for services should not be
19 allowable beyond the increases in the Consumer Price Index
20 for the region concerned.

21 37. That to the extent allowable by present law
22 and reasonable amendments thereto, health and social
23 services delivery programs should be vested in local
24 government and in private nonprofit corporations with
25 mutually agreeable funding provided by federal and state

1 governments.

2 38. Revenue-sharing funds made available by the
3 State government for health services and health facilities
4 should be made available to local governments, with the
5 local governments determining the priorities for usage of
6 the funds, whether for services, institutions or facilities.

7 39. That public policy in Alaska include studies
8 leading toward the possible revision of all direct service
9 health expenditures with the emerging possibility of opting
10 out the Medicaid program, the development of an unique and
11 comprehensive Alaska health insurance program, or other
12 innovative improved methods for assisting Alaskans in
13 meeting medical costs.

14 40. Immediate attention should be given to an
15 improved catastrophic illness program to bring relieve to
16 low- and middle-income wage earners, otherwise ineligible
17 for federal and state assistance.

18 41. The State should consider a revised plan of
19 reimbursement for physician services and hospitals,
20 including strong emphasis on the free enterprise,
21 competitive system and that as a quid pro quo the free
22 market forces be rigidly enforced as demanded in other
23 fields of endeavor.

24 42. Alternatives to expensive institutional
25 health care (hospitals, nursing homes, residential centers)

1 should be sought, including pilot programs and coordinated
2 home support and health care, with services available not
3 only from nurses but also from doctors for in-home
4 assistance.

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

12 44. All third-party insurance payment mechanisms
13 for health care in Alaska should be required to cover
14 mental illness services in much the same way as they cover
15 physical illness at the present time.

16 45. Legislative and executive branch decisions
17 should be directed toward more extensive utilization and
18 funding of community mental health centers and several
19 small regional juvenile residential facilities should be
20 provided for mentally disturbed juveniles.

21 46. That the legislative and executive branches
22 provide for the detailed analysis regarding the financial
23 impact of improving the current payment level of \$120.54
24 per month per recipient under the Aid to Families with
25 Dependent Children Program. (Under AFDC, the monthly

1 payment for mother and child is \$350 versus \$608 for two
2 persons under the supplemental security income programs.)

3 47. Since \$80 per month per person for certain needy
4 persons in the State is not sufficient to deal
5 realistically with those eligible, a detailed study should
6 be provided to determine the future structure and coverages
7 under the General Relief and General Relief Medical
8 programs.

9 48. The legislative and executive branches of
10 government should attempt to influence more strongly the
11 Federal Office of Management and Budget in order to adjust
12 the official poverty guidelines for Alaska, to bring it in
13 line with financial realities and remove the current
14 discrimination against Alaska's needy made possible by the
15 policies of the Federal Office of Management and Budget.

16 49. That the legislative and executive branches
17 provide for an updated, comprehensive study of the status
18 of Alaska's elderly population, with special emphasis on
19 adequacies of the financial assistance provided to elderly
20 eligibles, and with special review of the effects of
21 inflation and the fixed income of retired persons and in
22 connection with a proposed Older Alaskans Commission.

23 50. The legislative and executive branches of
24 government in Alaska have recently provided for a
25 comprehensive Corrections Master Plan for Alaska. After

1 public hearings are held in affected communities only,
2 those portions of the plan deemed to be acceptable should
3 be strongly supported by the legislative and executive
4 branches in order to improve both facilities and services
5 in urban and rural areas of Alaska.

6 51. Limited and new programs, such as Treatment
7 Alternatives to Street Crime and New Start Center have
8 demonstrated efficiency and adequate rate of success in
9 assisting in the continuing rehabilitation of ex-offenders.
10 It is in the interest of every citizen of Alaska that such
11 ex-offenders be assisted in developing new life patterns
12 free of crime and deserve adequate staff and financial
13 support to assist in that goal.

14 52. Even though public assistance in the form of
15 money-transfer payment programs and social services based
16 on counseling do not have the same goals, human service
17 centers in various communities throughout the State should
18 be co-located in order to serve citizens in a more
19 efficient manner.

20 53. Since Alaska does not operate any social
21 service child care institutions and only one correctional
22 juvenile institution, revisions should be made in the "purchase
23 of services" statutes by amendment in order to fund those
24 privately operated programs giving care to juveniles whose
25 care has been made a State responsibility more nearly on

1 the basis of actual full cost of care.

2 54. The legislative and executive branches of
3 government should make provisions whereby a reasonable
4 percentage (approximately one percent) of the human
5 services budgets of the State could be utilized by the
6 executive agencies for research and evaluation purposes in
7 order that full data may be available and proper
8 evaluations made to place sound statistical and
9 programmatical basis under all expenditures in the field of
10 human services.

11 55. Support adventure-based education on a
12 continuing basis.

13 56. Continue support of Crisis Centers
14 throughout the State.

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16 OIL AND GAS - ENERGY

17 57. Explore State oil and gas potential so that
18 planned development can occur. Develop seismic information
19 before State commits its resources to development.

20 58. Investigate and inventory archaeological
21 sites and insure their protection, especially in areas that
22 might currently be threatened due to development or erosion.

23 59. Oil and gas resources should be used
24 primarily to benefit Alaska's energy needs.

25 60. Considerations other than just the rate of

1 monetary return and security should be utilized as a State
2 investment policy.

3 51. The legislature shall develop a policy in
4 the 1980 legislative session for the development of oil and
5 gas resources to determine the rate of development.

6 62. The legislature shall consider the
7 possibility whether the State should be involved as a
8 partner to industry in oil and gas leasing, exploration and
9 development.

10 63. The State shall inventory the State's fuel
11 and mineral resources and this shall be incorporated into
12 State capital project's development plan.

13 64. The State shall invest income from our
14 nonrenewable resource wealth to develop renewable energy as
15 a major State priority.

16 65. The State shall develop incentives for
17 industry and consumers for energy conservation, especially
18 in the areas of waste heat utilization, mass transit,
19 insulation and car pooling.

20 66. The University of Alaska shall develop
21 excellence in the matters pertaining to the resources of
22 the northern latitudes.

23 67. The State legislature should specially
24 encourage small-scale utilization of alternate energy
25 resources. This would include use by individuals, families

1 and small businesses.

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3 TIMBER

4 68. Establish a conservation corps. to put
5 people to work maintaining State forrests and parks,
6 especially thinning and protecting State forrests.

7 69. Increase utilization of timber resources
8 with appropriate ecological and biological and economical
9 conservation.

10 70. Increase utilization of State timber for
11 personal use.

12 71. Research utilization of State timber into
13 finished timber products.

14 72. Produce a quantitative report of the real
15 effects of timber harvest on other resources.

REPORT OF Epsilon Group TO THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONFERENCE
ON ALASKA'S FUTURE FRONTIERS

We have accepted the challenge of this great undertaking and accept it in the light of its excellence as an exercise in participant democracy.

Epsilon Group was a microcosm of Alaska, representing as it did a balance of cultures, regions and ethnic populations which reflected the diversity of our state.

Our specific recommendations are as follows:

IN THE AREA OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Oil and natural gas policy: There will be no further oil or gas exploration conducted until a Coastal Zone Management plan and an outer continental shelf management plan is adopted. And further, any oil or gas leasing program must include regional interests and considerations.

IN THE AREA OF FISHERIES

Epsilon Group recommends that the legislature adopt Alaska's fisheries as its highest priority, and that the State increase its jurisdiction over fisheries activities to include the entire 200-mile limit.

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WITH REGARD TO STATE LANDS

No State land disposal program should preclude agricultural use.

In the area of agriculture specifically, Epsilon Group recommends that a State agriculture program emphasize in-state production, distribution and consumption of Alaskan agricultural commodities and products.

Further, that the State make available money to help fund alternative method to fuel and fertilizer production, such as methane and alcohol fuels from agricultural products.

Further, both fisheries by-products and petroleum-based fertilizers be made available.

The State should further encourage the retention of all potential agricultural lands for exclusively agricultural purposes through tax incentives.

TOURISM

The tourist industry is recognized as Alaska's second major industry and should reflect both cultural sensitivity and the integrity of ethnic populations within the state.

The State should see that local employment benefits accrue to Alaskans in any tourism programs.

The State should ensure that local and regional

1 inputs be included in tourism program planning.

2 With specific regard to the proposed World's
3 Fair, Expo '84, that the State promote local and regional
4 participation and particular emphasis on participation of
5 both minorities and women.

6
7 WITH REGARD TO ENERGY

8 The State should invest funds for the development
9 of appropriate energy source.

10 The State should look into grants or subsidies
11 for the development of alternative energy sources for
12 marine transportation.

13 The State should provide a cash prize annually to
14 any Alaskan who develops and builds an energy-efficient
15 structure.

16 The State should upgrade existing State buildings
17 and facilities to meet minimum energy-efficient studies.

18 The State should pursue and encourage in-state
19 processing of natural resources to a finished and consumable
20 form. These products and resources should then be made
21 available to Alaskans on a priority basis. And further,
22 that any in-state resource processing be pursued with
23 strong consideration for local environmental concerns.

24 The legislature should provide funding for the
25 development of sail power applicable to the fishing and

1 maritime industries and establish maritime museums within
2 the state.

3
4 General policy on energy resource development and the
5 environment:

6 1. We ask that the State protect the subsistence,
7 cultural and psychological values of the State's resources,
8 specifically to include its people.

9 2. We ask that the State include in its oil and
10 gas policy a provision providing that no gas be withdrawn
11 from an oil reservoir until oil recovery from that
12 reservoir is mostly completed.

13 3. We further ask that the State include in its
14 oil and gas policy a provision insuring that maximum
15 pressure be maintained in oil reservoirs from the beginning
16 of production activities in order to maximize petroleum
17 recovery.

18 4. Further, that the State of Alaska upgrade all
19 State buildings from an energy-efficient standpoint, and
20 that all future State buildings meet an energy-efficiency
21 standard. And in order to meet those ends, the State
22 should use as its guideline the ASHRE (American Society of
23 Heating and Refrigerating Engineers) No. 90-75 A, 1992
24 standards, to be implemented no later than 1985.

25 Each year this law is to become more stringent to:

- 1 1. Maintain a maximum energy efficiency in the
- 2 structure; and
- 3 2. Maximize efficiency in the mechanics of
- 4 heating and refrigeration.

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LAND

- 8 1. All Alaska lands are to be regarded as an
- 9 asset of all citizens present and future.
- 10 2. Prior to any land disposal planning be done
- 11 providing for local input.
- 12 3. Said planning should involve determining the
- 13 best resource potential, the best use, the best disposal
- 14 mechanism, giving local preference.
- 15 4. The State should expedite the processing of
- 16 permits, loans and leases relative to land acquisition.
- 17 5. The State should reconsider the joint
- 18 consideration process of municipal and state lands.

19

GOVERNMENT

20 State government:

- 21 1. The State government must provide formula
- 22 grant funding for planning a five-year program in the unorganized
- 23 borough.
- 24 2. The State shall develop a plan to ensure
- 25 equitable representation in the State legislature, taking

1 into consideration both population and geographical
2 considerations.

3
4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

5 1. The State should establish a comprehensive
6 health insurance program.

7 2. Encourage the private sector to provide
8 health and social services in Alaska.

9 3. The State should emphasize the role of the
10 family in social, health and education priorities and
11 policies.

12
13 TRANSPORTATION

14 1. The State should encourage development,
15 maintenance and up grading of existing area transportation
16 systems.

17 2. And should further develop programs to expand
18 public harbor and port facilities, with a view of expanding
19 the fishing and maritime industry in Alaska.

20 3. The State should research and encourage
21 alternative transportation systems, including mass
22 transportation in the urban areas.

23 4. The State should pass legislation enabling
24 the establishment of port authorities with full taxing
25 powers.

1 5. The Department of Transportation should hold
2 local public hearings and the legislature provide funding
3 for both inter- and intrastate transit systems on a
4 community-to-community basis as desired locally.

5 6. Alaska should use a portion of the unanticipated
6 revenues from the North Slope to defray the cost of intrastate
7 transportation.

8
9 EDUCATION

10 The emphasis of Epsilon Group was to encourage
11 more relevant educational programs and delivery systems
12 that are field based and have a strong emphasis on local
13 control. They should concentrate and place an emphasis on
14 strengthening the diversity of our people, the numbers of
15 people involved and the development of both relevant
16 curricula and methods of funding.

17 It was also proposed that there should be 100
18 percent financing of school bonds. A process of
19 certification should take place which requires special
20 courses to develop better understanding of our multi-cultural/
21 cross-cultural population base as well as ongoing
22 evaluation of teachers.

23
24 LAW AND JUSTICE

25 We recommend that the State of Alaska encourage

1 the equitable treatment of all individuals within the
2 judicial system regardless of race, sex, ethnic or cultural
3 background. This will be encouraged through special
4 funding and programs:

5 1. The Judicial Council should investigate and
6 develop plans to remedy inequities.

7 2. Should provide better services in law
8 enforcement for rural areas.

9 3. Give preference to women who are victims of
10 violence or displacement in areas such as housing to insure
11 the safety and protection of our women.

12 COMMUNICATIONS

13 The State should participate in funding both the
14 existing and newly developed systems of communications, so
15 that those expenses are not part of the consumer service
16 charges for improved communications net works, including
17 the utilization of advanced and expanded telecommunications
18 technology.
19
20
21
22
23
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25

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#30:22



**Legislative Council
State of Alaska**

**Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
December 6, 7 & 1979**

**A Conference on Alaska's
Future Frontiers**

**The Future Frontiers Conference, 1979
is dedicated to
Gene Guess
Former Speaker of the
Alaska House of Representatives**



The Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers was a success. The delegates who attended are a highly motivated cross-section of Alaskans. They produced thoughtful recommendations that will stand the test of time in setting both immediate priorities and long-range goals for state government.

As preparation for the conference, forty-nine Alaskans submitted detailed papers on public policy issues facing Alaska in the 1980's. These were given to the delegates prior to the December conference and were found to be valuable for collective understanding of issues and options available. Another forty-one papers written by members of the Alaskan public are also contained in this volume.

Additionally, the services of verbatim transcription of the delegate meetings was a great, new step in public participation. Not only were the group recommendations ready the day following the conference, but every word spoken in favor or opposed to the group decisions is available for its meaning and context. And a general summary precedes the group recommendations.

We thank and commend the delegates, group chairmen, authors, members of the public, legislative interns and staff for making the Future Frontiers Conference the success that it is.

**Senator George Hohman, Jr.
Representative Russ Meekins
Co-Chairmen**

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Photos courtesy the Alaska Historical Library, Juneau

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LIST OF DELEGATES

ALPHA GROUP

ACKERMAN, Gary - Fairbanks
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 ANSAGOK, Georgianna - Koyuk
 BENNETT, Jill - Fairbanks
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 BOWDOIN, Stu - Naknek
 BRADLEY, Marsha - Anchorage
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 CHARLEY, Walter - Glenallen
 CLARK, Jim - Naknek
 COOKE, Margaret - Bethel
 COOPER, Earl - Homer
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 LINCOLN, Georgianna - Fairbanks
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 MACK, Stanley - Sand Point
 MARSHALL, Joseph - Fairbanks
 MATHIESEN, Andy - Petersburg
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 MORGAN, Mooris - Fairbanks
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 WIDMARK, Emma - Juneau
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RESOLUTION SUMMARIES

The following are summaries of major resolutions submitted by the five study groups of the Future Frontiers conference. Many innovative suggestions made by only one or two of the groups are not included in the summaries, not because they are not worthwhile but because we were looking for consensus among the five groups. Several themes appeared throughout the conference discussions and are reflected in many of the resolutions. One is the interest by Alaskans in maintaining diversity in lifestyles, in alternatives available to citizens in their local governments, educational opportunities, resource development and geographic location. Local and regional differences are preferable to standardization which does not take individuality into account. Local control was another pervasive theme: local control over decisions pertaining to almost every kind of service and to development of economic and natural resources. Flexibility was a key interest of most delegates; they recognize the potential Alaska has to experiment with innovative technologies and social programs and stress that we must not lock ourselves into traditional methods of solving problems without exploring alternatives.

POLITICS, GOVERNMENT AND LAW

In the areas of politics, law and government, the major recommendations of the conference delegates concerned improvement and expansion of services, particularly to rural areas, and increasing local representation and participation in all aspects of government services. The consensus was that

- the Alaska court system should be expanded in order to expedite proceedings. This can be accomplished by several means which include increasing the number of judges, expanding the hours of operation, increasing the number of magistrates in rural areas and providing for circuit-riding magistrates.

- expanding legal aid services to assist lower income citizens in both rural and urban areas

- eliminating biases in sentencing which reflect in any way the age, sex, cultural background, race, geographic location or social status of the accused.

- increasing local governments' autonomy, flexibility and participation in decision-making and revenue sharing processes.

- carefully studying and planning for any organizational changes in boroughs which are presently unorganized.

- carrying out legislative reapportionment in accordance with Alaska's constitution to reflect both population and geographic diversity, and making sure that rural representation is not effectively eliminated.

- upgrading law enforcement recruitment, training, minority representation and rural services.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

It was generally felt by the conference participants that both transportation and communication facilities and services need to be expanded and upgraded.

In formulating recommendations pertaining to transportation, delegates stressed several points:

- a thorough assessment and evaluation of existing and needed transportation must be carried out in order to draw up an integrated statewide plan which takes into account regional differences, local requirements and local preferences.

- the marine highway systems should be improved and expanded

- highways, roads, ports and airports should be improved and maintained with a goal to increasing safety.

- alternative forms of transportation should be considered, including a shift to mass transit systems where feasible.

- in planning transportation services and facilities, energy efficiency, costs, and environmental impacts should be considered.

Communications systems were generally in need of expansion and improvement, according to conference participants. An integrated statewide system was felt to be desirable but with costs contained and government control minimized. A single toll area for telephones in the state was suggested, and VHF and microwave systems to supplement satellite transmissions were recommended.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The recommendations of the five study groups in the area of health and social services were quite varied, but two major themes were evident: shifting the focus of health services to emphasize education and prevention; and encouraging innovative and alternative health care services which, while funded by state and federal sources to a large extent, maintained local government and private control. Major recommendations included the following:

- the state should encourage private sector and local services to the maximum extent possible.

- education should be stressed, both in schools and through the media, in areas of nutrition, preventative measures and early detection.

- some form of financial relief should be available to defray high medical costs; this could be in the form of catastrophic illness insurance.

- a comprehensive health insurance plan available to all Alaskans, cost containment policies for government health care services.

- and administrative and legislative efforts to alter the present inadequacies in federal funding levels and categories of health and social services.

as well as cost containment policies

- certain health problems which are serious in Alaska should receive more attention in research, funding, education and health delivery systems; these include alcohol and drug abuse, mental health; accidents, and diseases such as otitis media, tuberculosis, and venereal disease which are especially prevalent in Alaska.

- rural health care delivery systems should be expanded and improved.

EDUCATION

Recommendations in the area of education centered around increasing funding levels of many programs and in upgrading the quality of education at all levels. Proposals included the following:

- increase amounts and availability of financial aids for post-secondary education, such as loans, scholarships, free tuition, and others.

- expand use of teleconferencing and telecommunications in the educational programs, particularly in rural areas.

- improve post-secondary education options; private universities, the University of Alaska system, community colleges, and alternative education such as open learning and schools-without-walls programs.

- strengthen vocational and technical education programs.

- recognize the need for bilingual/bicultural programs and include cultural background awareness in teacher training and certification requirements.

- upgrade the quality of education in the lower elementary grades, pre-school programs, and programs for the gifted and handicapped.

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Vigorous but responsible development was the theme in most recommendations in the area of resource and economic development, and energy-related issues were in the forefront of discussion.

- emphasis should be placed on development of alternative energy technologies (mostly small scale) and local self-sufficiency.

- the conversion of nonrenewable to renewable energy sources should take place as rapidly as possible and be encouraged through regulation and strong financial incentives.

- the state should develop a comprehensive energy plan which contains both short and long term goals and time guidelines.

-- energy-efficiency standards in all buildings should be followed, with financial incentives for private sector structures and energy conservation should be encouraged.

- revenue from state nonrenewable resources should be plowed back into development of renewable resources.

-- to the maximum extent, Alaskan resources should be used in Alaska for Alaskans.

-- sound development of oil and gas, fisheries, timber, agricultural land and tourism should take place, all with environmental safeguards.

-- a strong potential for fisheries development was recognized in numerous suggestions for encouraging greater exploitation of this resource.

-- well-planned policies should guide the development of resources.

NOTES:



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIVE GROUPS

Recommendations of five participating groups, in the Future Frontiers Conference, December 5 through 8, 1979, Anchorage, Alaska.

ALPHA GROUP

The Alpha Group of the 1979 Future Frontiers Conference, after discussion of the issues and deliberation, makes the following recommendations to the people of Alaska.

Resolutions were passed of the following topics:

Direct Services

- Future Frontiers Conference
- Education
- Child Care
- Transportation
- Communications
- Law and Justice

Finance

- Policy
- Mutual goals

Resources

- Oil and gas
- Fisheries
- Timber
- Alternative energy

In addition, the group recommends that staff and the general public make reference to the dialogue contained in the transcripts of the conference.

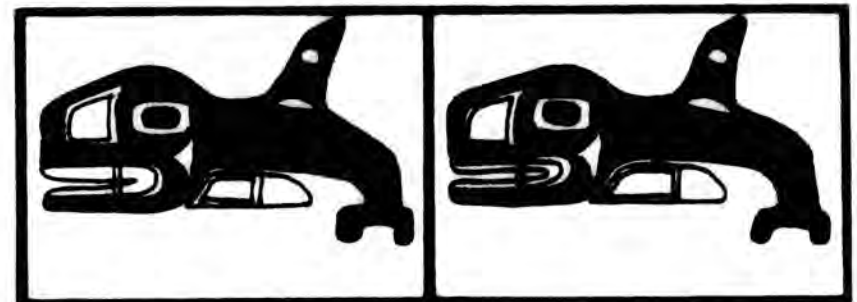
ALPHA GROUP'S EDUCATION RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the legislature consider the following recommendations in the area of education:

That the State of Alaska provide scholarship loan funds to any Alaskan student for post-secondary education with special attention paid to

- Preservation of a student's freedom of choice of colleges or universities;
- Recognition that private higher education makes a significant and important contribution to the State, and that the legislature not adopt policies that place private higher education at a competitive disadvantage;
- Providing new and expanding opportunities for vocational and technical education and training; and
- Loan forgiveness based on years of service in Alaska in the public or private sector;

- That the State of Alaska allocate funds for local school districts, for teleconferencing and vocational education, according to a policy other than Average Daily Membership in order that all elementary and secondary students in Alaska might be provided the option of a technical trade appropriate for the 1980's, soliciting counseling from industry.



ALPHA GROUP'S CHILD CARE RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the legislature consider the following recommendations in the area of child care:

1. That the State continue to use the resources of private child-caring institutions to deliver services to children entrusted to the State's care; and

2. That the State place children with child-care institutions as good parents would, providing for prompt payment of full cost of care which includes a portion of those costs required to keep the institution ready to receive the State's children.

The policy of the State should be that of a good parent that cares well for children for whom it has responsibility and pays its bills quickly.

ALPHA GROUP TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the legislature consider these recommendations for transportation needs:

1. Expand and upgrade the marine highway system throughout the entire state, including but not necessarily limited to the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian communities, Yukon-Kuskokwim and tributary system and other areas as later selected;

2. Preparation and implementation of a statewide plan for air and surface transportation;

3. Construction of a complete system for rural air transportation, navigation aids and facilities, relatively equivalent to present regional airport facilities;

4. Develop a complete inventory of the entire State's transportation facilities;

5. Upgrade and expand inter-community road systems, including but not limited to extension of the road to Tanana and a connecting link between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers;

6. Avoid imposing transportation intrusions on communities or regions whose residents do not want them, i.e., unwanted highways;

7. Improve and expand river-loading facilities.

ALPHA GROUP FUTURE FRONTIERS COMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTION:

Expand and upgrade communications services and facilities in every Alaskan community with special consideration to:

1. Television conferencing for legislative and educational purposes;

2. Efficient telephone systems with a single toll area spreading the costs throughout the State;

3. Other appropriate technology.

The goal is to integrate Alaskan society while preserving the contributions made by diverse cultures.

ALPHA GROUP'S RESOLUTION ON LAW AND JUSTICE:

Alpha Group resolves:

1. That the Alaska court system be expanded as follows:

a. increase the number of judges in order to expedite the civil and criminal calendar;

b. maximize the use of existing facilities beyond the normal working day to improve the convenience to juries and civil litigants; and

c. improve the magistrate system in villages through better communication, using appropriate technology with the presiding judge.

2. Provide increased funds to villages for police training and support, considering State participation in the management in support of the CETA program.

ALPHA GROUP'S FINANCING RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the legislature adopt a policy of a financial partnership between the State and private enterprise, in cooperation with local financial institutions with a view toward:

1. Supporting private enterprise through the provision of facilitation of venture capital in Alaska;

2. Capital or operational support for projects and equipment, including

leases or lease purchases with the lease rate based on actual revenues received from use of the product; and

3. Approval of borrowers, based on relevant factors beyond those presently considered by banks.

The State economic policy should be to develop with goals of desirable social and economic development toward the improvement and strengthening of the private sector.

RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the legislature recognize the existence and opportunities provided by the existence of the native land claims corporations, and the unique opportunities provided by those rural-based private corporations for developing mutual economic and socially desirable goals in rural and urban areas of the State.

Alpha Group further encourages the legislature to develop structures that can provide creative mutual interaction between the State, native corporations and other entities concerned with the healthy and desirable Alaska urban and rural society.

ALPHA GROUP OIL AND GAS RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group recommends that the State investigate a gas-stripping plant for the liquids at Prudhoe Bay and the State transportation system to bring the gas liquids and royalty share to tidewater for maximum State benefit.

Further, Alpha Group recommends that every effort be made to use Alaska petroleum to lower the cost of fuel throughout the State.

ALPHA GROUP RECOMMENDATION ON FISHERIES:

Alpha Group recommends that the Alaskan fisheries program do the following:

1. Encourage and support the best possible harvest, transportation and care technique for all its multiple fisheries;

2. Readiness for complete harvest and best utilization of all State fisheries products;

3. Initiation of the most advanced systems of quality production, control, transportation and storage of fisheries products;

4. Make every effort to train persons in the technical skills necessary to operate in a modern fishery.

ALPHA GROUP'S TIMBER RECOMMENDATION:

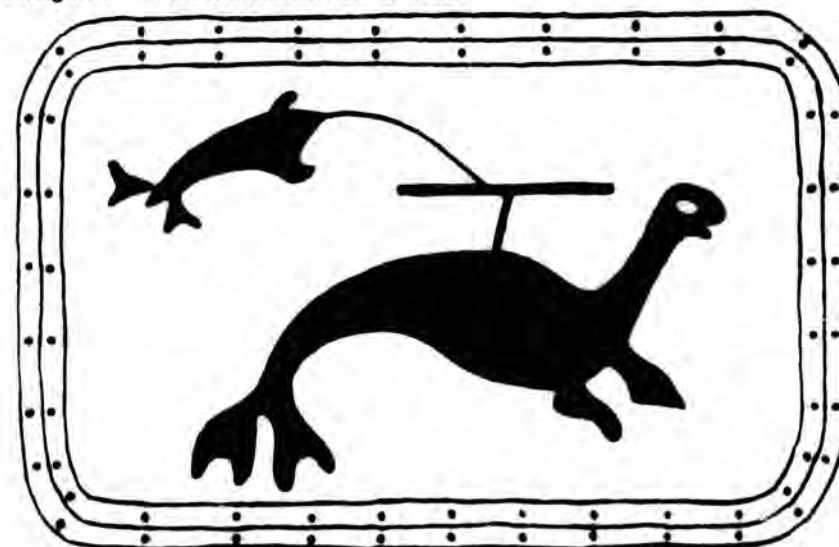
Alpha Group resolves that the State should facilitate in every way possible development of Alaska's vast timber resources in an expeditious, economically feasible and ecologically responsible manner.

ALPHA GROUP'S ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOLUTION:

Alpha Group resolves that the State develop alternative energy sources from every community in the State of Alaska, not limited to hydro power, tide, wind, solar power, geothermal or hydrogen cells and sites after an inventory is made.

ALPHA GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION ON ANOTHER FUTURE FRONTIERS CONFERENCE:

Alpha Group recommends that another Future Frontiers Conference be held in five years, and that it be preceded by regional conferences to select delegates for the statewide conference.



BETA GROUP

The Beta Group appreciates the commitment that the Alaska legislature has made to involve Alaskans in the formulation of public policy through the Future Frontiers Conference.

Additional time during this conference would have permitted more refined policy recommendations. Nevertheless, the concepts recommended are believed to be a valid statement of current and future needs and methods of resolution.

We propose a reconvening of the Future Frontiers Conference within one year to review legislative and administrative reaction to our recommendations and to propose more detailed policy development.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES POLICY STATEMENT

For every request for government financing, programs, participation and/or regulation before acting the government should ask the requester:

1. Is there truly a need?
2. Have you exhausted all other means of resolution of this need?
3. What is the least government can do in conjunction with other resources to meet the need?
4. What is the most creative role government can play in resolving the need that maximizes private participation?

Then government's role should be limited to the lowest level of participation necessary to adequately resolve the need consistent with incentives for maximum participation by the individual and the private sector in general.

2. Revenue-sharing funds to local governments shall be increased and the State shall share revenue with "No strings attached" disposition to be in sole discretion of local governments.

3. If the unorganized areas of the State are compelled to organize into boroughs, they should be limited to small contiguous areas with common needs.

4. State activities affecting a local area shall not be undertaken without local consultation. Various levels of government participating in the same program shall develop effective means of coordination.

5. Means should be found to constitutionally administer at least some of the State benefits on a longevity of residence basis.

6. Legislative reapportionment shall be implemented so as not to effectively eliminate rural representation.

7. The adventure education program is extremely valuable to Alaskan youth in helping to achieve self-confidence and a sense of purpose, and shall be made available to all Alaskan youth as an adjunct to regular school curriculum.

COMMUNICATION SECTION

1. Broadcasting of State government activities shall be under the control of an independent public board with regional representation.

2. Any expansion or improvement of public communication must be preceded by a careful evaluation of the ongoing as well as start-up costs and of who is going to "Pick up the tab."

3. Government shall not interfere in program content or availability.

4. Development of communication systems shall be sensitive to the resulting social and political effects.

5. Highest priority shall be given to upgrading communications between rural communities and the rest of the world.

6. Career education shall be provided in the field of communications.

7. The University of Alaska shall be provided the means and directive to provide education throughout the State via telecommunications.

8. VHF and microwave systems shall be developed as a supplement to satellite communications.

JUSTICE

1. The State shall assure adequate basic law enforcement facilities in rural areas through local government.

2. Effective means shall be provided whereby judges who are not performing properly shall be removed from office.

3. Publicly supported legal services shall be expanded to meet the growing needs of Alaskans lacking the financial means to hire an attorney.

4. Research shall be undertaken to evaluate sentencing of offenders who commit crimes of violence against females in comparison with sentencing of offenders who commit similar crimes against males.

5. Criminal sentencing shall not reflect minority bias.

6. Criminal justice to be effective must be swift and sure in application.

7. The legislature, judiciary, executive and private sector shall actively pursue programs, incentives and public education to discourage the people of Alaska from their increasing propensity to litigate and shall encourage social amenity.

FINANCE POLICY

The State shall invest its surplus income in the permanent fund inside the State, to the extent the opportunity for prudent investment exists in Alaska. Monies shall be loaned at low interest rates to anyone who has a financially sound investment opportunity, subject to the availability of adequate security and the borrower's demonstrable ability to repay the loan, provided the project enhances one or more goals of Alaska.

EDUCATION

Policy:

1. Provide residents of Alaska with financial access to post-secondary education.

2. To best serve the interests of the State, autonomy should be granted to the community college system.

3. Explore methods of encouraging competition in education systems, including alternatives to the University of Alaska system.

Program:

1. Give special consideration to minority students through program development and teacher preparation to enable them to achieve at grade level.

2. Establish a non-traditional statewide education program to enable rural students to obtain a Bachelor's Degree, i.e. open-learning, school-without-walls concept.

3. Develop bilingual and cross-cultural programs and teacher training to better serve minority students.

Funding:

1. State formula funding to provide smaller classes and needed services for children in grades K through six to ensure their success at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

2. Explore alternative forms of endowing Alaskan universities to enable them to achieve excellence.

3. Increase the level of funding for special education programs, including those for gifted students.

4. Provide funding for innovative programs, such as student exchange programs, wilderness experience and special cultural programs.

Amendments:

1. Establish an education fund similar to the renewable resources fund which dedicates a portion of the permanent fund for long-term educational needs.

2. The State of Alaska should improve the status of vocational-technical education statewide. Such efforts should be geared not only toward program development and maintenance, but improved employment prediction needs and improved job development and placement.

3. Increase the loan funding monies, and, if possible, the individual applicant ceiling amount of the scholarship loan program.

4. Where the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska establishes a statewide program at a community college, it shall assure the availability of adequate housing for out-of-town students participating.

Health

Health services which include:

1. Family planning counseling; and

2. Mental/Alcoholism/Drug Abuse Health need to be made available to all areas of the State from the paramedical/nurse practitioner level in the rural areas to the fully sophisticated facilities in central urban areas. An adequate means of transportation and communication is necessary.

Expansion of the professional role of paramedics and nurses shall be encouraged at all levels of health-care delivery.

An adequate curricula be added to the school system, stressing early detection and providing training opportunities to help school children become aware of health-care needs.

Alternative methods need to be considered for future water/sewer systems to ensure the practicality of the operation from a maintenance and cost standpoint.

Catastrophic health care should be available to all Alaskans with a mandatory deductible requirement sufficient to prevent abuse.

A need statewide is for health education in the media. Our TV, radio and newspaper should have more specific information about preventive health measures. Only when our whole community is more concerned about health will we improve our children's health and, consequently, the welfare of future generations.

ENERGY STATEMENT, BETA GROUP

The energy goal of the State should be:

Existing energy systems which depend on non-renewable resources should be converted to systems which are based on renewable resources in an orderly, effective and efficient transition.

A means to accomplish this would be for the State government to encourage the private sector, i.e. business and individual, through tax incentives, tax penalties and low-interest loans, to convert existing energy systems to be as efficient as possible, and to replace existing energy systems and develop new energy systems that rely on renewable resources.

Among the suggestions of the Beta Group were:

1. Energy-efficient improvements for both residences and businesses should not increase the value of the property for taxation purposes, but should reduce the property tax.

2. The State should encourage the creation of regional energy councils to respond to grass roots concerns and ideas to develop alternative energy sources.

3. An Alaskan energy plan should be developed by 1982 which includes a realistic timetable to accomplish the long-term energy goal.

Non-renewable resources used for energy systems are in a state of transition which requires new problem-solving techniques.

Human energy potential should not be diluted by polarization and provincialism, but must acknowledge the immediate challenge that today's energy crisis brings. The cost of diesel fuel in rural Alaska is a crisis, both in financial and emotional terms. Survival and economic development at present in rural Alaska is dependent on the availability and the price of diesel fuel. Until the primary goal of energy-system dependency in renewable resources is accomplished -- and a specific time limit should be established -- the State should be prepared to assist the people in rural Alaska to acquire and pay a reasonable price for diesel fuel. Any State program should promote the stated energy goal. In no way should a government program foster business as usual, which provides no incentive to convert to other alternative energy sources.

It appears logical and appropriate that monies received by the State from the increased revenues from its petroleum resources should be used to accomplish the long-term energy goals and to solve the short-term immediate energy crisis.

All State agencies should coordinate their efforts to achieve the long-term energy goal.

BETA GROUP TRANSPORTATION

It shall be the policy of the State that a transportation system be developed in a manner that serves the economic and social needs of all Alaskans and the areas in which they reside. An integrated system of transportation shall include facilities necessary to accommodate the mode of transportation which best fits the particular needs of the area to be served. Regional representatives will participate in all stages of planning

and implementation. And to help facilitate their involvement, there will be established regional advisory committees which shall have representation on a statewide advisory board that guides statewide transportation policy.

Priorities of an integrated transportation system shall include the following:

1. Transportation systems to be developed shall minimize adverse social, cultural and environmental impact.

2. All existing transportation facilities shall be upgraded to standards which assure traveler safety, optimal freight rates and minimal maintenance costs.

3. Airport and port facilities in rural Alaska will be improved to assure the safety of users and provide adequate medical public safety and service support. Particular attention should be paid to improving and developing airport and port facilities and alternative transportation modes to accommodate critical economic needs, such as the transportation of fishery products.

4. When new transportation projects are proposed, full operation and maintenance costs shall be considered in the decision to implement the project.

5. Appropriate incentives should be given to private enterprise to develop transportation facilities in the private sector.

6. The State of Alaska shall assist in the immediate improvement and development of mass transit systems in urban Alaska.

7. As part of a regional resource planning process, the Department of Natural Resources shall undertake a thorough assessment of transportation needs in relation to development of Alaska's renewable and non-renewable resources.

8. The Department of Transportation shall explore innovative and alternative transportation modes that may result in lower freight and fair costs and avoid adverse social, cultural and environmental impact.

A criterion for evaluating new transportation systems in both rural and urban Alaska shall be energy efficiency.

9. The Department of Transportation shall give immediate attention to the development of intra-regional transportation systems that do not necessarily link.

FINAL REPORT, GAMMA GROUP

Gamma Group spent the first day setting goals for the future of Alaska. We worked as a committee of the whole. We separated our goals into nine areas.

- I. Political/Justice
- II. Lifestyle
- III. Transportation and Communication
- IV. Development
- V. Human Resources
- VI. Education
- VII. Governmental Structure
- VIII. Economy
- IX. Community Development

It was our plan to come up with means for achieving the goals, but time ran out. Except for the goals under Political/Justice, the means submitted herein were not acted on by the group, but were ideas which had been submitted by individuals in the group.

One policy statement which was adopted by the group was that, "Responsible fiscal actions be applied to all goals suggested herein."

Gamma Group recommends that a follow-up conference be held. There was objection to the way the conference was planned, namely, that the time frame was too short to do an adequate job.

We were just beginning to communicate well with each other when we had to push to produce some kind of report.

Gamma Group voted down a motion to call a Constitutional Convention.

I. POLITICAL/JUSTICE

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. Political representation reflects both population and geographic diversity.

Recommendations:

a. The Alaska State Legislature should be apportioned in accordance with Alaska's Constitution which calls for the election of the House of Representatives on a one man, one vote basis, and a Senate on a geographical distribution.

2. Justice and enforcement of the law is applied equally without regard to race, ethnic group, geographic location, sex or social status.

Recommendations:

a. Professional and adequate permanent law enforcement service in rural and urban areas.

b. Increase the number of magistrates and judges and provide for circuit-riding magistrates.

c. Legal aid available in rural and urban areas.

d. Minority hire in law enforcement positions which reflect ethnic populations.

e. Improved recruitment and training in all aspects of law enforcement personnel.

f. Courts which are closer to home.

g. End to racial biases in sentencing.

h. State enforcement of local liquor laws.

II. LIFESTYLE

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. Diverse lifestyles desired by its people are protected and respected.

2. The arts and cultural pursuits are seen as integral to such lifestyles and essential to and enhancing the quality of life.

3. A harmony is maintained between man and his natural environment.

III. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. Aesthetic qualities are incorporated in all transportation and public facilities planning.

Recommendations:

a. The State DOT-PF should avoid a standardization in highway design through incorporation of aesthetics, through a more holistic approach to planning, through employing people of various disciplines. In order to accomplish this, the State should at times seek waivers of federal standards and/or build the projects with State monies.

2. Any anticipated transportation development would only be implemented based on the expressed preference of the local areas to be affected.

3. There are improved rural air transport systems.

Recommendations:

a. Safety should have major emphasis in development of air transport systems.

4. There is improved and expanded marine transportation, including support facilities, throughout Alaska.

5. There are improved rural communications.

Recommendations:

a. Improved UHF/VHF/microwave systems.

b. Improved telephone communications.

c. Improved uplink systems from regional centers on satellite systems.

d. Provide radio stations in regions where they are needed.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. The stewardship role of the State for present and future generations of Alaskans in protecting the natural environment, including wildlife habitat and wild and scenic areas, and in preserving air, land and water quality, is recognized.

2. Protection of the environment and maintenance of viable ecological systems shall be a major factor in reaching decisions on both public and private development projects.

3. The energy needs for a future Alaska shall be based on renewable resources to the greatest extent possible and on localized economical units allowing for maximum self-sufficiency.

4. National energy independence is not reached to the detriment of Alaskan citizens and the environment.

5. Oil and gas leases should occur only where justifiable and only after the Coastal Resource Service Area plans have been completed and approved by the appropriate agencies.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. The dignity and well-being of Alaskans of all ages, race, sex and economic status are guaranteed.

Recommendations:

a. Adequate housing, preventive and crisis medical treatment, day care and aid for the elderly are essential.

2. The causes of alcohol abuse as an impediment to the full utilization of Alaska's human resource have been recognized and effectively dealt with.

3. Private industry is encouraged to assume the responsibility to offset adverse developmental impact in the areas affected.

Recommendations:

a. Socio-economic studies should be done before the fact, not after the problems occur.

4. Good health is a right of the people.

Recommendations:

a. People should be educated about nutrition.

b. Funds should be made available for building suitable medical facilities in rural areas.

VI. EDUCATION

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska as one in which:

1. High expectations for all students are shared by their teachers and school administrators, and where the opportunity for an enriched education is available to all Alaskans without discrimination.

Recommendations:

a. A commitment to bi-lingual education.

b. Better standards for village high schools.

c. Student exchange programs between all high schools.

d. Special programs for gifted and handicapped students.

2. The opportunity is provided for Alaskans of all ages to acquire basic academic and life-coping competencies.

a. Two-step certification for Alaskan teachers which would include teaching skills and cultural knowledge.

b. Stress good health and nutrition as a responsible part of the program.

3. Apply to the fullest extent possible and at all educational levels principles and practices of self-directed life-long learning.

4. The State assume its constitutional responsibility for educating all public school children.

5. Continuing education is provided.

6. Compulsory education in all public school systems be 100 percent funded.

Recommendations:

a. Funds be made available for suitable buildings.

VII. GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in which:

1. Flexibility in the types of government available at the local level and experimentation in the means by which we govern ourselves is encouraged.

Recommendations:

a. Legislation preventing experimentation of local government structures must be repealed.

2. State decision-making is decentralized by means of maximum local public involvement and control.

VIII. ECONOMY

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in which:

1. Maximum self-sufficiency is provided by and for the people, through the encouragement of small scale self-sustaining business, agriculture, manufacturing, resource and energy utilization.

IX. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Gamma Group envisions a future for Alaska in which:

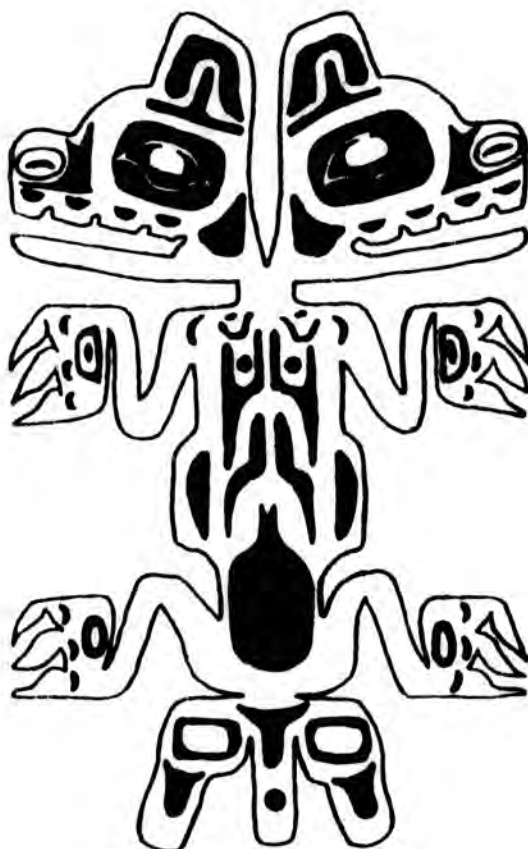
1. Land disposals are adequately planned by the state and existing land use patterns, and the desires of the people in the local area are taken into account in order to maintain quality of life.

2. Urban areas are assisted by the State to achieve quality urbanization.

Recommendations:

a. When feasible the State should shift transportation funding from projects which promote automobile dependence to mass transportation.

3. Rural housing, water and assuming disposal facilities are designed for suitability to local needs. (Criteria should include energy conservation, affordability, utilization of local resources and know-how, and strong local input in planning and implementation).



DELTA GROUP GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE

FUTURE FRONTIERS CONFERENCE

1. Make money available to local banks for investment in small Alaskan businesses, with specific requirements from the State.
2. Make State housing loans available where other housing funds are not.
3. Fully reinstate and fund the Veterans Loan Program and include surviving spouses.
4. Liquidate by lump-sum the Alaska Native Fund paid for by the State (400 million dollars).
5. Do not repeal State income tax.
6. Continue an aggressive national advertising campaign to promote tourism.
7. Expand and upgrade the Alaska Marine Highway system.
8. Reactivate the Capital Site Planning Commission and direct the legislature to proceed without delay for moving the capital according to law.
9. Regionalize the telecommunications system, so that regional centers can broadcast via an uplink system regional news, entertainment, public affairs and educational television.
10. Legislature should mandate that the top priority of the telecommunications system be the installation of emergency and medical telephone in every village in Alaska.
11. Create a single toll area for the entire state for telephone communications.
12. Upgrade rural airports to make them more fully operational and safe.
13. Expand key rural commercial center airports to provide more economical transportation systems.

14. Delay any attempt to organize the unorganized borough until studies made of economical and geographical feasibility of that organization.

15. Expand and improve the magistrate system in rural Alaska.

16. Improve maintenance and upgrade present State highway system.

AGRICULTURE

17. Continue to vigorously promote the development of our agricultural potential so that the State becomes as self-sufficient as possible.

18. Establish a Department of Agriculture.

19. Encourage in-state production of all mineral and organic elements for use as fertilizer within the State.

20. Increase Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund.

21. Provide State tax incentives for agricultural production.

FISHERIES

22. Stimulate the rapid development of on-shore processing facilities and Alaska-based vessels with development of the bottom fish industry utilizing all of the State's investment and regulatory tools, including but not limited to:

a. Loans for Alaskan fishermen and processors;

b. State bonds for the construction of ports and harbors;

c. Promoting a marketing association to develop world markets for Alaska seafood products.

23. Establish strict quality control for all Alaska seafood products.

24. Encourage the legislature to investigate the possibility of establishing a policy that would restrict foreign ownership and control of the Alaskan seafood processing industry.

25. Support a substantial federal exploitation tax to be levied on foreign vessels fishing and processing in the American 200-mile zone.

EDUCATION

Opening Remarks

In the spirit of Buckminster Fuller's thesis that the healthy growth of the human mind is vital for the survival of mankind, and recognizing that the preservation of Alaska's unique life-style in the face of enormous pressure for resource development is dependent upon intelligent and creative leadership, the State shall make a total commitment to and establish as one of its highest priorities excellence in the University of Alaska system, including emphasis on social, cultural and physical studies related to the arctic and subarctic and adjacent seas.

In the implementation of this program, and providing an incentive to Alaskan families to encourage their children to attend the university system, the legislature shall consider adopting policies of free tuition and other incentives that would encourage all Alaskans who want to further their education to attend the university system.

26. Consider adding the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory as a facility for the University if federal funds are withdrawn.

27. Develop excellence in vocational and technical education as a basic function of the community college system.

28. Provide funding to expand pre-school educational programs as an educational priority.

29. Provide an exchange program between urban and rural students in Alaska.

30. Continue support for and expansion of community school programs.

31. Pursue methods to fully utilize telecommunications in all phases of education, especially to support rural schools with regionalized programming.

32. Provide adequate funds to support basic literacy projects in Alaska.

33. Support expansion of programs for the exceptionally gifted students in Alaska.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Opening Remarks

That in the spirit underlying each of the following policy recommendations, the broad cross-section of Alaskans from every part of the state strongly urge the legislative and executive branches to encourage, whenever feasible, the adoption and implementation of health and social programs which encourage local input, provide incentives for self-help and adopt creative policies that tend to encourage human dignity.

34. Public policy as developed by the legislative and executive branches of government should shift priority as far as possible from the curative and treatment approach to health promotion, health education and disease prevention and social service programs and similar approaches recommended for problems.

35. Since disease prevention is cheaper than cure and treatment, Alaska should single out diseases which contribute unduly to the pain and suffering of citizens and lay heavy claims on public funds. Earliest attention should be given to tuberculosis, otitis media, alcoholism and drug abuse, accident prevention, and venereal disease.

36. Cost containment for all health care purchased by government should be undertaken with a minimum goal that payment and fees for services should not be allowable beyond the increases in the Consumer Price Index for the region concerned.

37. That to the extent allowable by present law and reasonable amendments thereto, health and social services delivery programs should be vested in local government and in private nonprofit corporations with mutually agreeable funding provided by federal and state governments.

38. Revenue-sharing funds made available by the State government for health services and health facilities should be made available to local governments, with the local governments determining the priorities for usage of the funds, whether for services, institutions or facilities.

39. That public policy in Alaska include studies leading toward the possible revision of all direct service health expenditures with the emerging possibility of opting out the Medicaid program, the development of a unique and comprehensive Alaska health insurance program, or other innovative improved methods for assisting Alaskans in meeting medical costs.

40. Immediate attention should be given to an improved catastrophic-illness program to bring relief to low- and middle-income wage earners, otherwise ineligible for federal and state assistance.

41. The State should consider a revised plan of reimbursement for physician services and hospitals, including strong emphasis on the free enterprise, competitive system and that as a quid pro quo the free market forces be rigidly enforced as demanded in other fields of endeavor.

42. Alternatives to expensive institutional health care (hospitals, nursing homes, residential centers) should be sought, including pilot programs and coordinated home support and health care, with services available not only from nurses but also from doctors for in-home assistance.

43. Since all forms of accidents are responsible for the highest percentage of Alaska deaths and a major portion of health care dollar expenditures, special massive attention should be given to the fundamental causes of those accidents and the relationship thereto to other social and health phenomena, and that a bold program of education and prevention be developed.

44. All third-party insurance payment mechanisms for health care in Alaska should be required to cover mental illness services in much the same way as they cover physical illness at the present time.

45. Legislative and executive branch decisions should be directed toward more extensive utilization and funding of community mental health centers and several small regional juvenile residential facilities should be provided for mentally disturbed juveniles.

46. That the legislative and executive branches provide for the detailed analysis regarding the financial impact of improving the current payment level of \$120.54 per month per recipient under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program. (Under AFDC, the monthly payment for mother and child is \$350 versus \$608 for two persons under the supplemental security income programs.)

47. Since \$80 per month per person for certain needy persons in the State is not sufficient to deal realistically with those eligible, a detailed study should be provided to determine the future structure and coverages under the General Relief and General Relief Medical programs.

48. The legislative and executive branches of government should attempt to influence more strongly the Federal Office of Management and Budget in order to adjust the official poverty guidelines for Alaska, to bring it in line with financial realities and remove the current discrimination against

Alaska's needy made possible by the policies of the Federal Office of Management and Budget.

49. That the legislative and executive branches provide for an updated, comprehensive study of the status of Alaska's elderly population, with special emphasis on adequacies of the financial assistance provided to elderly eligibles, and with special review of the effects of inflation and the fixed income of retired persons and in connection with a proposed Older Alaskans Commission.

50. The legislative and executive branches of government in Alaska have recently provided for a comprehensive Corrections Master Plan for Alaska. After public hearings are held in affected communities only, those portions of the plan deemed to be acceptable should be strongly supported by the legislative and executive branches in order to improve both facilities and services in urban and rural areas of Alaska.

51. Limited and new programs, such as Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime and New Start Center have demonstrated efficiency and adequate rate of success in assisting in the continuing rehabilitation of ex-offenders. It is in the interest of every citizen of Alaska that such ex-offenders be assisted in developing new life patterns free of crime and deserve adequate staff and financial support to assist in that goal.

52. Even though public assistance in the form of money-transfer payment programs and social services based on counseling do not have the same goals, human service centers in various communities throughout the State should be co-located in order to serve citizens in a more efficient manner.

53. Since Alaska does not operate any social service child care institutions and only one correctional juvenile institution, revisions should be made in the "purchase of services" statutes by amendment in order to fund those privately operated programs giving care to juveniles whose care has been made a State responsibility more nearly on the basis of actual full cost of care.

54. The legislative and executive branches of government should make provisions whereby a reasonable percentage (approximately one percent) of the human services budgets of the State could be utilized by the executive agencies for research and evaluation purposes in order that full data may be available and proper evaluations made to place sound statistical and programmatic basis under all expenditures in the field of human services.

55. Support adventure-based education on a continuing basis.

56. Continue support of Crisis Centers throughout the State.

OIL AND GAS - ENERGY

57. Explore State oil and gas potential so that planned development can occur. Develop seismic information before State commits its resources to development.

58. Investigate and inventory archaeological sites and insure their protection, especially in areas that might currently be threatened due to development or erosion.

59. Oil and gas resources should be used primarily to benefit Alaska's energy needs.

60. Considerations other than just the rate of monetary return and security should be utilized as a State investment policy.

61. The legislature shall develop a policy in the 1980 legislative session for the development of oil and gas resources to determine the rate of development.

62. The legislature shall consider the possibility whether the State should be involved as a partner to industry in oil and gas leasing, exploration and development.

63. The State shall inventory the State's fuel and mineral resources and this shall be incorporated into State capital project's development plan.

64. The State shall invest income from our non-renewable resource wealth to develop renewable energy as a major State priority.

65. The State shall develop incentives for industry and consumers for energy conservation, especially in the areas of waste heat utilization, mass transit, insulation and car pooling.

66. The University of Alaska shall develop excellence in the matters pertaining to the resources of the northern latitudes.

67. The State legislature should specially encourage small-scale utilization of alternate energy resources. This would include use by individuals, families and small businesses.

TIMBER

68. Establish a conservation corps to put people to work maintaining State forests and parks, especially thinning and protecting State forests.

69. Increase utilization of timber resources with appropriate ecological and biological and economical conservation.

70. Increase utilization of State timber for personal use.

71. Research utilization of State timber into finished timber products.

72. Produce a quantitative report of the real effects of timber harvest on other resources.



**REPORT OF EPSILON GROUP TO THE ASSEMBLED
DELEGATION LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONFERENCE
ON ALASKA'S FUTURE FRONTIER**

We have accepted the challenge of this great undertaking and accept it in the light of its excellence as an exercise in participant democracy.

Epsilon Group was a microcosm of Alaska, representing as it did a balance of cultures, regions and ethnic populations which reflected the diversity of our State.

Our specific recommendations are as follows:

IN THE AREA OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Oil and natural gas policy: There will be no further oil or gas exploration conducted until a Coastal Zone Management plan and an outer continental shelf management plan is adopted. And further, any oil or gas leasing program must include regional interests and considerations.

IN THE AREA OF FISHERIES

Epsilon Group recommends that the legislature adopt Alaska's fisheries as its highest priority, and that the State increase its jurisdiction over fisheries activities to include the entire 200-mile limit.

WITH REGARD TO STATE LANDS

No State land disposal program should preclude agricultural use.

In the area of agriculture specifically, Epsilon Group recommends that a State agriculture program emphasize in-state production, distribution and consumption of Alaskan agricultural commodities and products.

Further, that the State make available money to help fund alternative method to fuel and fertilizer production, such as methane and alcohol fuels from agricultural products.

Further, both fisheries by-products and petroleum-based fertilizers be made available.

The State should further encourage the retention of all potential agricultural lands for exclusively agricultural purposes through tax incentives.

TOURISM

The tourist industry is recognized as Alaska's second major industry and should reflect both cultural sensitivity and the integrity of ethnic populations within the state.

The State should see that local employment benefits accrue to Alaskans in any tourism programs.

The State should ensure that local and regional inputs be included in tourism program planning.

With specific regard to the proposed World's Fair, Expo '84, that the State promote local and regional participation and particular emphasis on participation of both minorities and women.

WITH REGARD TO ENERGY

The State should invest funds for the development of appropriate energy source.

The State should look into grants or subsidies for the development of alternative energy sources for marine transportation.

The State should provide a cash prize annually to any Alaskan who develops and builds an energy-efficient structure.

The State should upgrade existing State buildings and facilities to meet minimum energy-efficient studies.

The State should pursue and encourage in-state processing of natural resources to a finished and consumable form. These products and resources should then be made available to Alaskans on a priority basis. And further, that any in-state resource processing be pursued with strong consideration for local environmental concerns.

The legislature should provide funding for the development of sail power applicable to the fishing and maritime industries and establish maritime museums within the State.

General policy on energy resource development and the environment:

1. We ask that the State protect the subsistence, cultural and psychological values of the State's resources, specifically to include its people.

2. We ask that the State include in its oil and gas policy a provision providing that no gas be withdrawn from an oil reservoir until oil recovery from that reservoir is mostly completed.

3. We further ask that the State include in its oil and gas policy a provision insuring that maximum pressure be maintained in oil reservoirs from the beginning of production activities in order to maximize petroleum recovery.

4. Further, that the State of Alaska upgrade all State buildings from an energy-efficient standpoint, and that all future State buildings meet an energy-efficiency standard. And in order to meet those ends, the State should use as its guideline the ASHRE (American Society of Heating and Refrigerating Engineers) No. 90-75 A, 1992 standards, to be implemented no later than 1985.

Each year this law is to become more stringent to:

1. Maintain a maximum energy efficiency in the structure; and
2. Maximize efficiency in the mechanics of heating and refrigeration.

LAND

1. All Alaska lands are to be regarded as an asset of all citizens present and future.

2. Prior to any land disposal planning being done providing for local input.

3. Said planning should involve determining the best resource potential, the best use, the best disposal mechanism, giving local preference.

4. The State should expedite the processing of permits, loans and leases relative to land acquisition.

5. The State should reconsider the joint consideration process of municipal and state lands.

GOVERNMENT

State government:

1. The State government must provide formula grant funding for planning a five-year program in the unorganized borough.

2. The State shall develop a plan to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature, taking into consideration both population and geographical considerations.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

1. The State should establish a comprehensive health insurance program.

2. Encourage the private sector to provide health and social services in Alaska.

3. The State should emphasize the role of the family in social, health and education priorities and policies.

TRANSPORTATION

1. The State should encourage development, maintenance and upgrading of existing area transportation systems.

2. And should further develop programs to expand public harbor and port facilities, with a view of expanding the fishing and maritime industry in Alaska.

3. The State should research and encourage alternative transportation systems, including mass transportation in the urban areas.

4. The State should pass legislation enabling the establishment of port authorities with full taxing powers.

5. The Department of Transportation should hold local public hearings and the legislature provide funding for both inter- and intrastate transit systems on a community-to-community basis as desired locally.

6. Alaska should use a portion of the unanticipated revenues from the North Slope to defray the cost of intrastate transportation.

EDUCATION

The emphasis of Epsilon Group was to encourage more relevant educational programs and delivery systems that are field based and have a strong emphasis on local control. They should concentrate and place an emphasis on strengthening the diversity of our people, the numbers of people involved and the development of both relevant curricula and methods of funding.

It was also proposed that there should be 100 percent financing of school bonds. A process of certification should take place which requires special courses to develop better understanding of our multi-cultural/cross-cultural population base as well as ongoing evaluation of teachers.

LAW AND JUSTICE

We recommend that the State of Alaska encourage the equitable treatment of all individuals within the judicial system regardless of race, sex, ethnic or cultural background. This will be encouraged through special funding and programs.:

1. The Judicial Council should investigate and develop plans to remedy inequities.
2. Should provide better services in law enforcement for rural areas.
3. Give preference to women who are victims of violence or displacement in areas such as housing to insure the safety and protection of our women.

COMMUNICATIONS

The State should participate in funding both the existing and newly developed systems of communications, so that those expenses are not part of the consumer service charges for improved communications net works, including the utilization of advanced and expanded telecommunications technology.

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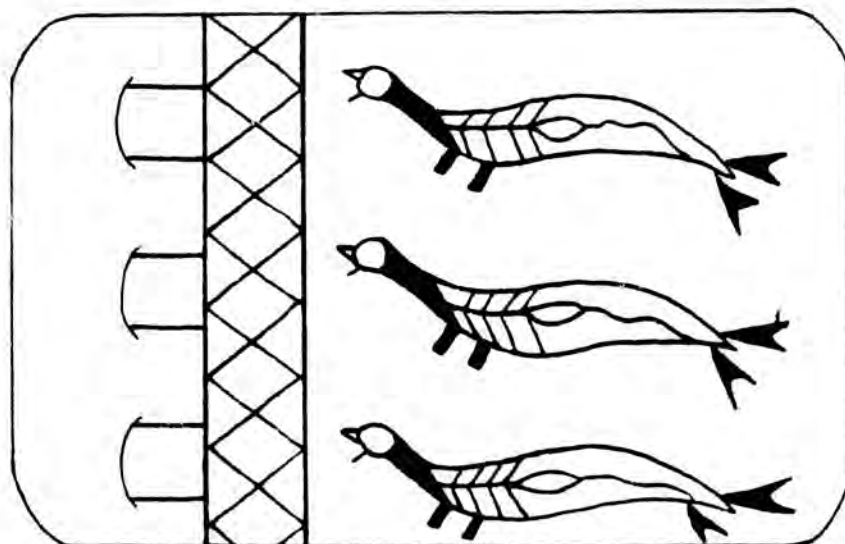
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Richard Fritz, <i>Need for Private Land</i>	S 104



' THIS LAND IS SACRED'

In 1851, Seattle, Chief of the Suquamish and other Indian tribes around Washington's Puget Sound, delivered what is considered to be one of the most beautiful and profound environmental statements ever made. The city of Seattle is named for the Chief, whose speech was in response to a proposed treaty under which the Indians were persuaded to sell two million acres of land for \$150,000.

"How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us.

If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man.

The white man's dead forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and man — all belong to the same family.

So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us. The Great Chief sends word he will reserve us a place so that we can live comfortably to ourselves. He will be our father and we will be his children.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. But it will not be easy. For this land is sacred to us. This shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and



memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother.

We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He leaves his father's graves behind, and he does not care. He kidnaps the earth from his children, and he does not care. His father's grave, and his children's birthright are forgotten. He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

I do not know. Our ways are different from your ways. The sight of your cities pains the eyes of the red man. There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the unfurling of leaves in spring or the rustle of the insect's wings. The clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lonely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frogs around the pond at night? I am a red man and do not understand. The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of a pond and the smell of the wind itself, cleansed by a midday rain, or scented with pinon pine.



The air is precious to the red man for all things share the same breath, the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days he is numb to the stench. But if we sell you our land, you must remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports.

The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred as a place where even the white man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow's flowers.

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children that we have taught our children that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know: the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. All things are connected. We may be brothers after all. We

shall see. One thing we know which, the white man may one day discover; Our God is the same God.

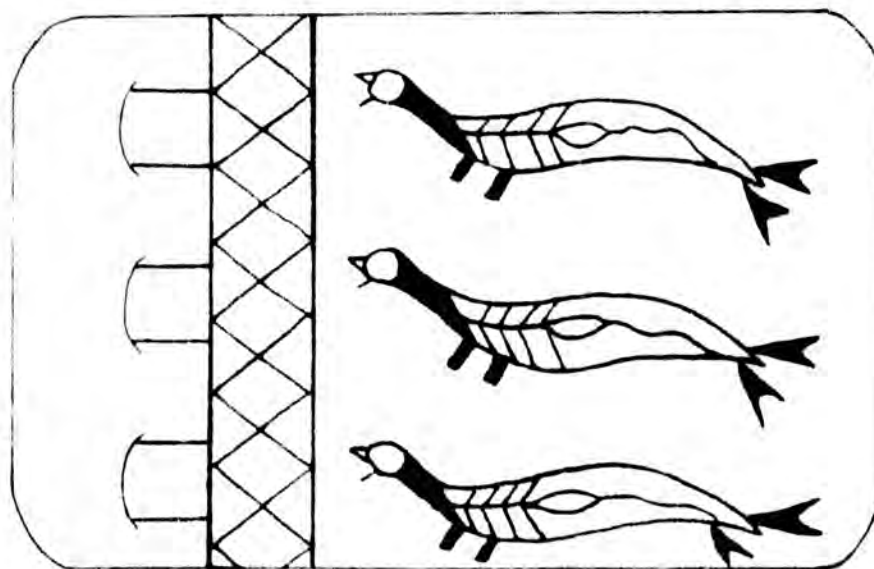
You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land; but you cannot. He is the God of man, and His compassion is equal for the red man and the white. This earth is precious to Him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator. The whites too shall pass; perhaps sooner than all other tribes. Contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste.

But in your perishing you will shine brightly fired by the strength of the God who brought you to this land and for some special purpose gave you dominion over this land and over the red man.

That destiny is a mystery to us, for we do not understand when the buffalo area all slaughtered, the wild horses are tame, the secret corners of the forest heavy with scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires.

Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone.

The end of living and the beginning of survival."



Glenn Olds submitted the speech as a footnote to his article.

CHANGE IN ALASKA: CREATING THE FUTURE

By
Robert Weeden

Some think the future is in the Book of Fate. Some see people as sheep, herded about by random circumstance. Luckily for us all, there are some who strive to create futures by guiding the present. This essay is addressed to the thousands of Alaskans who daily direct their hopes, energies, and talents toward a better tomorrow.

Change is time and life; universal and beyond argument. Zero change is inconceivable; excessive change is future shock, a clock gone wild. The critical question is how to direct change so that the good of the past survives to be re-shaped by the best of the future.

Recently in Alaska it has been easy to be tempted into pessimism. Where there was spaciousness there is scarcity or rumor of scarcity. Simplicity has given way to complexity, independence to helplessness, friendliness to distrust. It seems natural, when changes outdistance adaptive response, for the past to look better than the present or future. One of Evelyn Waugh's characters in "Put Out More Flags" said, "In the old days if there was one thing wrong it spoiled everything; from now on for all our lives, if there's one thing right the day is made."

For my part, I see no greater inherent dangers in the future than in the past, except the danger of giving up. My interest is in striving: in taking action informed by the past, adequate to reality, and shaped by a dream.

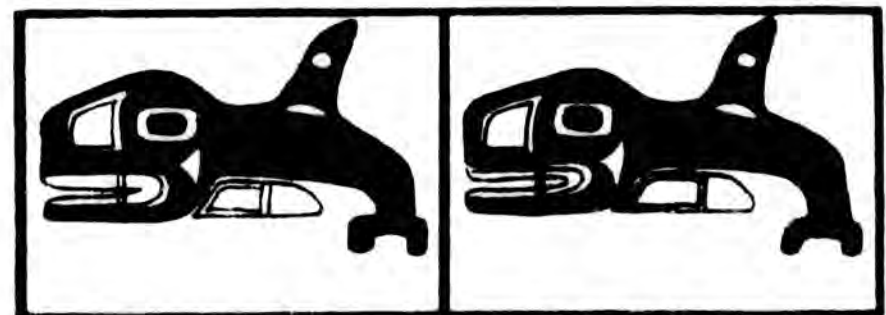
Changes of the Past: Native and Frontier Alaska

Native Alaskan societies adapted thoroughly to natural conditions. They had no other choice, given their subsistence economic base and their limited technology for buffering environmental forces, moving long distances rapidly, and storing food or wealth. Adaptation accepted certain boundary conditions set by nature, but

it also proved to be a highly durable strategy. Survival was not the sole achievement of subsistence societies, however. Native people were creative in art, mythology, and the transfer of knowledge. Their strong interdependence and necessarily close-knit living led to systems of personal relationships that "civilized" societies could well admire.

The invasion of Alaska by non-Natives in the two centuries following Bering's voyage signalled the onset of the frontier. A high-technology society, founded on a strategy of manipulating nature, moved into the North to find goods valued in its temperate-zone homelands. Natives were killed, displaced, or simply engulfed. Profits were sent back South or were used to build bases of exploitation, small replicas of home communities. The region's money economy and governance were propped up by massive speculative investments and subsidies from the South. Of this ever-expanding phalanx only a few outriders needed to adapt substantially to northern environments. The majority lived in a buffered world built and operated by an intricate technology and fed intravenously with Outside capital.

There was no single time when frontierism came to Alaska and no single time when it left. (Attitudes akin to frontierism survive today despite the disappearance of the geographic frontier.) However, three events between 1958 and 1971 certainly mark a sharp transition. The first was statehood, a pact committing Alaskans to work toward social permanence and self sufficiency. The second was the statutory settlement of Native claims, a giant step toward equal participation by Natives in economic and political affairs. Petroleum discoveries at Prudhoe Bay were the third, bringing a promise of momentary fiscal solvency to us all.



Fantastic changes took place in the frontier period, mainly in the 75 years following gold discoveries and salmon canning. Population growth statistics, measures of economic flow, and the growth in multilevel governance tell one side of that story. The other side is marked by alcoholism, suicide, mental disease, growing crime rates, overexploited resources, and pollution, sure signs that change has been accompanied by high stress and inadequate adaptation.

Groping Toward Permanence

There is solid evidence that most Alaskans want to help create a permanent society in the North. There is strong concern for problems of renewable resource use even while spectacular finds of exhaustible resources capture the headlines. Public leaders are serious about a substantial Permanent Fund. Rural people, even in unorganized areas, want the responsibility for educational policies. The North Slope Borough's coastal management ordinance is just one example of the determination of local governments to use sophisticated and powerful tools for protecting regional lifestyles. There is a will to build permanence, but that will is diluted by the clamor of boomerism and hampered by self-doubt.

Achieving permanence requires new perceptions, values, and policies. We will have to work out ways of managing renewable and non-renewable resources so that our economy pays its way without massive Outside subsidies and without risky reliance on huge, shortterm windfalls. We will have to achieve wisdom in handling our few windfalls so that they do not cause social disruption and so that coming generations are not impoverished. New relations must be evolved with the federal government. Native and non-Native Alaskans will need a thorough rethinking of our relationships to nature, listening carefully and responding adaptively to messages from the earth. And, lastly, we will need to find ways to protect regional diversity as a unique and fundamental part of the Alaskan way of life.

All of this may sound vague and academic, but the connections to the hard policy choices facing us today are concrete and highly visible. There is a program for action for every dream.

Getting There: Actions with a Future

Renewable resources are the key to a durable northern society, and their two most important features are productive capacity and renewability. A sustained policy toward renewable resources rests on four cornerposts: 1) maintaining in top condition soils, waters, and habitats that nurture crops, timber, fish, and wildlife; 2) accurately gauging and staying well within sustained harvest limits; 3) avoiding excess harvesting capacity; and 4) investing adequately in research and development.

The specific applications of those commonsense ideas should be obvious. Being tough on polluters (including those in the renewable resource industries) isn't a political fad, it is a step toward survival. Rejecting the brinkmanship inherent in "maximum sustained yield" harvests is an obvious wise choice, one that admits our scientific uncertainties and allows for unexpected declines in productivity. Limited entry systems, either explicit as in the salmon fisheries and McKinley Park backcountry permits, or implicit as with the combination of allowable cut and primary processing timber policies in Southeast, will be required in direct relation to the rise in the number of potential resource users. Low-interest loan programs designed to encourage a buildup of resource extraction businesses need careful and constant reappraisal. And a broad array of research and technology development programs must be understood as essential and profitable elements of good management, not as half-starved hitchhikers.

Nonrenewable resources also are extremely important to Alaska's longrun future. The three major groups of nonrenewables - petroleum, coal, and metallic minerals - inherently pose different challenges.

Petroleum is the Roman candle of our celebration of economic life in Alaska. Youngsters born in 1958 saw the match lit and may well outlive the last spark. From that perspective it is clear that oil and gas policy has to account for the decline as well as the rise of the petroleum era. I can express at least four broad objectives of such a policy: 1) reduce the height and stretch out the duration of the exploitation curve; 2) prevent the swamping of other interest while, inevitably, petroleum dominates political and economic af-

fairs; 3) soften the effects of the downside of the curve; and 4) put aside a share of the benefits of oil and gas exploitation and social debts they have to pay off.

The most obvious (and most difficult) policy is to slow the rate of leasing. We may not be able to influence federal leasing schedules very much, (though delays of even a few years can sometimes be critical), but we should be able to choose our own lease sale timing. Opposing the longrun social wisdom of stretched-out exploitation, and the purely economic argument that oil will be worth more later than it is now, are the political forces generated by slack time following booms. Somewhere we have to find the courage to break the cycle.

Another important decision is whether to encourage (and probably subsidize) buildup of major refineries and petrochemical plants in the state, based on royalty oil and gas. My own view is that such industries would last only as long as handy Alaskan supplies of petroleum are available; importing crude oil for refining and later export doesn't make sense. It would be like building sandcastles in the top of an hourglass, worsening the wind-down crisis of the turn of the century.

The third basic element of petroleum policy is to divert windfall revenues into a Permanent Fund, the income from which is plowed back into the fund to protect the real dollar value of the principle. Coupled with a curb on annual state expenditures and unwise pork-barreling, this policy would dampen, (but not eliminate), the growth-stimulating effects of petroleum bonanzas, reduce contemporary social stress, and give our grandchildren a share of the one-time resource we are converting to waste heat and money.

Old King Coal is the sleeping giant of the nonrenewables, and no one knows whether or when he will wake up. Our deposits are immense, mostly remote, and low in grade. Mining would be by open-pit and stripping techniques. There is an obvious need for strong reclamation and antipollution laws, which regulations are tailored to the uniquely vulnerable permafrost and vegetation dynamics of the North. Royalties, now a pittance, must be increased to compensate for taxpayer costs of impact. Coal mining *could* be an important element in our economy for much longer than petroleum development, and should be required to pay its way in the fullest

sense of the phrase.

If petroleum is our Roman candle, *hardrock and placer materials* are our longest string of firecrackers. Mining may never employ really large numbers of people, and probably will never yield windfall revenues to the State, but mining will be around for centuries. Though each mining project should be approached as a short-term activity, mining as a whole can be considered permanent.

If large ore-processing plants are developed in Alaska, we may face serious air pollution and weather pollution problems. In the foreseeable future, however, the paramount policy area related to mining is access and transportation. The problem is simple: mineral deposits occur in remote areas (because most of mountainous Alaska is remote), roads or railroads are needed if the deposits are to be mined, and the increased surface access completely changes rural life and resource stewardship. Resolution of the Alaska land ownership question by Congress will give new shape to this problem, but will not solve it.

Because I want to see most of Alaska remain wild, and because I think that the absence of road linkages to cities gives rural regions the best chance to make their own choices of lifestyle, I hope mining is not the stimulus (or excuse) for the roading of Alaska. The question is how to develop minerals without an intricate highway network radiating from Anchorage and Fairbanks. Fortunately, there are answers: river, air, and ocean access; isolated road spurs from mine to coastal port; railroads; and, in some cases, simply deciding not to mine.

Alaska is in the rare position of having *public revenues* far in excess of current needs. I think this is a shortterm "problem" because no future State revenues comparable to those from Prudhoe are likely, but right now the challenge of wealth is real. The role of the Permanent Fund has been mentioned; it can be an adequate solution to the "surplus" problem if the flow into it is expanded substantially and if the growth of the General Fund expenditures is cut back at the same time. (However, at least one program area is being starved of annual appropriations with serious current and future consequences. This is the natural resource stewardship area: the realm of basic resource research, resource assessment, monitoring, protec-

tion of air, water, soil, and habitat quality, and management techniques development. Partly because of personal political vendettas and partly because of a notion that such functions stifle economic development and reduce profits, the several agencies with the stewardship role have fallen further behind into crisis-oriented management. If we cannot invest in good management and useful research while we are rich, we will never do more than react to urgent current demands.)

There are grounds for concern that the institutions we have established to manage surplus oil wealth (Permanent fund, Renewable Resources Development Corporation) and to spend large chunks of it (Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, possibly the Alaska Power Authority) are not adequately accountable for the broad and longterm consequences of their actions, or even aware of them. There is an understandable tendency to rely on financial and engineering technicians to manage the money and design the projects. Such people certainly can help, but we need to make sure a more diverse group is responsible and accountable for policy.

In the arena of *federal-state relations*, I think it is obvious that no permanent Alaskan society can survive the present armed-camp atmosphere. The nation needs Alaska, and Alaska needs the nation. Cooperation in land use planning (an issue raised so often that our receptors are dulled, but one no less urgent than ever) is an immediate and important need. With all the leverage we have, we should insist that federal development projects conform to statutory standards of environmental protection, that in some cases the State receive and control impact conservation funds, and that federal management of conservation lands be sensitive to the ecologic and cultural differences between here and Outside. What can we do in return? Well, we could extend our hands in friendship instead of just for handouts.

Social change is a triangle of tension, touching those actions that are economically feasible, those that are socially acceptable, and those that are ecologically permissible. We have neglected environmental signals - *messages from the earth* - in our preoccupation with economic development. The most crucial sea-change our society needs to undertake is to fit more smoothly and adaptively into northern environments. The challenge is great for Natives and

non-Natives alike, the former because they are using new tools and institutions in a familiar place, the latter because they have to apply familiar tools to a strange environment.

I can do no more here than list the main aspects of northern environments that seem important signals as we build our future. The comparatively low biological productivity of land and freshwater is a pervasive and fundamental element. Permafrost and fire have wider implications to architecture, construction, waste disposal, timber and wildlife management, rural settlement, and other human activities. The seasonal sun cycle should strongly influence home design and energy systems. The pollutability of northern airsheds has already affected development planning. Cold, of course, is and will be a behavior-shaping characteristic of the North.

If we learn and respond creatively, the process of fitting and refitting into the North (a full and true "coming into the country") will be satisfying and stabilizing. We will find, in even deeper ways than we have so far, that *diversity in human society* is a natural outgrowth of diversity of environment and resource endowment. Working against the grain of diversity, however, are a number of homogenizing forces, big and small. A few examples are network television, mass marketing, rigidity and standardization in big business, inflexibility in government service delivery and regulation, and the widening subculture of petroleum (in Alaska, the only things certain are death and Texas).

With a little thought these forces can be countered. We can walk away from onerous federal service programs and design our own. Through zoning and other tools we can make it harder for nationwide chains to punch out locally-run businesses. Regional forms of decision-making can displace unnecessarily centralized policy setting. Subsidies that encourage single, huge, regionwide power sources can be withheld and diverted to development of varied, dispersed, and smaller sources. Texas accents could be outlawed. The point is that our regional diversity is a deeper thing than style alone. It is worth protecting and nurturing because every imposition of uniformity erodes the prospects for survival as an efficient, smooth-running, distinctive, and self-respecting human society.

do

I said earlier that the gravest danger we face today is giving up. Too many of my peers are cynics. Too many young people are trying to find a hole to live in. Too many political leaders excuse failure by pointing to Outside forces.

To a far greater extent than the tired and the skeptical want to admit, we are able to create good futures. Outsiders may whimsically change economic volume and pitch, but we are in control of quality and style. Our political leaders need to use the leverage law and politics afford to exert this control, and to find the courage to make unpopular decisions when the longer run good demands. We adult Alaskans need to use our inward eye to illuminate neglected values and our outer eyes to see reality more clearly. And our youth need only to give rein to the well-springs of hope and vigor they all were born with.

Notes and Biography

I relied on ISER publications by Tom Morehouse (1977) and Scott Goldsmith (1978) for estimates of Alaskan petroleum reserves and ideas on state fiscal policy, respectively. Walter Firey's book (1960) "Man, Mind, and Land" classified many things about human adaptation and change. The several books of the 1960's by Alaskans George Rogers and Dick Cooley started much of my thinking about these issues.

Bob Weeden was born and raised in New England, but a boyhood yearning for wilder country took him West in 1956. After earning degrees in wildlife conservation at the University of Massachusetts and University of Maine, he embarked on a doctoral program at the University of British Columbia. After graduation, he and his Canadian wife Judy headed up to Alaska, where they have lived since 1959. Bob worked as a biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 10 years, then joined the faculty at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks where he teaches wildlife management and a broad array of natural resource courses. A conservation activist for 20 years, Bob has written scores of technical and popular articles as well as a recent book called "Alaska: Promises to Keep" (Houghton Mifflin 1978). For a year and a half beginning in 1975 he served as the Governor of Alaska's Director of Policy Development and Planning. He has served on many boards and commissions, including the National Marine Fishery Advisory Committee and the Committee of Scientific Advisors to the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission.

A 5



"The Big Thing"

*Old Mother Seward: I'll rub some of this on his sore spot:
It may soothe him a little.*

Nast's Cartoon on the Alaska Purchase — From "Harper's Weekly" for April 30, 1867.

A CHANGING ALASKA

Prepared by
Michael Rowan

Historical Perspective

Measuring socio-political change in Alaska has been a precarious occupation. Until the mid 1960's, public opinion surveys were rarely applied in either the government sector or the private sector. Traditional forms of demographic information, such as the Census, national surveys, or academic research were either irrelevant; for example, some Census forms classified Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts as "Spanish speaking"; or they were inadequate, such as national surveys that include so few interviews from the small Alaska population that the findings are statistically meaningless in terms of learning anything about the state.

Even when surveys came into general use, the rapid population explosion, in-migration, cultural change, and economic developments initiated in the mid-60's quickly eclipsed most data. Even in the 1970's, major decisions in the public and private sectors were based upon obsolete or erroneous assumptions about the Alaska population, creating a volatile political environment. Several times in this period, the public sent a majority of new faces to the Legislature, to the surprise of those who felt comfortable and secure in their views about what the public wanted.

During this period, which extends into the present, the Alaskan public abandoned the traditional political parties, adopting in its stead a neo-populist, anti-government posture which is complicated and ambiguous in its developing form. As a result, radically divergent political views and personalities clashed in Alaska, and government policy generally divided. In the private sector, Alaskans appear to follow patterns of behavior previously identified in the USA, and so most of the market data internal to the state is consistent and applicable. But in the public sector, Alaskans are cutting and stitching the new pattern on a daily basis, making it problematic to assess where they are, and difficult to predict where they are heading.

Current Status

In this section, areas of significant (and often volatile) change in Alaskan views are briefly identified. Survey research data ranging over the period 1969-1979, most of it proprietary and unpublished, and involving over sixty major studies and 10,000 Alaskan interviewees, rests as the basis for all observations which follow. For convenience, the topics are listed, but not in terms of priority or dynamics.

A. Participation. While most Americans are concerned and opinionated about public issues and community life, Alaskans are especially so. [The writer has conducted surveys in 24 of the states.] Alaskans have a strong interest in controlling events and shaping their own lifestyle. They feel a frustration when control is beyond them, and a resentment of that situation. Most Alaskans are migrants to the state who share immediately with longterm residents the ideal of being self-made and self-regulated. Much of the antagonism toward powerful institutions (government, labor, industry, the media) can be traced to this characteristic, and it goes a long way in explaining why the initiative process is being used more and more in Alaska: the people want to take over their future directly.

B. Identity as "Alaskan". Alaskans have a sharp sense of identity with Alaska, and they view the state as a larger lens on their own community. Few Alaskans have seen the state firsthand, but all feel a keen pride in being part of it. This perspective is based more on the open and trusting relationships struck by Alaskans struggling with a common dilemma, than on the shared sense of living in a grand environment. What Alaskans really like about Alaska is each other — which is not to imply Alaskans do not love the land — it's just that the people come first. As a result of all this, the Alaskan self-perspective is of the self-made, free, controlled and independent variety; and, in the extreme, this perspective is registered by "outsiders" from the "lower-48" as narrow, insular, chauvinistic and sometimes selfish. The significance of all this is that Alaskans are developing a feeling of sovereignty which, sparked by the fires of d-2, raises real questions about Alaska's status. If a common culture and a clear, shared sense of identity were to envelop the state in this condition, the seeds for devolution as in Quebec, Scotland, the Basque country, etc. would be sown. But at this point,

internal divisions in the state, and confusion about what to do about d-2 appear to be forestalling the development of this clear, shared sense of identity among Alaskans. So the situation remains unstable and dynamic at the same time, in a way that is unique in the union.

C. Migration. About half the Alaskan population has come to the state since the 1969 Brookings conference. They came for economic opportunity and to escape the consequences of essentially urban life in the west, east, midwest, and southwest (including Texas) — in that order of volume. Basically, the new Alaskans brought with them the same kind of problems they escaped from — traffic is the major local problem mentioned in urban Alaska. Over the 1970's, a new attitude emerged — an out-migration desire among 5% to 10% of the households. During pipeline construction, many families did come and go; and a general sensitivity to rapidly escalating population growth developed when most migrants stayed. An effort was made in law (Alaska Hire, Limited Entry, Pioneer allotments, residency requirements) to distinguish the "real" Alaskan from the predators and pretenders; some were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court while others were upheld by statewide referendum. Today, large majorities of Alaskans would encourage "getting around" the Supreme Court rulings in any way possible, as long as "Alaskans" wind up with privileges and benefits from residence not granted to other U.S. citizens.

D. Alaska Natives. Alaskan attitude toward the Native peoples has experienced a major change over the last ten years. In 1969, there was a positive, affirmative feeling toward Native life and culture; today, the feeling is the opposite, at least in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas. Recent migrants to Alaska know little about Native life other than that which they see from the window of their cars while driving down "Two Street" in Fairbanks or 4th Ave. in Anchorage. Many of these urban residents are ignorant of, or misinformed about Native culture, rural life, the land claims, and so on. Some believe that the Natives are rich with land and money, and they resent this especially when they can't get some land for themselves, or when they see the federal government freezing land transfers to the state based upon d-2 classifications. Urban Alaskans have high respect for what they assume is rural lifestyle, but they know little or nothing about it. This situation can

deteriorate further before it becomes critical, but it is already shaping some of the capital improvements issues facing the state government.

E. Regionalism. Alaskan resentment of certain communities has increased over the decade, even though all areas show progress from Alaska's newfound wealth. Anchorage is generally the target here, since its growth now gives it about half the state's political and economic muscle. While people in Anchorage often seem oblivious to the existence of other parts of the state, all the other areas are aware of Anchorage. There is a general sense of unfair distribution of government funds in Alaska which, while not substantiated by the facts, comprises a large portion of local political campaign rhetoric.

F. The Capitol Move. This is an issue which Alaskans have voted on more than any other. The capitol move is essentially a product of distrust in government, and it takes its motivation from those who would put it under their noses, and thus watch it (control it) more effectively. Yet, as soon as the location was selected, the pro-move constituencies in Fairbanks, the Kenai and rural Alaska began to evaporate, leaving the situation in limbo, and the capitol in Juneau.

G. Anti-Federalism. Once Alaska threw off the chains of federal financial support, the anti-federal attitude (which appears to have been smoldering since Territorial days) cascaded uncontrollably. D-2 was the final straw. Now there is a significant minority in the state (about one-third of the voters) who would give up federal spending in the state in order to escape federal regulation.

The land issue is prominent here because it strikes at the reason people came to Alaska, the dream of freedom and opportunity. (The truth of the Alaskan experience is that it is essentially urban and interior, not rural and exterior.) Urban Alaskans long for a piece of land to make that dream come true, and anyone who gets in the way of it is in trouble. This explains why Mo Udall has a +5% / -70% rating among Alaskans.

H. Role of Government. Alaskans seek as small a role for government as is possible, but it is their major tool for development, so they are caught in a quandry. Alaska is like a developing nation in



the sense that it needs a superstructure of facilities, but it is totally unlike a developing nation in the sense that it has the money to build them. But even as it moves to do so, there is a resentment of state government power and a feeling of unfairness in the way money is spent. There is also little accurate information in the public about how the money is divided up, and to this day most Alaskans believe that the original \$900 million of lease sale revenues was "wasted." Only the local government has the trust of most Alaskans (when compared to the state or federal), but even there, when studied internally, the local government is not trusted by significant blocks of people (witness the development of community councils in Anchorage).

Alaskans are not only anti-government, they are in the larger sense anti-big. They distrust big business, big labor, big government, even big education (U.of A.). They are anti-bureaucracy and oppose state employee raises. They would reduce or eliminate taxes on personal income, limit state spending, and obliterate most prerequisites of public office.

I. Growth. This is the issue over which the last two gubernatorial battles were drawn; but, because of simplistic rhetoric, the matter was not properly addressed. There is, in Alaska, a very large majori-

ty who favor economic growth along with a very large majority who oppose population growth at the 1970's rate. The economic growth is favored most in the urban centers, where sensitivity to population growth is also the highest. Whether Alaskans would adopt an economic policy which encouraged economic growth in rural Alaska if it did not result in more population (generally, from outside) in urban Alaska is a hypothetical question, but interesting nevertheless. The politicians have not divided the question but talk of both kinds of growth as if they are identical. The public is confused about the issue, and this explains the whisker-close elections for governor in 1974 and 1978 (in the primaries).

J. Wealth. The Alaskan public wants to save some of the oil wealth and invest it in traditional activities (fishing, mining, timber, tourism) which hold promise of diversifying the economy when the oil runs out. Referenda on the permanent fund and fish hatcheries bonds bear this out.

At the same time, Alaskans seek some immediate benefits from the wealth, and this has caused a considerable dialogue in Alaska about how to go about that.

Alaskan families now have the highest income in the nation, but there is economic trouble afoot in the state. During the pipeline boom, incomes often doubled and many women joined the workforce; in this period, many obligations were made (mortgages, etc.) based upon current income which began to fade in 1978. At this point, about a third of the families in Alaska identify unemployment as the problem they fear the most. This has instigated a desire for eliminating the income tax, or distributing state wealth through dividends, etc., in about half the families of the state. This is a complicated area for the public (which happens to be the most educated state public in the union, by the way), and it will require a lot of public dialogue to form a consensus on any scheme to distribute income. One thing is clear, though; if the scheme appears to increase the size of government, it will be turned down flat: this, it appears, is the feeling that supports the notion of eliminating the income tax.

Other Perspectives

These questions and issues have been approached by others in the private sector, the government, and in academia. Since much of

It is proprietary, or not available for other cause, no review is provided here of those activities. However, it would be remiss not to mention the exemplary efforts of the Public Forum, both as research collector and communications innovator for public affairs discussion in Alaska. The Forum has sharpened the public dialogue in the state.

Directions

Many of the socio-political problems in Alaska can be ameliorated or eliminated by an active, organized research and communications system. For instance, open research with representative samples of the Alaskan public, if widely published, could reveal "why" the public is thinking the way it is, not just "what" the public is doing. An extraordinary amount of time and money has been wasted on the capitol move in the last five years simply because few people recognized why the public voted for the move in 1974.

Radio and television are also available for instant feedback and public dialogue (even research) on major public issues. Such programs can increase citizen information, public participation, and the likelihood of statewide consensus — in a flash — compared to the slow and anachronistic print communications techniques . . . or so-called public hearings, which rarely turn out anything but private, special interests to plead their case. Some simple examples of how to update the Alaska research and communications system are as follows:

(1) Create a Citizen Feedback System in the state so that a means is available for the executive, legislative and judicial bodies to ask questions directly of the public, and go into issues in-depth with questionnaires formulated by top decision makers. All these can be published as news.

(2) Establish a Survey Research Center in Alaska where all the private and public surveys can be computerized and stored for analysis, comparison and use. (At this moment, Rowan Group is negotiating with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and U. C. Berkeley, to take ten years of Alaska surveys into their survey research centers. The U. of A. has expressed no interest in such a center, although repeated requests from public and private researchers have been made over the years.

(3) Create an information-bank transmission system, similar to the systems in Michigan, California or North Carolina — which are the best — so that all the information is available to anyone with a terminal. Satellite transmission of such data is inexpensive. Such an installation would double local library knowledge about Alaska — for Alaskans!

(4) Expand the teleconferencing mechanisms now in existence.

(5) Experiment with telephone-feedback systems which permit vote-counting or free-comment taping.

(6) Expand the news-production flow from the governments to the people. Cover in-depth stories, such as regionalism, racial perspectives, etc., with longer set-pieces, as in 60 Minutes.

(7) Conduct television town-meetings in order to gain public participation of large majorities of whole populations in issues of major concern. Such discussions would also be conducted statewide, by satellite, with a state-wide representative sample providing immediate feedback response to questions put "live" in the TV show.

Bibliography (Biography)

A listing of the Rowan Group survey reports from which the conclusions of this paper were drawn will be supplied at the Futures conference. Some of the surveys will be available for review, others can be made available upon request.

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Rowan has designed and conducted surveys in over half the states and in seven foreign nations. Clients range from governments (foreign and domestic) to corporations and unions, political candidates and universities. Since 1969, Rowan has been conducting surveys in Alaska, having become a resident of Bethel in 1964, where he served briefly as City Manager. An office of Rowan Group is located in Anchorage.

Rowan is a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research, the American Marketing Association, and is Vice President of the International Association of Political Consultants, and a director of the American Association of Political Consultants. He has been admitted before both state and federal courts as an expert witness on survey research and communications, and has testified often before the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate Committees dealing with the Census, government research methods, and related issues.

"IT'S ONLY MONEY"

or, "BOUNDLESS WEALTH IS A PREDICAMENT WE CAN ESCAPE THROUGH HONEST SELF-APPRAISAL, HARD WORK AND ENTERPRISE."

by
William Spear

Alaska's much extolled "storehouse" of natural resource wealth relative to its small population, and its recent fortuitous accumulation of working capital provide, obviously, some excellent opportunities for local development: economic, social, political and what have you. However, these natural riches have always been with us and, arguably, there has actually been substantial development capital available over the past decade. How then does our dream for a self-sustaining, locally owned, diverse, humane, appropriate, and independent economy continue to elude us?

We often hear our State compared to underdeveloped countries, and yet the differences are quite dramatic in most ways. We suffer from no deficiency of resources. Our land is virtually teeming with animals, fish, vegetation, water, renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We have no population problem; we have a stable, well trained and honest government that would be the envy of any developing nation, (notwithstanding our practice of berating public employees and institutions like a drunken wagon driver beating and cursing his horse.) We have an exceptionally young and vigorous population, which is at least as well educated as that of other states. There are no ravages of war, religious or political upheaval. We have land increasingly available for various economic purposes and increasing amounts of capital for both long term development projects and individual ventures. Yet in spite of all this, we import virtually everything we use or consume in our daily lives and we depend for our income upon either government or multi-national corporations. We provide almost nothing for ourselves.

The historical evidence is that people who have great wealth heaped upon them, wealth which they have not created or earned themselves, generally have no real understanding of it, and as a result, dribble it away. Thus, for instance, the Spanish conquistadors returned to Europe with whole convoys of gems and

precious metals for several decades, but, alas, only a few generations later, their grandchildren were wandering about the countryside barefooted. Similarly, Alaska's present wealth is not earned, it comes out of the ground. The middle eastern countries and underdeveloped, but oil rich countries, such as Mexico, face the same difficulty in transferring, as it were, the technology of wealth. It is a difficult irony.

Another interesting feature of large heaps of money held by people unused to it is that it tends to overawe. Perhaps we become hypnotized and intimidated by its very existence, and we unconsciously seek to find projects sufficiently grand so as not to insult the money. Grandiose schemes somehow seem to make us more worthy of its presence. There is, also to consider, the traditionally scorned social behaviour typical of nouveau riches who attempt to buy results that are not for sale, abandoning what they have in the process.

The attitudes and qualities which will lead to a self-sustaining economy and a healthy society cannot be purchased. We already have many of the elements in substantial quantity, but we seem embarrassed or timid about giving them rein and developing them. It seems strange to say, in a state seemingly so proud, but we have yet to establish a positive sense of Alaskan identity and self-possession. We must have confidence in ourselves and our abilities, in our observations, and our way of doing things. We must develop and express the love of the land which unifies and supports us; care for it; give and take from it. If we really *didn't* give a damn about how they did it outside, we would be well on our way to success; but the phrase, which used to be a cheerful expression about Alaskan resourcefulness and ingenuity, has been taken up as the chauvinistic battle cry of a defensive and hostile group of people who see themselves as being in an embattled citadel.

The facts are that we not only *do* give a damn how they do it outside, but, with an embarrassing willingness, seem to uncritically accept the opinions and recommendations of conventional and self-appointed wise persons with no apparent reference to what we know about ourselves and our country. Thus, for instance, without any reference to the existence and history of Alaska's rich and varied livelihoods, we are complete suckers for "jobs". Government agencies and developers speak proudly of the "jobs" they have

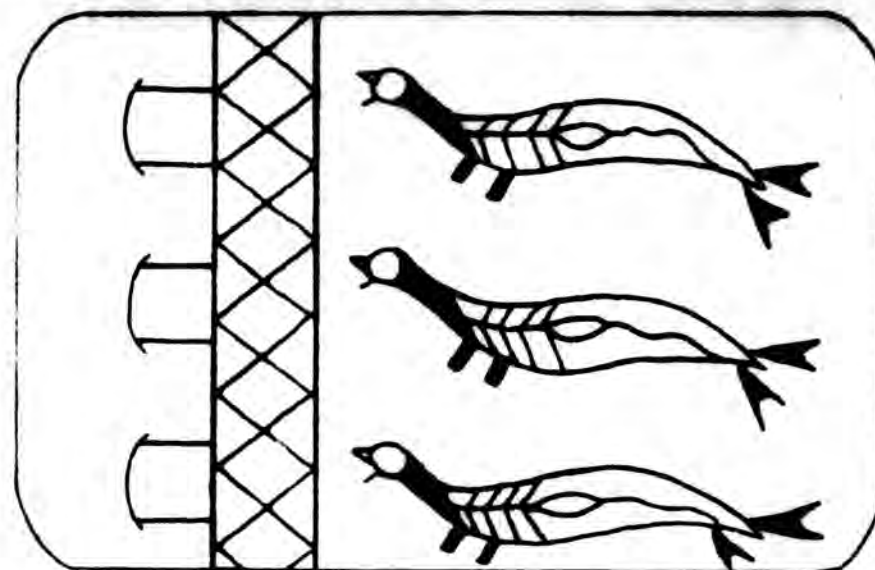
created and how the unemployment "rate" or percentage has gone up or down. Never mind that the jobs are completely boring, inappropriate and destructive of morale, culture and personal pride and that no one wants them. During the pipeline, various manpower agencies, including the Native organizations, jealously fought over credit for who made how many "placements". Somehow, we became actually convinced that dragging the most productive villagers out of their homes and sending them a thousand miles away to a work camp with a bunch of welders from Oklahoma was economically and socially desirable behavior.

The elements for a healthy economy and society are present, and we throw dollars by the million into various economic development programs, and subsidies for private industries, but somehow, nothing seems to happen. Or if it does, it doesn't seem to be what we wanted. This may be happening because we are making some wrong assumptions, or that we are allowing someone else to provide inappropriate assumptions for us. The result likely follows not only from our tendency to generalize but also from a lack of rigor and honesty in viewing ourselves. Our actions in the recent past have been based as it were, on deduction (reasoning from premises or propositions antecedently proved or assumed as true or certain; going from the general to the particular) rather than induction (looking at a lot of particular facts and drawing a conclusion), a process which requires constant observations and reexamination of evidence. In light of our repeated or constant failures to develop results, (and it may not be a uniquely Alaskan problem) perhaps it is time to question our assumptions and develop some new ones.

What then is the technology of wealth and how do we obtain it and turn it to our purposes?

It is almost too obvious to state that the essential element of any self-sufficient economy in Alaska is local, unsubsidized, self-sustaining *production*. Once this is established, distribution, consumption and trade, including export, will follow. More interrelated production and increased employment can be expected to develop later.

It is not likely that Alaska will fare any better than anyone else in creating government supported "great leaps forward" or Russian-style five year plans. The Japanese have had success in this regard



but the attitude of their population is entirely different, perhaps even opposite ours. We should not make the mistake of trying to start from the top, but rather, start at the bottom and build a strong base for a future economy. It is interesting to note in this regard that 2/3 of Russia's total agricultural output is produced on garden size plots, the collectives having failed miserably. Travellers there say an extremely active underground market in agricultural produce has sprung up in the very shadow of the Kremlin. This is no grandiose scheme and no medals are given out because no bureaucrat thought it up and no multi-national corporation invested millions. However, it is an extremely significant achievement and one much more relevant to us than the Siberian "technologies" for large scale agriculture which seem so fascinating to some.

One of the difficulties we have had in analyzing and acting upon economic development matters is that we have grown accustomed to discussing matters in macroeconomic terms and statistics. We like to speak in broad sweeps and assumptions and make predictions from computer based econometric models developed from past statistics and trends. Economic development is not, however, a function of macroeconomics. Such discussions are merely crude attempts to monitor and describe the broad shape and outline of the basic state of affairs, a state which is made up of many rather tiny

cells of productivity. In developing this overview we often lose sight of the driving force and soul of the system which is actually microeconomic.

Thus we hear much discussion, particularly in government circles, about all manner of financing schemes, legislative solutions, subsidies and the like. Lately consideration of what technologies are appropriate is a popular topic of conversation. Although financing, public policy and technology are necessary and important aspects of Alaska's economic development, it is remarkable how little attention is paid to the need for human skills, attitudes and motivation in the production of the results we seek. We seem to forget that production and distribution are still a function of the private sector and that they depend upon some particular private individual or group of people organizing purposeful economic activity.

Microeconomics is simply the economics of business enterprise, and in Alaska, due to small isolated markets, business enterprise is likely to be microbusiness. In other words, we must add to our list of appropriatenesses the appropriateness of economic scale. In considering this proposition, remember that we are talking about enterprises and ventures where there is actual production. (Franchised fast food operations and other retail, flow-through businesses don't count here.) Thus, we are not talking about a middle man for office furniture made in Michigan, we are talking about *making* furniture and using it locally.

Neither do the business organizations offering this production necessarily have to be traditional. They can be worker owned, community based, operated by barter and so on, however, their forms must be able to respond to the demands of a business plan and make the decisions necessary to take an abstract idea, convert it into a concrete entity and provide for its maintenance and/or expansion over an indefinite period of time. Starting a business from scratch and maintaining it is one of the most difficult and demanding things a human being can do. It requires vast reserves of determination, realism, drive and ambition, self-confidence, ability to take advice, resourcefulness, honesty and so on. It is, however, far from impossible, and successful ventures start every day all over the world. Moreover, people are happiest when they are doing something difficult.

Likewise, the *motivation* for these things to develop must be present. Ordinarily we guess that such motivation is provided by money, by people wanting to become richer. Certainly this is a major part of it, but there is also the satisfaction of seeing something grow and develop under one's care and superintendence. There can be no social "program" or plan which has a chance of success if it does not honestly and realistically take into consideration people's motivations. No amount of ideology or political intervention or insistence on how the world *should* be is going to change how it actually is. Thus, our social and welfare programs, subsidies and tax policies must be examined just as critically as the types of projects we consider.

Thus, as we stand poised before the next decade, it seems clear that some sort of significant economic activity is going to take place in Alaska. (It would take at least a decade to get *swindled* out of that much money.) Two paths seem spread before us. Because there is not likely to be any real unanimity, and because of the general process of synthesis, and because much of our future is out of our control anyway, it is doubtful we will come out very definitely one way or the other.

However, it is quite possible that we will develop two economies, each having very different premises and characteristics. For the immediate future they may not have to be competitive, but eventually the crunch will come, because the underlying basis for them is significantly different and conflicting.

