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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, STATE OF ALASKA

Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers

December 6, 7, 8, 1979

Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Anchorage, Alaska

1 consider the following recommendations in the area of
2 education:

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

6 a. Preservation of a student's freedom of
7 choice of colleges or universities;

8 b. Recognition that private higher education
9 makes a significant and important contribution to the State,
10 and that the legislature not adopt policies that place
11 private higher education at a competitive disadvantage;

12 c. Providing new and expanding opportunities
13 for vocational and technical education and training; and

14 d. Loan forgiveness based on years of
15 service in Alaska in the public or private sector;

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

23

24 ALPHA GROUP'S CHILD CARE RESOLUTION:

25 Alpha Group resolves that the legislature

1 consider the following recommendations in the area of child
2 care:

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

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

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

14

15 ALPHA GROUP TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION:

16 Alpha Group resolves that the legislature
17 considering these recommendations for transportation needs:

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

23 2. Preparation and implementation of a state-wide
24 plan for air and surface transportation;

25 3. Construction of a complete system for rural

1 air transportation, navigation aids and facilities,
2 relatively equivalent to present regional airport
3 facilities;

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

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

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

13 7. Improve and expand river-loading facilities.

14

15 ALPHA GROUP FUTURE FRONTIERS COMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTION:

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

19 1. Television conferencing for legislative and
20 educational purposes;

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

23 3. Other appropriate technology.

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

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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 or facilitation of venture capital in Alaska;

1 2. Capital or operational support for projects
2 and equipment, including leases or lease purchases with the
3 lease rate based on actual revenues received from use of
4 the product; and

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

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

11
12 RESOLUTION:

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

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

24
25 ALPHA GROUP OIL AND GAS RESOLUTION:

1 Alpha Group recomme. ; that the State investigate
2 a gas-stripping plant for the liquids at Prudhoe Bay and
3 the State transportation system to bring the gas liquids
4 and royalty share to tidewater for maximum State benefit.

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

8

9 ALPHA GROUP RECOMMENDATION ON FISHERIES:

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

- 12 1. Encourage and support the best possible
13 harvest, transportation and care technique for all its
14 multiple fisheries;
- 15 2. Readiness for complete harvest and best
16 utilization of all State fisheries products;
- 17 3. Initiation of the most advanced systems of
18 quality production, control, transportation and storage of
19 fisheries products;
- 20 4. Make every effort to train persons in the
21 technical skills necessary to operate in a modern fishery.

22

23 ALPHA GROUP'S TIMBER RECOMMENDATION:

24 Alpha Group resolves that the State should
25 facilitate in every way possible development of Alaska's

1 vast timber resources in an expeditious, economically
2 feasible and ecologically responsible manner.

3

4 ALPHA GROUP'S ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOLUTION:

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

10

11 ALPHA GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION ON ANOTHER FUTURE FRONTIERS
12 CONFERENCE:

13 Alpha Group recommends that another Future
14 Frontiers Conference be held in five years, and that it be
15 preceded by regional conferences to select delegates for
16 the state-wide conference.

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BETA GROUP

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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

1 play in resolving the need that maximizes private
2 participation?

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 7. The adventure education program is extremely

1 valuable to Alaskan youth in helping to achieve self-confidence
2 and a sense of purpose, and shall be made available to all
3 Alaskan youth as an adjunct to regular school curriculum.

4 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUSTICE

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

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

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

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

15 5. Criminal sentencing shall not reflect
16 minority bias.

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

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

FINANCE POLICY

24
25 The State shall invest its surplus income in the

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

8 EDUCATION

9 Policy:

- 10 1. Provide residents of Alaska with financial
11 access to post-secondary education.
- 12 2. To best serve the interests of the State,
13 autonomy should be granted to the community college system.
- 14 3. Explore methods of encouraging competition in
15 educational systems, including alternatives to the
16 University of Alaska system.

17 Program:

- 18 1. Give special consideration to minority
19 students through program development and teacher
20 preparation to enable them to achieve at grade level.
- 21 2. Establish a nontraditional state-wide
22 educational program to enable rural students to obtain a
23 Bachelor's Degree, i.e. open-learning, school-without-walls
24 concept.
- 25 3. Develop bilingual and cross-cultural programs

1 and teacher training to better serve minority students.

2 Funding:

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

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

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

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

14 Amendments:

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

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

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

1 sufficient to prevent abuse.

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

8 ENERGY STATEMENT, BETA GROUP

9 The energy goal of the State should be:

10 Existing energy systems which depend on
11 nonrenewable resources should be converted to systems which
12 are based on renewable resources in an orderly, effective
13 and efficient transition.

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

21 Among the suggestions of the Beta Group were:

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

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

22
23 One policy statement which was adopted by the
24 group was that, "Responsible fiscal actions be applied to
25 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

1 report.

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

4

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.

9

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.

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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.

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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 is 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

1 building suitable medical facilities in rural areas.

2

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.

13
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.

25

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.

8

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
5
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.

19

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.

5

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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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

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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Opening remarks

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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

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 programmatic 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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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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TIMBER

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

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

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70. Increase utilization of State timber for personal use.

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

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

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

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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:

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- 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 be 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

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.

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COMMUNICATIONS

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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.