

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 8672

12 SCCMM 6 : SENATE SPECIAL COMM. ON ALCOHOLISM 1977-78

# Southcentral Regional Resource Center

650 International Airport Rd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502  
907-276-4524

JOHN M. STAMM, Ph.D.  
Director

January 6, 1978

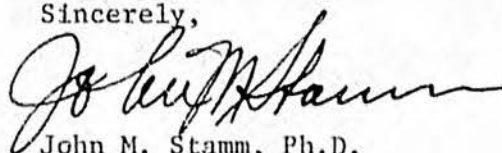
Honorable Mike Colletta  
Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Senator Colletta:

Enclosed are our recommendations for legislation dealing with alcoholism and alcohol abuse. Having viewed the program on KAKM aired January 4, 1978, our recommendations are perhaps similar to those from other agencies/communities. Being closely involved with school districts and aware of the great need for comprehensive (K-12) curriculum planning in the general area of health education, it is our judgement that initiating alcohol education programs will stimulate curriculum planning in the health education area. Additionally, the proposed legislation ought to provide appropriate financial incentives to establish and maintain these efforts.

Your committee is to be commended for the solicitation of citizen input. Thank you for your continuous attention to our recommendations.

Sincerely,



John M. Stamm, Ph.D.  
Director

JMS:kt

Enclosure

Mat-Su Council on Alcoholism  
Box 1503  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

January 10, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta  
Senate Special Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Colletta:

In that we were unable to get through to you on the telephone during the program that was held on Channel 7, it was decided by the group meeting in Palmer, to draft a letter indicating some of the things we talked about in our meeting after the program. Below you will find suggestions made by the group.

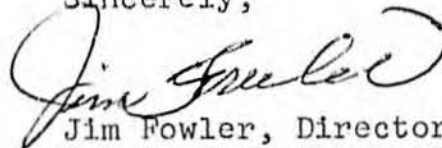
We would like to see a comprehensive alcohol program in the Mat-Su Borough. Federal grant programs are not adequate and therefore we would request that the legislature add to the existing revenue sharing statutes funds, in any amount. This should be returned to the local communities on a revenue sharing formula, specifically for alcohol programs. There again, we feel very strong about this suggestion and feel that it is the number one, most important suggestion.

Secondly, we felt that if the bars were closed at 2:00 a.m. that this will keep the DWI off the road.

Third, it was suggested that professional people coming in contact with the alcoholic, such as the police, doctors, nurses, social workers, alcoholic counselors etc., have more training as to how to deal with the alcoholic and the alcoholism problem.

Mike, you did a fantastic job in getting the people involved and that is what is needed. Congratulations to you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Jim Fowler, Director  
Mat-Su Council on Alcoholism

# HOONAH COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM

HOONAH, ALASKA 99829

P. O. BOX 238

(907) 945-3393

January 9, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta  
Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Mike,

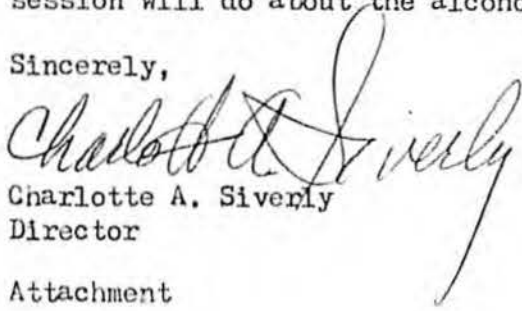
We first want to thank you for taking Hoonah into consideration in your efforts to do something about the alcoholism problem in Alaska. It has certainly contributed more than its share of grief in our community.

After the first public hearing, and the final radio hearing, we came up with the proposed legislation for your office to consider. We felt this was what applied to our community. We are much different this year than in previous years because for the first time, we have become involved in alcoholism education and prevention in the schools, outreach counselling into the community, and, of course, the second year of operation of our male halfway house.

We were sorry that we could not have included our comments in the radio hearing that was held on January 4. We had a number of people who came to our meeting to add their comments, but we were unable to get through. It was interesting, however, to hear pretty much the same comments from other communities.

We look forward to following your activities and see what this Legislative session will do about the alcoholism problem this year.

Sincerely,

  
Charlotte A. Siverly  
Director

Attachment

Box 4033 Star Rt. A.  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99507

January 9, 1978

Senate Special Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

You have a great idea coming to the people about the new bill on Alcoholism.

But, won't it be like so many other bills that affect someone's pocketbook? How much pressure are the liquor interests, cabaret unions and dispensing businesses going to put in this? If, for once, the legislators would think in terms of what's the best for the people and not for the money interests perhaps our laws would change considerably in this country.

Let's consider these two points that were mentioned on the Channel 7 program the other night:

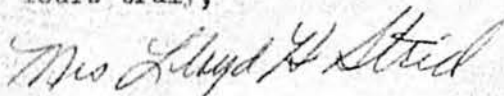
First: Increase the tax on all alcoholic beverages as much as is necessary to foot the bill to treat this problem. Why is it fair that some people make a fortune selling an unnecessary product and that we as taxpayers have to pay the repair bill for the damage done? Let those who use it and dispense it pay for it.

Second: Close all sales of alcoholic beverages at midnight Mondays through Fridays, 1 a.m. on Sunday morning, closed all day Sunday and all Holidays.

You start with these items on that bill and in a few years all the other education, fines, sentencing and treatment will be minimal.

I shall be anxious to see how the liquor interests buy the legislators out of this one.

Yours truly,



Mrs. Lloyd H. Strid

# NEAL & COMPANY, INC.

P.O. BOX 393 · HOMER, ALASKA 99603 · (907) 235-8141



13 January 1978

Senate Special Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

I attended the recent public hearing on Alcoholism in Homer, where everyone was connected to a state-wide network. We were unable to speak so I would like this letter to serve as my "input."

First, I would like to point out that I personally enjoy moderate drinking at times and I do occasionally go to bars.

I think that there should be a lot stronger controls on those who dispense alcoholic beverages in bars and in liquor stores and I was taken by the suggestion by some that bartenders and cocktail waitresses be licensed by the State. I think that it is a very good idea to license bartenders and waitresses for serving alcoholic beverages and there could be two classes of licenses, one for the supervisor and another for employees under the supervisor. There should be a supervisor licensed person in the bar at all times. We license other businesses in the State to protect the public interest, such as hairdressing, real estate, construction, and on and on and on. Surely the public would gain by licensing those who dispense alcohol.

Along with the licensing act should come a series of regulations on the dispensing of alcoholic beverages. This would include stiffer controls for selling to minors, and selling to intoxicated persons. I'm sure that enforceable regulations could be made.

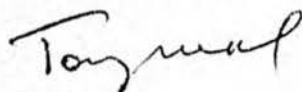
There are hundreds of ideas being discussed, most of which involve additional public money for rehabilitation of alcoholics. I am willing to support rehabilitation programs through taxes but I think that a much better effort should be made to control the alcohol before it gets to the alcoholic. Certainly if an alcoholic

is considered a sick person who cannot help himself, a person who dispenses alcoholic beverages to this person should also be held responsible for the consequences. Further, I'm not sure that those who dispense can be counted on to have a social conscience and they do have an economic interest in dispensing more alcoholic beverage. I'm sure that economic sanctions against those who contribute to the problem will bring the best result.

Thank you very much for spending so much of your time and effort in working on this serious problem. We sincerely hope that you are successful in the endeavor.

Sincerely,

NEAL & COMPANY, INC.



Tony Neal

TN:je

cc: Mike Dougherty  
Cook Inlet Council on Alcoholism

Rt 6 Box 4080  
Juneau, Alaska  
(3.9906)  
99803

A very good idea, this model drafting of a bill. For the first time I feel like I have some input in the making of a bill. I hope the pre-Christmas activities of people don't prevent them availing themselves of the opportunity to at least make a stab at it. I tried.

Al Taylor

BARRY GROSS  
Route #1, Box 280-G  
Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901

December 22, 1977

Senator Mike Colletta  
Chairman, Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501

Dear Senator Colletta:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to respond to the efforts of your Committee to draft a comprehensive bill relating to the treatment of alcoholism and alcoholic beverages. As you will note, my response on the enclosed draft bill is limited to the section dealing with the treatment of alcoholism; and is directed towards the remedy of a basic problem in the way State agencies address the alcoholic individual.

As a former Social Worker for the Division of Family and Children Services for the State of Alaska, I have been disturbed for some time over the tendency of State agencies to side-step and evade their obligation towards the afflicted alcoholic. Discouraging past histories involving alcoholics, overlaid with limited funding, is often used by agencies to withhold critical services from the alcoholic. I am particularly concerned in this regard with the attitudes and practices of our Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

It is my belief that in order to greatly increase the probability that an alcoholic will succeed in any rehabilitation plan, it is vital that the individual identify a tangible reason for continued abstinence. That much is perfectly clear to me. I have found that in order to have any success in the rehabilitation process of an alcoholic, the afflicted alcoholic must either be in danger of losing something tangible, such as wife, children, job, etc.; or, be in a position to get these same things back contingent upon abstinence. The "skid-row" type of alcoholic who has already lost everything including his family, job, and self-respect, and feels that there is no chance to "earn" these things back, will never be a good candidate for rehabilitation services. Based on the above premise, an agency such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation can be and should be a critical part of the alcoholic's decision to refrain from further intoxication. This agency should be providing employment goals and incentives to the active alcoholic as a prerequisite to total abstinence.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has the real potential to provide the alcoholic with the training and other assistance necessary for full-time employment, i.e. something very critical that was inevitably lost in the drinking experience. This agency should be using its resources to tell the alcoholic, "hey, you can be a contributing member

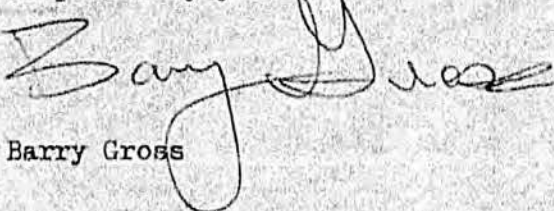
of society again if you will allow us to give you vocational rehabilitation services." In short, DVR should be involved in the early stages of an alcoholic's rehabilitation and be an instrumental and integral part of the alcoholic's decision for forbearance.

Unfortunately, current DVR policy towards the alcoholic is exactly opposite from that described above. Instead of taking an active role in the alcoholic's decision to quit drinking, this agency demands unreasonable rehabilitation before any services are offered. Instead of providing part of the incentive to an alcoholic involved with the difficult abstinence decision, this agency wants to get involved only after the hard work has already been done. I have heard some people say jokingly that some banks will only loan you money if you can prove to them that you don't really need it. The present DVR eligibility requirements for alcoholics includes much of this "catch-22" premise.

The focus which I have placed in Section 2 of the draft bill is intended to remove the extra eligibility requirements that an alcoholic must presently meet in order to receive State social services. It is my contention that many State agencies are presently predisposed against the offering of its services to alcoholics. In limiting the focus of my comments, I am hoping that your Committee will likewise focus its attention on this serious problem. It is my desire to insure that alcoholics in need of rehabilitation services will be treated as any other candidate for services without any additional eligibility requirements prejudicial to his circumstance.

Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of further assistance in your Committee's valuable and worthy efforts.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barry Gross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barry Gross

Anch  
615 H Street #5  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
January 4, 1978

Senate Special Committee on Alcoholism  
State Capitol  
Pauch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Friends;

In response to the Public Television and Radio program tonight on the State Alcoholism program, I wish to make the following points.

- 1) An increase in State spending on this problem may only increase "more of the same" type of approach, which is expert in failure. We have no need of merely shoring up the "alcoholism treatment industry" in this state. There is no indication that this will have any effect at all on the incidence of alcoholism. The same can be said of many, though not all, of the suggestions which came to the Committee from state residents. The State should put no money into any program--educational, preventional, or treatment--which has not proven to be successful. Is there any indication, for example, that more information in the public schools "K through High School" will lower the incidence of alcoholism?
- 2) Having alcohol consumer and dealer pay for the cost of alcoholism programs will have the effect of putting the State government in the position of having a vested interest in the sale of liquor rather than in the elimination of the problem. The State and the people should be forced to pay for this problem out of their own pockets rather than putting it off on alcohol victims and the liquor industry.
- 3) The present alcoholism treatment structure is both racist and discriminatory against the poor. While there is treatment readily available for those with financial status, the poor and minority groups have it denied. (Details provided on request)
- 4) In current discussions, there has been every effort to deny the fact that 1) alcoholism is a disease 2) the cause of which is known (the ingestion of alcohol to the point of addiction) and 3) the treatment of which is known (removal of the addicting substance).

In the field of medicine, there is the tendency to ignore or deny a cure when it would demand a radical change in cultural mores. Obvious cures, and even very simple ones are passed over for other cures often highly expensive and complicated which are not as effective and may in fact be positively harmful. We know, for example, the cause and

cure of cancer. It is caused by the introduction of certain irritating substances into our bodies and our environment. But rather than remove those substances, we choose to spend billions of dollars on a search for a cancer "vaccine" and on radical cancer surgery and radiation, thereby creating an enormous cancer treatment industry available only to the most affluent.

The same situation obtains also in the field of alcoholism treatment: the further the public and their leaders get away from the hard scientific data of alcoholism, the more complicated, expensive, profitable, and ineffective treatment tends to be.

- 5) Treatment of an addictive disease simply demands removal of the addictive substance from the patient for a long enough period of time so that he or she can learn to live without it. Because of the very nature of addiction, this often requires constant supervision which must be admitted is involuntary confinement. Although such supervision or confinement seems to be punitive, there is no reason for government to otherwise punish or fine the alcoholic.

In every discussion, you must be reminded that alcoholism is an addictive disease.

We know now that addiction itself is a form of allergy and as such, part of the immunological load. Experts now have shed some light on the craving aspects of addiction in showing that addiction of any sort is the most serious form of stress the body can undergo.

Those who appreciate this fact can see how ridiculous it is to impose deterrents on alcoholic "offenders" such as DWI's. Whether sober or drunk, the alcoholic has no choice but to seek the substance which every cell in his body demands.

Considering this loss of free choice, this irrationality, the community has no choice but to put him in a situation where he not only will dry up but also be cured of the addiction, which may take several months or years.

Such a health-producing policy aimed at producing a variety of alcoholism treatment centers where people have to stay until they are pronounced "cured" would in itself be much more educative than any (K through 12) program we could offer. It would merely state that alcohol is an addictive substance which deprives us from full use of our reason. Those who succumb to the disease are already deprived of reason--the prerequisite of freedom in our culture--and will be properly supervised and treated until such time as they are cured of the disease.

The cure is known. All you have to do is implement it.

Sincerely,

*William H. DuBay*  
William H. DuBay

December 12, 1977

Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

The single greatest factor in the growth of alcoholism in the villages is the shipment of alcohol by airfreight.

1. It should be illegal for airlines and air taxi operators, as well as for the shipper, to ship alcoholic beverages into dry villages and towns.
2. Penalties for violating the above provision should be strict, and should be enforced. A carrier should be responsible for having knowledge of the material he ships.
3. Although there are likely to be many violations, and it's unlikely every violator can be caught, regular spot checks should be made by Troopers, of shipments particularly from towns which are now supplying the alcohol (in Western Alaska: Nome and Red Devil).

Secondly, it's no secret that Nome bars are clearly serving obviously intoxicated customers, and that local liquor stores are selling alcoholic beverages to persons they know are re-peddling the stuff to minors, as well as packaging large shipments into taxicabs for obvious transport to Teller, a supposedly dry village. I don't know if this is a matter for legislation or simply for stricter local enforcement, but I think the facts, however unprovable in a court of law, should be made known.

I prefer that my name be kept confidential in connection with the above remarks. Thank you once again.

Sincerely yours,

Inchase

Jan 5, 1978

State Special Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V

State Capital, Juneau Alaska 99811

Committee members and Alaska Legislators.

Your efforts to control the problem of alcohol in Alaska is too late for many persons & families who have been killed or made lifetime cripples but hopefully will prevent some of these tragedies in the future. I have personal & family experience; with certain victims.

I believe 3 actions would help.

- #1. Bartenders should be prohibited by law from serving liquor to known problem drinkers. Presently as long as these people have money they are served and then thrown out on the street - to be picked up & mistreated by the policemen.

The ones I know have never hurt another person in any way. I would hope this committee and the lawmakers would not be intimidated by those in the industry so that they would not pass proper control laws.

2. A place better than a jail should be provided. You would not believe some of the stories which I know are true but dare not write.

3. One of the really big problems in Anchorage and most likely in other communities is a place to go for companionship and activities other than a bar. Sober recreation for a single person is hard to find. Can't be just a room, must be planned & supervised activities.

I'm sure you have the best wishes of thousands who have been affected by alcohol.  
Good luck -

P.S. I hope you will consider my  
thoughts on the problem even though  
I cannot sign my name. I am

really afraid of some in the  
industry -

Senator Michael Colleta  
Juneau

Mr. Stephen Klader  
Sterling Route  
Homer, Ak 99603  
~~1/4/78~~ 1/4/78

Sir,

I heard over KSRM that you were interested in public response to the alcoholic abuse situation in Alaska. I am a non-drinking alcoholic, non-drinking now since 1969. I almost died several times, being unconscious and delirious twice for about seven days. My point there is that I still drank after that experience, and that an alky must be hit very hard indeed, viz.: often when one of them kills a family of five, say, in a car accident, that kind of shock, after the fact unfortunately, can wake them up. I stopped drinking spring '69. AA didn't do it, nor accepting Christ, no real reason I am aware of at that time or this. My reason for riffing this experience is because of that not knowing, what stopped me. I was in mental hospitals as a volunteer patient, which is the first step, get them to admit there is a problem. It is usually a very emotional kind of problem, and is very similar to heroin addiction. If the consciousness of the individual can be brought up or out of the emotion, and can get objective, to the problem that the drinking is about, covers (alcoholism is a symptom of something else usually) then progress can be made. For me at that time it was a rite of passage, I was young for it, 22 and earlier on I started drinking hard, cirrhosis by 23 or 24 etc. We have no rites of passage in this society really, not like the Bar Mitzvah, I believe it is, nor the more severe rites as the Australian aborigines have, just graduate from high school and that is sometimes it, all. *(often the problem is in education), actual of it: PURPOSE in LIFE,*  
Alaska has her own problems endemic to the state, the amount of space, which often creates a phobia to a person and ingrows them, too much time (unless one is a good hermit type, not too many really are) or not enough to do, male-female contemps, the length of the winters, negative people, or the game of the alky- an alcoholic is always into a game, gamesmanship, opportunist (usually a strong Alaskan trait, which may be indicative). There is a paradox of the size of the state versus the kind of small town hangup-awareness that drunks

Sometimes behavioral modification can work. An teber, tho it is  
As delinquent to the line as Alcohol, but vocational rehabilitation work is  
ment hospital can work once the "client" is better or well  
And into being rehabilitated into the community. Sometimes a new psychological  
can help, if the conditions of certain psycho-type personalities are <sup>can be conditions</sup>

can get into, for some reason, like being "inside" the state, and maybe not really belonging or able to adjust- even though it is five times almost the size of California, it is limited to many by their ability to get out of just what the roads and highways offer, or they get stuck in a small town after growing up in a big city. Athletic people, people concerned with the quality of the food they eat, are not going to be alkys. Small town people who stay, especially when all this growth and awareness of same is going on, may get depressed for being so small, ~~xxxxxxx~~ or stuck in an "inability place" where they cannot get up and around. Converseley, the changes going on, the immediate/ and noticeable growth in at least this area, may give a culture shock to people that have been ~~xxxxxx~~ stuck in this area and at a mellow pace (even with the summer up) all their lives. Alcoholism is a great hole, a lack, a game, a deathwish which if not countered leads on too many yrs to eventual death, and of course the expense to the society and other individuals is often immense.

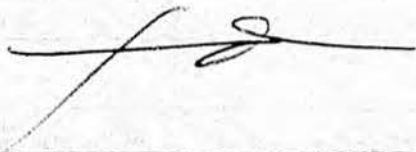
The new traffic laws in Anchorage as of last year (one drunk conviction and so many days in jail or is it just overnight, anyway, one cannot bail oneself out) is good, but should be really <sup>harsh</sup> steep, and we should have judges or a uniform code dealing particularly with traffic-alcohol-drug violations. ~~xxxxxx~~ Menahl hospitalization in my case was very good, and I was given the chance to sit and work it out for myself, pretty much, which is what I needed. But I don't see that as a viable solution when API is so stuffed already. I needed to be left alone, and other people oft times are into such games, and even evil games too, as to attempt to get one to continue drinking or to start again, I have to put up with people most of the time when in public or parties where there is a strong and overt attempt to get me to use drugs, particularly alcohol, they know, and try to get you going again. Evil abides, etc. Hence one must become very self aware, and very aware of others and their motives and attempts. In other words, one must grow up very quickly to a higher awareness of people, and basically become a very good psychologist, or else shun people and become "a ~~xxxxxxx~~ grouch" a "downer" etc. <sup>Heimer</sup> But one holds to himself and doesn't get lost or drunk etc. It is not always easy, but no one promised us the rose garden. Perhaps in Alaska, there are so many people who are given over to sensation, hedonism, loss of personal integrity, I see this in the Homer area alot, that dissipation occurs. To become aware of what is going on can be the first step in avoidance.

Sincerely Steve Ricker

Further Note: once an Alky is cured, he a  
site can not ever (should not?) drink again,  
not socially, not with 'the boys' not at  
home, in bars, at parties & at events.

not ever AGAIN. And still be cured.

100 E



**City of Galena**  
**P.O. Box 149**  
**Galena, Alaska 99741**  
**Telephone (907) 656-1281**

January 5, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta  
Special Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V - State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Colletta:

We were extremely disappointed that we were unable to get a hook-up for the statewide broadcast of the meeting. I was informed on December 30, 1977, late in the afternoon, of the type of equipment needed. An employee of RCA was told about the meeting on January 3. I was told by the local telephone serviceman that it would take at least two weeks to arrange for that type of hook-up because of the unavailability of the proper materials, locally. In the future, we will be better prepared if a little more advance planning is done.

Despite the fact that we were unable to hear the broadcast, members of the community met and made the following recommendations:

- I. a. Education programs dealing with alcohol abuse should begin in grade school
- b. Opportunities should be made available for people to develop other interests for a better utilization of their time
- c. Appropriations for youth recreational facilities with trained supervisors
- d. Funded extra-curricular activities at school stressing activities indigenous to area, such as cross-country skiing
- II. Alternatives and Treatment
- a. Establish adult centers or coffee shops where alcoholic beverages are not served
- b. Appropriation for snack-bar, recreation center for young people, to become self-sufficient and run by young people
- c. Stress follow-up treatment such as counseling and daily support after release from treatment center
- d. Establish half-way houses in villages so that person will not have to leave his environment
- III. Local Option
- a. Villages voting to "go dry" increase incidence of boot-legging and do not lower rate of consumption
- b. Better screening of applications for liquor establishments
- IV. Enforcement
- Strong laws already exist and should be consistently enforced

Page 2

We recently experienced some serious problems stemming from alcohol abuse and have amended our City Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to attempt to alleviate the problem.

I hope our suggestions will be included in the Bill.

Sincerely,

*Hollis M. Mitchell*

Hollis M. Mitchell  
City Manager

HM/ph

3524 Alemosa Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Senator Mike Colletta, Chairman  
Special Senate Committee on  
Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse  
P.O. Box 3188  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Senator Colletta,

Enclosed find my work draft copy of bill on alcoholism.

I feel it is time to take drastic measures to curb alcoholism, for the sake of those whose lives are being ruined and also for the sake of the innocent people around them.

I am a relative new comer to Alaska, I've only been here three years, but I've never felt such pressure to drink as I have here in Alaska. I have gone to many homes here in Alaska where I have not been given an alternate to a hard liquor. They have not even had a soft drink or a non-alcoholic drink in the house, they just assume everyone drinks. What chance does an alcoholic have who is trying to quit if friends and business acquaintances don't have something else available to him. Drinking seems to be the only form of entertainment people know. The excuse is that there is nothing to do in Alaska. That can only be an excuse as there are the same things to do here as there is in any place in the U.S.A. It isn't even a good excuse in the bush and rural areas. I grew up in a remote rural area but we found many things to keep us occupied. We entertained ourselves with reading, friends, making things, visiting and having parties (without drinking), community activities.

We need a real campaign against liquor, none of us need it. Just as the non-smokers are beginning to stand up and be counted, I think our legislature should stand up and refuse to serve liquor at their functions and speak out against it. As individuals we should refuse to serve it in homes and refuse to attend functions where it is served. Our legislature should encourage our business community to disband the cocktail parties they give to business associates and to their employees.

I also am in favor of the liquor industry having to foot the bill for rehabilitation of alcoholics.

I hope you will consider my suggestions when you are putting the bill together.

Sincerely,

  
Mrs. Kenneth Breval

# Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

December 29, 1977

Carl Jack, President  
Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.  
PO Box 239  
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Ref: RurAL CAP Resolution #77-43 (enclosed)

Dear Carl:

Paul Gregory introduced for the Board's consideration the Bethel Resolution #192 addressing the Governor's alcoholism package. As you can see from the resolution, we did not totally endorse the Bethel resolution, preferring to wait until after the Citizens' Participation Conference has had a chance to hash through the Governor's package, the recommendations of the Special Interim Committee on Alcoholism and Alcohol-Related Legislation (the Colletta Committee), and other proposals that may be before the Legislature in February.

Meanwhile, we do provide our full endorsement to the concern being expressed by Bethel and have placed alcoholism as one of the priority topics to be addressed at the CPC (now scheduled, as you know, for February 23, 24 and 25, in Juneau).

Please let me know if there's anything else we can do on this subject at this time.

Sincerely,



Phil Smith  
Executive Director

PJS/shl

cc: Ms. Diane La Resche, Office of the Governor  
Senator Mike Colletta

# Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

## RESOLUTION #77-43

ENTITLED: ENDORING CITY OF BETHEL RESOLUTION NO. 192  
REGARDING ENDORSEMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS  
FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS  
OF ALCOHOLISM AND ALCOHOL ABUSE WITHIN THE STATE  
OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel has passed Resolution No. 192 endorsing and supporting the Governor's proposals for legislative action addressing the problems of alcoholism and alcohol abuse within the State of Alaska and encouraging the State Legislature to pass and approve the salient elements of these proposals, and

WHEREAS, the Rural CAP Board recognizes the fact that the City of Bethel is a dry community which is continually concerned with the problems of bootlegging and lack of adequate compensation because of a loss of sales tax revenue associated with liquor sales, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposals for legislative action addressing the problems of alcoholism and alcohol will be addressed at the Citizens' Participation Conference in February, and.

WHEREAS, the Rural CAP Board has not studied the proposals and formulated a formal position on the specific remedies proposed;

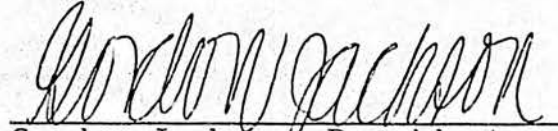
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program does hereby endorse the thrust of the City of Bethel's Resolution #192, that being the need for relief from the specific problems experienced by a dry community in Alaska, as well as for a comprehensive program addressing the problems of alcohol and alcohol abuse in the entire state, but the Board does also reserve its prerogative to formulate an independent position on the Governor's proposals at a later date.

RESOLUTION #77-43.


Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., on December 6, 1977, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Signed:



Gordon Jackson, President  
Rural CAP Board of Directors

Signed:



Philip J. Smith, Executive Director  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program

Comment on Alcoholism.

We have been reading the Draft copy of the proposed bill on Alcoholism to be brought up in the Alaska Legislature this coming season. - We consider this proposed legislation to fill a long needed act of legislation there should be acted into law, in all its ramifications.

Respectfully  
Agnes and Erling Espaseth Box 111  
Petersburg Alaska  
99833  
1/4 - 1978

Anchorage  
M. Greene

Senate SPECIAL Committee on Alcoholism  
Senator Mike Colletta

Pouch V

STATE CAPITAL Juneau Alaska 99811

SECTION one; Prevention AND Education

A. School Education programs

1. Teachers

2. counselors

(CAN counselors now put students into touch  
with AA or ASSOCIATED programs?)

3. STUDENTS

K thru college.

B. Education of ~~Federal~~, STATE, MUNICIPAL  
Employees.

2. store, Bar, lounge OWNERS, STORE clerks.  
Other employees.

C. Prohibit public advertising of alcoholic beverages

D. Advertise educational and rehabilitation  
opportunities.

E Support the above thru optional tax  
deductible contributions; fines for breaking  
the law; sales tax on liquor

F. FOR the next TEN years college ORGED CLASSES  
TO EDUCATE the Adult population out of school.

OVER

Prevention

Limit the number of stores, bars lounges  
Stiffen Licencing requirements, and fees

## SECTION TWO: Alternatives to Drinking, Treatment.

### A. Community schools with broader programs.

People do not need just "something to do", in order to combat drinking from boredom. In the education programs we need to teach the children to grow enough inside to be bored with drinking for fun. Alaska needs people willing to improve the state thru volunteer programs or part-time work.

Improving parks  
picking up litter  
planting trees

Volunteer recycling programs

ETC.

day care of children for working parents  
care of older people

It is sad that the Natives are really having problems with Alcohol. Would it help to show these people to be Proud once more of who they are? ~~help~~ Teach The children about their roots, using the Elders.

Support their alternative life-style thru subsistence hunting.

Keep families together by increasing Bush schools or correspondance courses.

## TREATMENT

Consolidate various agencies AND programs  
GET SOME TEAM WORK GOING TOWARDS THE  
PROGRAMS

(TRAINED)  
URGENT VOLUNTEER WORKERS to help the problem  
drinker, family.

(one of the reasons Jane Sheehan drinks is  
so she doesn't know that she's so lonely.)  
THIS could be A final two week program  
for those in grades 6 thru adult classes

Provide AN adequate shelter / detox center

Permanent social worker or Teacher / counselor in  
each bush community.

## Section THREE ; LOCAL OPTION

1. Train a <sup>couple of</sup> community members for Teaching about alcohol, being available to help the problem drinker and his family, help rehabilitate.
2. Make the community support the store, lounge or bar with LOCAL taxes or contributions.
3. Involve the community in rehabilitation / education programs.

~~4~~

## Section FOUR ; Enforcement

1. Raise legal consumption / purchasing age to 21
2. Require a state Liquor Control card w/ photo identifying the person it's issued to. To obtain such a card each individual must pass a education class about alcohol, And pay for the permit - about 5 dollars.

To be renewed every 4 years by application, completion of another 1 day class and five dollars.

NOT to be reissued to convicted DWI / OMSI offenders or Persons enrolled in a treatment / Rehab. program.

- 3 All stores selling beer, wine, or other alcoholic Beverages to be state licenced, state controlled as in Oregon.  
No Brown Supp or other retail outlets

Fines imposed for loaning or Borrowing Liquor Control cards.

Suspension of cards for convictions of DWI/DUI and public drunkenness until a 12 month education and or rehabilitation ~~class~~<sup>program</sup> is completed.

NO admittance to Bars/Lounges without current Liquor control card.

Stiffen penalties for bootlegging.  
impound auto, Boat, Plane used in bootlegging attempt. revoke liquor control card.  
Jail / fine

Prohibit planes from shipping alcohol unless  
Trains  
Ferries

The beverage is to be served specifically on that carrier.

OR the shipment is authorized for sale thru a state liquor control store.

Actually, don't you think we are closing our eyes to what both hands are doing?

Here's the right hand trying to stop the death and destruction from alcohol consumption, and alcoholism. Then there's the left hand getting revenue from liquor sales, promoting sales thru advertising that make drinkers appear sexy, smart, hip and all-American.

So there a more appropriate comment about human nature?

- Special Commission on Alcoholism
1. Raise minimum age to 21 for purchase of alcohol.
  2. Require a  $^{\circ}$  20<sup>00</sup> identification card/license before any alcoholic beverage can be purchased in a store, tavern, restaurant etc.
  3. Invoke severe penalties for any traffic violation or other crime involving alcohol abuser (or user). For 1st offense revoke alcohol & driver's license. Implement as part of "penalty" an education program on alcohol abuse.
  4. Limit hours an establishment may dispense alcohol to 12-14 hours a day. Close all such businesses on Sundays.
  5. Drastically reduce (eliminate) number of liquor licenses for restaurants, taverns, etc. Consider 7% of population for basis.
  6. Require an alcohol abuse <sup>education</sup> program for anyone dispensing alcohol - store clerks, waitresses, bartender, restaurant mgr. etc.
  7. Increase alcohol tax 150-200% to help cover costs of alcohol rehabilitation & education programs. And to help implement these restrictions.

Delores E. Hunter  
167 Twenty Grand St.  
Eagle River, Ak. 99577

Box 80045  
College, Alaska 99708  
January 5, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta  
Chairman Special Senate  
Committee on Alcoholism  
Pouch V, Juneau, Ak.

Dear Senator Colletta:

I appreciate your invitation to share my views regarding alcohol legislation.

To decrease alcoholism you must decrease the consumption of alcohol. To do this, you must do two basic things: (1) Make the seller responsible for the cost of damage done by the product he sells. (I definitely support Gov. Hammond's tax increase proposal or alternate suggestion on page 2 of this letter under "enforcement"). (2) Change the attitude of the consumer. Currently many consumers seem to think alcohol is a product one puts on the grocery list as a staple along with bread and milk. Changing attitudes is a matter of education through every media, but it is probably most effectively done through our public schools and universities.

I am very well aware that the word "education" opens up a whole new realm of debate. (Education to whose point of view; for instance?) I believe several views should be presented informing the students always that drinking involves risks and those risks are serious and should not be minimized in our society. I think education should be frequent, repetitious, thorough and channeled through many avenues. I stress the latter because we have given our children much information about alcohol, yet when a recent radio spot told listeners that there is as much alcohol in a 12oz can of beer as in a shot of hard liquor, our 21 year old said, "I didn't know that". We live in the University area and I feel the University, by selling alcoholic beverages is promoting its use. Strong leaders argue that beer and wine are harmless. By example they teach that liquor is a must for almost every occasion. This molds attitudes towards increased consumption of alcohol! I think part of our present problem is in the top echelon of education so be very careful who the law says shall give counsel. I am skeptical of having one "expert" counselor assigned to any given area to educate on a controversial subject.

I am not a lawyer so when I write down a law (page 2) it will not be in legal language, but it will tell you the type of education I want for my children and grandchildren. I want them to know all the hard cold facts plus have first hand input from people who can relate from experience joy in abstinence and despair in addiction respectively. This will equip them to make an intelligent decision. I can hope they accept the position of the non drinker. If they decide to drink, regardless of the risks they have learned it involves, then I want them to be informed of any and all ways they can avoid excess. If they become enslaved by alcohol, then I want them to know there is compassionate help, and they should seek it early.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

Section 1. Prevention and Education

A. The State of Alaska or (Local School Boards) shall hire an adequate number of Alcohol Education teams for each school district in the state. (These shall be local residents if qualified people are available in the district) Each team shall have one member of each of the following categories:

(a) One medical-safety-socio-economic fact resource person who shall present to the students the effects of alcohol on the body, growing evidence of high ratio of retardation of offspring, statistics on accidents and alcohol related crime, plus socio-economic facts etc. In the lower grades discretion shall be used in telling it like it is, but for grades five and up this presentation shall not spare the gory details of reality in word or pictures of detoxification centers, life snuffing auto accidents, the hurt cries of families etc. For grades five and up this member of the team shall be responsible for a written test on medical, safety, socio-economic facts and statistics to be given each semester for credit.

(b) One non drinker who can say to the students, "I know that one drinker in five in Alaska becomes an alcoholic. I have decided against the use of alcohol. This person shall give reasons and be able to say convincingly that life is full and satisfying without it.

(c) One drinker who has had instruction through a state alcoholism education program who can say to the students, "I know that one drinker in five in Alaska becomes an alcoholic but I'm taking that gamble. I am trying to minimize the risks by:"

(d) One member of A.A. who can say to the students, "I gambled with the odds and I was the one in five who became an alcoholic" This person shall graphically describe what it is like to be an alcoholic.

It shall be mandatory for all schools in the state to arrange scheduling so that every child receives this alcohol education. A team shall visit each classroom or designated assembly, grades one through twelve, twice each month. The presentation shall always be done as a team and shall include a question and answer period and an offer of individual help to any student asking for it.

B. There shall be no alcoholic beverages sold at any school or university in the State of Alaska. No liquor shall be served at any school or university function.

Section 2:

Section 3:

Section 4: Enforcement.

Each year the legislature or State Committee on Alcohol shall determine the total cost to the taxpayers of alcohol abuse in the state of Alaska including the cost of all alcohol related problems such as welfare dependence due to alcohol etc. This total cost shall be divided by the number of liquor licenses in the state. The resulting figure shall be the average cost of license fee for the following year. This shall be prorated in accordance with the profit ratio of various licenses.

Respectfully yours,

P.S. I think current radio and TV spots giving information on the problems pertaining to alcohol are excellent and should be continued. Thank you for listening.

*Mrs Claude E. Swain*

1220 "F" Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
January 11th, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta, Chairman,  
Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
Alaska State Senate  
Pouch V,  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Colletta:

I am writing in response to your invitation to help write a "Citizens Legislative Bill" to help correct the problems of alcoholism in our State.

I will readily admit that I, as a layman, do not know the answers to the often severe and serious problems caused by alcohol abuse in our State. I don't think that even the professionals in the field know all of the answers, although I am sure that they will have been able to make some recommendations that will assist you in writing an effective bill that will at least make a beginning at solving these problems. Alcohol, a legal and generally socially accepted drug, probably causes more problems in Alaskan society than all of the illegal drugs combined. (I will readily state that I use the stuff, myself.)

I am, however, dismayed and really very unhappy to learn that you and your committee have apparently chosen to disregard the recommendations of Governor Hammond in this area. Certainly, other approaches are needed, besides the ones the Governor has recommended; however, the Governor's recommendations are not "mutually exclusive" with such other approaches. If they are adopted, they will not prevent your committee from also coming up with others as well. However, I believe that the Governor's recommendations are a very good "first step"; they would, in my opinion, go a long way toward solving the problems of alcoholism, particularly in the bush areas, in our state. I want to urge that you reconsider, and adopt the recommendations made by Governor Hammond in this area, along with any others your Committee may believe will be effective.

I am, Sincerely,

  
Gerald R. Brookman

1-10-77

Senator Mike Coletta  
Alcoholism Legislation

Dear Senator Coletta;

After reading your legislative recommendations regarding directions to take with Alcoholism, I would like to say that it is very comprehensive. I especially agree with special training for personnel dealing with the problem directly. Under Alternatives I wonder how most places would fund pay back on low cost loans for facilities?

I hope your recommendations inspire that funds do be

made available to this need.  
The idea of using a source  
already set up is great.

I would also like to  
see higher taxes on liquor,  
and strict control on licensure.

Thanking you for your  
consideration.

KAAREN KUBLEY INGE  
K K Inge  
Public Health Nurse  
Councilwoman  
Hawak, AK



# STATE OF ALASKA



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Skill Training for Better Job Opportunities

P. O. Box 615, Seward, Alaska 99664

Phone: CA 4-5246

January 9, 1978

Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
c/o Senator Mike Colletta  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Colletta:

About eight people, all involved in counseling (which often touches alcohol related problems) met to review comments from the earlier hearings on alcohol legislation. Recommendations surfacing from the group are:

1. Enforcement
  - A. Increase the penalties for all OMVI.  
Like: A year's suspension of driver's license for first offense plus mandatory ten days in jail.
  - B. Make it possible for a judge to order a person to treatment.
  - C. Licensing of bartenders, cocktail waitresses, liquor sales clerks.
2. Education-Prevention
  - A. Provide a learning package such as Washington state's "Here's Looking at You" for school use and mandate a learning package in use in schools by \_\_\_ date.
  - B. Required in-service training to persons in main-line contact with alcoholics: criminal justice system (police, lawyers, judges), social workers, clergy, and medical system (doctors, nurses).  
And as a licensing requirement for those (above) who are licensed.
3. Alternatives/Treatment
  - A. Treatment: State provide standards, and matching funds for treatment programs.
  - B. Alternatives: Funding incentives for community school programs as a good alternative to drinking.
4. Local Option For Treatment
  - A. Adaptable to local situation within standard limits.
  - B. Involving local money.
5. Funding
  - A. Raise liquor taxes.
  - B. Channel a comparable amount of money (as that received through liquor taxes) to be used for:  
education  
enforcement  
treatment  
alternatives

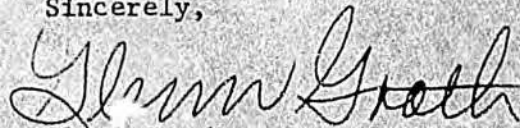
Prior to the January 4 broadcast, sixteen persons discussed the above items. Some of the major concerns of that group were:

1. Education on alcohol and alcoholism, K-12.
2. Increase all OMVI penalties.
3. Counselor training and certification.
4. Adequate taxation to fund alcohol education, enforcement, treatment, and alternatives.

Then during the broadcast the group responded very favorably concerning training for all persons in main-line contact with persons experiencing alcohol related problems.

During the discussion following the broadcast, ideas began to surface as to what could be done locally without waiting for what happens state-wide. However, local concern for action on a state level has certainly been heightened by participation in the hearings.

Sincerely,



Glenn Groth  
Coordinator for the Seward Group

GG:dh

Participants, Seward, January 4, 1978

Pat Clasby  
Julie Casey  
Ruth McHenry  
Dick Neve'  
George Peck  
Brent Whitmore  
Sheila Marrs  
Revelle Roach  
Dee McKibben  
Elaine Reausaw  
Jan Lauterbach  
Liz Richardson  
Ann Wright  
Ellen Graffia  
Geniveve Schaefermeyer  
Glenn Groth

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM  
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE  
ORIGINAL.

Dear Senator Hackney:

Enclosed are my suggestions for a bill on treatment of alcoholism. I have also made suggestions for funding.

Mary E. Ross

Suggestions for Use in a Bill  
for  
Treatment of Alcoholism

Section 1

Prevention  
and  
Education

1. Comprehensive program K thru grade 12
2. Mandatory courses in alcohol studies for teachers, counselors
3. More media usage to show bad social, physical and economic effects of alcohol abuse. Attempts, by various means to show how both the individual and the family can function far more effectively without alcohol abuse.
4. Thru all these programs, one of the principles of guidance and counseling should be kept in mind, namely: one can be helped ~~only~~ if he desires and wants help. Motivation important.

Section 2

Alternatives  
and  
Treatment

1. Each community must decide on appropriate alternatives to fill the time, so youth are led into constructive leisure activities. Should be a grass roots effort, not something imposed by state.
2. ~~Local~~ <sup>Local</sup> ~~alcohol~~ <sup>alcohol</sup> centers, half way houses would be far more effective, if they developed out of a felt need in the communities, an awareness of the problems, and an actual involvement in the solutions. The big question is: HOW CAN WE GET ONE MOTIVATED PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES? An amount of money thrown at the problems, in itself, will solve the problem.  
Note: I really fear the coming to the bush of TV, because of the liquor ads tend to create a false picture of beautiful people in plush surroundings using liquor. TV, at least public TV, could be used to create <sup>real</sup> models, both male and female, to emulate or copy.

Section 3

Local  
option

Have local problem boards identify the local problems and decide how to cope with each problem. Work programs carried on during rehabilitation would provide funds, earned by the offender to help pay for his treatment, and compensation for those injured by his abuse of alcohol. Welfare and unemployment benefits should NOT BE IN CASH, as this only feeds the further abuse of alcohol.

Section 4  
Enforcement

1. Return to 21 as legal drinking age.  
Strict enforcement of existing laws.

*Parliamentary Staff Sentencing*

QNT: \_\_\_\_\_

Short-term revocation of driving licenses is USELESS. Long term revocation for first offense and STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THIS, and for a second offense, there should be PERMANENT REVOCATION.

For those who refuse treatment, there should be involuntary commitment first in jail, and then in a program if person shows some real indication that he might benefit. Otherwise put him to work in jail.

- 6. Bar hours should be shortened all over state.
- 7. *Law* against phoning in for liquor, *and street enforcement.*
- 8. All penalties for drunk driving must be HIGH ENOUGH to deter drinking.
- 9. Stricter anti-disturbance laws.

FUNDING The form in the news paper did not deal with methods of funding.

The burden of paying for these programs should rest, to a great extent, upon the INDUSTRY which, after all creates and promotes all the problems connected with alcohol abuse.

A good share of the costs of such programs should rest upon the public too. Increase taxes on liquor. Adopt the Governor's program.

10  
9  
8  
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2  
1

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TWO PART MESSAGE TO SENATOR HACKNEY:

DEAR SENATOR HACKNEY,

I BELIEVE THAT I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SPEAK BEFORE A GROUP YOU WERE HEADING ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND CONTROL IN THE WINTER OF 72-73 HERE IN FAIRBANKS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE VALUE OF DETOX CENTERS AND THE CARE OF ALCOHOLICS. I FEEL NOW AS I DID THEN ONLY MORE SO IN REVEALING THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM.

IT APPEARS THAT TODAY, PEOPLE IN THEIR CORPORATIONS ARE GOING HONK BILD IN SPENDING PUBLIC MONEY ON TAKING CARE OF THE RESULTS WITHOUT CONSIDERING WHERE THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM. AN ANALOGY: A GAS WELL BOMS AND BURNS OUT OF CONTROL. MILLIONS ARE SPENT IN TRYING TO CONTROL IT BUT ONLY STOPPING THE SOURCE WILL STOP THE EXPENSE. REMOVING THE SOURCE WILL NOT COME CHEAP CONSIDERING HOW FAR THE RAVAGES HAVE SPREAD. FROM MY OWN OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES UP HERE THE PROBLEM IS BASICALLY EMOTIONAL. THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN THERE WERE TEN PER FOR EVERY SOUVAR ALCOHOL WAS THE ONLY OUTLET FOR LONELINESS AND FRUSTRATION. THE COMMON BESTING PLACE FOR SOCIABILITY WAS A BAR WITH A GOOD BARTENDER, WHICH WAS IN LINE WITH OUR SLOW RELAXED WAY OF LIVING. THIS GAVE RISE TO AN ALASKAN TRADITION - YOU HAD TO BE A HARD DRINKER TO MAINTAIN YOUR SOCIAL STATUS. IF YOU COULDN'T HOLD YOUR COOZE YOU WERE AN OUTCAST AND LEFT THE COUNTRY. WITH THE ADVENT OF A SMOOVED POPULATION FROM PEOPLE WITH FAST CARS AND FAST DRIVING HABITS, TRYING TO LIVE UP TO OUR TRADITION COULDED WITH THEIR FAST AND PERMISSIVE WAYS OF LIVING HAS CREATED A TERRIBLE PROBLEM.

TRYING TO LIVE UP TO THE SIGNS AND HARDSHIPS WHICH WERE A CHALLENGING WAY OF LIFE UP HERE TO AN ALASKAN JUST WONT GO WITH THE PEOPLE HERE NOW. IT HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE MY CONVICTION THAT LONELINESS, FRUSTRATION AND BEING UNABLE TO CURE WITH TOODAYS PERSONAL PROBLEMS WILL CAUSE ALCOHOLISM. I KNOW BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN THERE AND BACK. FORTUNATELY, I HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO SEE THERE I WAS HEADING AND SOUGHT PROFESSIONAL HELP AND TO LOOSEN UP A BIT TO DRINK. IN FACT, IT TASTES LIKE SOMETHING GOING SOUTH OUT OF A COM HEADING NORTH.

IF A PERSON REALIZES THEY HAVE A PROBE PROBLEM THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP WITHOUT IT COSTING AN ARM AND A LEG. THOSE THAT ARE CAUGHT DRINK IN PUBLIC SHOULD BE PUT IN A DETOX UNIT NOT JAIL TO DETERMINE THEIR PROBLEM. IF THE HELP IS DENIED THEM THE COURTS SHOULD SENTENCE HIM TO PROFESSIONAL HELP.

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO SEND THIS MESSAGE TO AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE, JOHN HETROVICH, AND GET HIS COMMENTS. ALSO, FEEL FREE TO CALL ME SHOULD YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

SINCERELY,

LOUIS W. APPELGATE  
4148 PINE LANDING ROAD  
479-6964  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

PLEASE ACK. BOTH PORTIONS OF MESSAGE. THANKS. /WZ FOR

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM  
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE  
ORIGINAL

Dear Senator Caletta <sup>financial</sup> ..  
Enclosed is my "work draft copy"  
of suggestions for bill on alcoholism.  
I have made suggestions re 4 aspects of problem  
on the form plus suggestions for fundraising  
the program, namely, those on page 2.  
Sincerely, Mary Ross

-1-

Original Sponsor: Citizens of Alaska

By: Senator Mike Colletta  
Senator Bob Ziegler  
Senator Bill Ray  
Senator Frank Ferguson  
Senator Glenn Hackney  
Rep Kris Lethin

In the HOUSE  
SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TENTH LEGISLATURE — SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the treatment of alcoholism; and alcoholic beverages; and providing for an effective date"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

\* Section 1 Prevention and Education

1. Comprehensive program K thru grade 12
2. Mandatory courses in alcohol studies for teachers, counselors
3. More media usage to show bad social, physical and economic effects of alcohol abuse. Attempts, by various means to show how both the individual and the family can function far more effectively without alcohol abuse.
4. Thru all these programs, one of the principles of guidance and counselling should be kept in mind, namely: one can be helped only if he desires and wants help. Motivation important.

\* Section 2 Alternatives to Drinking, Treatment

1. Each community must decide on appropriate alternatives to fill the time, so youth are led into constructive leisure activities.
2. Should be a grass roots effort, not something imposed by state. Teen centers, local sleep centers, half way houses would be far more effective, if they developed out of a felt need in the communities, an awareness of the problems, and an actual involvement in the solutions. The big question is: HOW BEST DOES ONE MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES? No amount of money thrown at the problems, in itself, will solve the problem.

Note: I really fear the coming to the bush of TV, because of the liquor adds tend to create a false picture of beautiful people in plush surroundings using liquor. TV, at least public TV, could be used to create good models, both male and female, to emulate or copy.

\* Section 3 Local Option

Have local problem boards identify the local problems and decide how to cope with each problem. Work programs carried on during rehabilitation would provide funds, earned by the offender to help pay for his treatment, and compensation for those injured by his abuse of alcohol. Welfare and unemployment benefits should NOT BE IN CASH, as this only feeds the further abuse of alcohol.

\* Section 4 Enforcement

1. Return to 21 as legal drinking age.
2. Strict enforcement of existing laws.
3. Mandatory sentencing and stiff sentencing. Stop the revolving door. Revocation of license to drive after FIRST OFFENSE

(over)

4. Short-term revocation of driving licenses is USELESS. Long term revocation for first offense and STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THIS , and for a second offense, there should be PERMANENT REVOCATION.
5. For those who refuse treatment, there should be involuntary committment first in jail, and then in a <sup>rehabilitative</sup> program if person shows some real indication that he might benefit. Otherwise put him to work in jail.
6. Bar hours should be shortened all over state.
7. Laws against phoning in for liquor *and street enforcement*.
8. All penalties for drunk driving must be HIGH ENOUGH to deter drinking.
9. Stricter anti-disturbance laws.

FUNDING The form in the news paper did not deal with methods of funding.

The burden of paying for these programs should rest , to a great extend, upon the INDUSTRY which , after all creates and promotes all the problems connected with alcohol abue.

A good share of the costs of such programs should rest upon the USERS, too . Increase taxes on liquor. Adopt the Governor's program.



*Lengthening the Shadow of the Cross . . .*

## **Lake Spenard Baptist Church**

*. . . a Church That Cares*

3E02 SPENARD ROAD \* ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 \* PHONE 272-2615

January 3, 1978

Alaska State Senator, Mike Colletta  
Special Senate Committee  
on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse

Dear Senator Colletta:

I understand that you are appealing for input from our community on possible legislation for alcoholism and alcohol abuse. I and other ministerial colleagues hope to submit some constructive suggestions and solutions in the very near future. I am writing to express our intent and desire to exercise some democratic input toward this mutual concern.

Thank you.

Cordially yours,

Lowell Wood, Pastor  
Lake Spenard Baptist Church

DO NOT WRITE THIS SPACE  
Dear Senator Ziegler:

Enclosed are my suggestions for an  
alcoholism treatment bill. I have also  
added my ideas on funding the program.

Mary E Ross

# Suggestions to use in a Bill for Treatment of Alcoholism

-1-

## Section 1 Prevention and Education

1. Comprehensive program K thru grade 12
2. Mandatory courses in alcohol studies for teachers, counselors
3. More media usage to show bad social, physical and economic effects of alcohol abuse. Attempts, by various means to show how both the individual and the family can function for more effectively without alcohol abuse.
4. Thru all these programs, one of the principles of guidance and counseling should be kept in mind, namely: one can be helped *only* if he desires and wants help. Motivation important.

## Section 2 Alternatives and Treatment

1. Each community must decide on appropriate alternatives to fill the time, so youth are led into constructive leisure activities.
2. ~~Should be a grass roots effort, not something imposed by state.~~ *Teen Centers* local sleep centers, half way houses would be far more effective, if they developed out of a felt need in the communities, an awareness of the problems, and an actual involvement in the solutions. The big question is: HOW DO YOU MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES? No amount of money thrown at the problems, in itself, will solve the problem.  
Note: I really fear the coming to the bush of TV, because of the liquor ads tend to create a false picture of beautiful people in plush surroundings using liquor. TV, at least public TV, could be used to create models, both male and female, to emulate or copy.

## Section 3 Local Options

Have local problem boards identify the local problems and decide how to cope with each problem. Work programs carried on during rehabilitation would provide funds, earned by the offender to help pay for his treatment, and compensation for those injured by his abuse of alcohol. Welfare and unemployment benefits should NOT BE IN CASH, as this only feeds the further abuse of alcohol.

## Section 4 Enforcement

1. return to 21 as legal drinking age.
2. strict enforcement of existing laws. (over)

10/25/68

*Stop revolving door*  
Short-term revocation of driving licenses is USELESS. Long term  
revocation for first offense and STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THIS, and  
for a second offense, there should be PERMANENT REVOCATION.

For those who refuse treatment, there should be involuntary commitment  
first in jail, and then in a program if person shows some real indication  
that he might benefit. Otherwise put him to work in jail.

- 6. *Bar* hours should be shortened all over state.
- 7. *Laws* against phoning in for liquor *and street enforcement.*
- 8. *All* penalties for drunk driving must be HIGH & HIGH to deter drinking.
- 9. *Harsher* anti-disturbance laws.

FUNDING The form in the news paper did not deal with methods of funding.

The burden of paying for these programs should rest, to a great extent,  
upon the INDUSTRY which, after all creates and promotes all the problems  
connected with alcohol abuse.

A good share of the costs of such programs should rest upon the Users, too  
increase taxes on liquor. Adopt the Governor's program.

*S. ...*

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TO UNIT: CONTINUE - CLOSE - BEARINGS ( ) PRIORITY - INTERCEPTS ( ) PRIORITY

January 17, 1978

Mary E. Ross  
Rt. 4 Box 4973  
Juneau, Alaska 99803

Dear Mrs. Ross:

Thank you for your letter of January 11th, which I have taken the liberty of sending along to the chairman of the Committee on Alcoholism, Senator Mike Colletta of Anchorage.

He will no doubt be holding additional committee meetings in the near future, and at such time as we meet I am sure he will keep your comments in mind.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Ziegler, Sr.

RHZ/pkz

cc - Senator Colletta



DR. WILLIAM R. WOOD  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

FAIRBANKS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
Phone 907 452-5400 619 Eleventh Avenue Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

January 12, 1978

Senator Mike Colletta  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Colletta:

I have reviewed at length the Status Report on Legislative Recommendations which your Committee issued on January 5th, 1978, and have had an opportunity to discuss with Senator Hackney the problem of alcoholism and drug abuse with which your Committee is actively concerned.

While each of the suggestions under "Education and Prevention", "Alternatives to Drinking - Treatment", "Local Option", and "Enforcement" are clearly significant items for the Legislative Committee to study, it occurs to me that the most pertinent item of all would be drastically reducing the margin of profit in the alcohol beverage and drug business.

This would have to be attacked at every level from the manufacturing to distribution, and involves so many facets of daily living for so many people that I can appreciate the reluctance of the Legislature to tackle the issue head-on. Further, there is obviously no one clear-cut way to "drastically reduce the margin of profit in the liquor and drug business". If there were no more profit in selling a fifth of bourbon than there is in selling a hand of bananas, I doubt that our problem would be as great as it is.

State liquor stores have some merit, but are not the final answer. Prohibition, of course, failed. As a matter of fact, throughout history people have used narcotics in one way or another, and will continue to do so as long as the human race persists. If it is not alcohol, it is "loco weed", "cacoa", "slake lime", or whatever.

I am skeptical that very much can be accomplished by legislating "primary alcoholism education curriculum in the public school system, grades K through 12". If you have half

January 12, 1978

million dollars to spend on this, may I suggest instead that you spend it on a dramatic information program using radio and television? It will be much more effective for the money spent, for it will be heard, or seen and heard, by adults as well as youngsters.

Straight advertising or propaganda campaigns such as that conducted by the Surgeon General on cigarette smoking will be offset by advertising and propaganda programs sponsored by the manufacturing companies. It is my guess that a bigger percentage of the teenagers, especially young women, are smoking today than was the case fifteen years ago when the national anti-smoking program began. Among older people it seems to be having a better effect.

I believe strongly in the "local options" as a means of tightening up on the issuance of licensing. I believe that training of persons who dispense alcohol as a prerequisite of their licensing to serve would be helpful. Yet, this in itself will not make a great deal of difference. The proposed "basic alcoholism education and in-service type training for persons with a main-line contact with alcoholics" is excellent. Stiffer penalties for convictions involving alcohol and/or drugs and the operation of motor vehicles would be worthwhile. Some of the other suggestions concerning enforcement are a waste of time.

Personally, I have never been impressed by the extensive and expensive programs on rehabilitation. It has been my observation that the ones that work best are the purely voluntary ones that have no government support. The proposal for low interest loans to community corporations is a sure way to spend a lot and accomplish little, if anything.

These few comments offered are from a standpoint of a sideline observer, with zero expertise in anything relating to the problem.

Sincerely yours,

*Bill*

William R. Wood  
Executive Vice President

WRW/kb

cc: Senator Glen Hackney

Wasilla

WORK DRAFT COPY

WORK DRAFT COPY

WORK DRAFT COPY

Original Sponsor: Citizens of Alaska

By Senator Mike Colletta

In the HOUSE  
SENATE

Senator Bob Ziegler  
Senator Bill Ray  
Senator Frank Ferguson  
Senator Glenn Hackney  
Rep Kris Lethin

BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TENTH LEGISLATURE — SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the treatment of alcoholism; and alcoholic beverages; and providing for an effective date"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

\* Section 1 Prevention and Education

1. Label bottles with warning.
2. Use radio and TV spot advertisements.
3. Provide both primary and secondary schools with films and speakers on alcoholism.
4. Include alcoholism in training teachers, nurses and policemen.
5. Expand the NCA-AR program to more local areas.

\* Section 2 Alternatives to Drinking, Treatment

1. Establish a statewide de-tox center or a number of regional centers which would include a local half-way house program with trained counselors.
2. Provide assistance to employers to deal with their problem drinking employees.

\* Section 3 Local Option

Encourage local governments to provide recreational centers and a program of community activities.

\* Section 4 Enforcement

Require the courts to commit second offenders in alcohol related cases to treatment, re-hab, or some type of alcoholic education program.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE "NEWS", above is a form for citizens to "write their own" alcoholism bill. The form was mailed by Senator Mike Colletta following his round of hearings throughout Alaska with the Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse to those persons attending sessions in the 31 communities visited. Senator Colletta encourages Alaskans to "combine your solutions together with the solutions of people in other communities (to) arrive at a solution for

the problems of alcoholism and alcohol abuse for all Alaska. The comments you return to us will be used to write the law which will be acted upon in the next session. You are helping draft the first citizens legislative bill to be considered by the Alaska State Legislature." Readers of the "NEWS" who want to add their input may fill out the above form and mail it to Senator Colletta, Chairman, Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, Pouch V, Juneau, AK 99811.

Thank you,

Art Carney, Wasilla, Ak.

*Art Carney*

While the above suggestions offer a plan of action that will improve the present situation, real progress will not be realized until the children of today's alcoholics have dealt with the outlooks and attitudes which are now being imposed upon them by their problem drinking fathers or mothers. Alcoholism is only a symptom of a deeper malady which seems to have its roots in a "wrong home environment". While an alcoholic home is not the only place where such a "wrong environment" is found, it is probably one of the most likely. Proper education today will have a significant effect on our future generations, but a child's attitudes are still formed at the breakfast table so the education must be directed toward the general public, <sup>OR FAMILY, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE</sup> the court system <sup>IN</sup>

The present practice of referring alcoholic offenders to AA is probably the most effective means of dealing with the immediate problem. AA does work, and it is not concerned with how or why people come to them, but AA works best when there is a choice. This compulsory attendance at AA has proved to be a life saver for many, but I would (personally) suggest that judges make a distinction between "open" and "closed" AA meetings. Open meetings are open to any interested person, while closed meetings are for alcoholics only, whose sole purpose in attending, is to stay sober. Some court referrals do not consider themselves to be alcoholics, (and so are not concerned with AA's tradition of unanimity), so let the courts refer cases only to "open" AA meetings. These referrals will have the opportunity of attending Closed meetings, if they should choose to do so.

One other point I'd like to make is that alcoholism is like an elevator which only goes down. In recent years it has become possible to get off the elevator before it reaches the bottom, which is imprisonment, insanity, or death. However, if a person doesn't know he's on the downhill drag, there is no hope for him. Therefore, treatment must be our first priority. As long as there is alcohol in his system, the alcoholic will continue to view his dire circumstances in a distorted light. He may become aware that drinking is the cause of his troubles, but without help he is powerless.

A.C.



## La Mexicana, Inc.

2552 SPENARD ROAD, BOX 4-1262, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99509 • 274-7511

COCKTAILS  
DINING

SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 8  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

The following comments are offered relating to legislature regarding alcohol.

### SECTION 1: PREVENTION AND EDUCATION-

Education would be an excellent source of prevention toward alcohol problems. Knowledgeable people are much less likely to experiment than the uneducated.

### SECTION 2: ALTERNATIVES TO DRINKING, TREATMENT

Treatment should consist of counseling and first hand knowledge of what happens when one abused himself by drinking too much. Actual case histories could help in this area. Protective custody is a must in order that treatment can be affected.

### SECTION 3: LOCAL OPTION

To prohibit the sale of alcohol would definitely lead to bootlegging. In addition, the revenue now received that is available for use in treating alcoholism would be lost. Alcoholism is an illness and the alcoholics would still drink. As owners of two restuarants with bars, we have a payroll yearly of approximately \$800,000.00. Since business would drop appreciably the majority of our employees would lose their jobs. Also the State receives revenue from taxes, the city from business licenses and our firm contributes considerably to charities which could not be afforded. Limitation of liquor at home is not a free society. Our rights would be taken from us. Ownership of licenses controls alcohol. Prohibition would lend an uncontrolled situation.

While our firm would not immediately go out of business, it would mean we would just phase out. Seventy-five people derive their livelihood from us alone. They can support themselves and do not have to rely on the already heavily taxed people for welfare and/or unemployment. This can be multiplied when considering all other licenses.

*Ray F. Johnson*  
RAY F. JOHNSON  
President



# CITY of BETHEL

P. O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297 — Area Code 907

Robert E. Buttane  
Bethel Alcoholism Treatment Center

December 27, 1977

Senator Mike Colletta  
Special Senate Committee  
on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse  
1016 W. 6th  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Senator Colletta,

On December 22, 1977 the Social, Economic, Cultural Committee of the Bethel City Council met in a work session to discuss our recommendations to your committee on alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our recommendations which Chairperson Betty Hickling asked me to forward to you. We have been in touch with Fred Pete in Bethel and plan to have a representative at our council chambers during the state wide broadcast of your committee hearings on January 4, 1978.

On behalf of Ms. Hickling, the committee, and the City of Bethel I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our views on these problems.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert E. Buttane  
Program Director

Enclosure

cc: Betty Hickling

*"Deep Sea Port and Transportation Center of the Kuskokwim"*

send <sup>the</sup> complete <sup>file</sup> on all alcoholism bills

Dec 23, 1977

Senator Mike Colletta  
Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
Anchorage, Ak. 99501

Dear Senator:

I think that this action by your committee is a fine start for a new attack on the problem of alcohol abuse in Alaska. My main hope is that you can apply the political pressure necessary to get some of Alaska's money into areas being grossly neglected, such as that of alcohol education in the public schools.

As an alcoholism counselor, I encounter many of the problems of alcohol abuse first hand and have some opinions that I feel have some basis on fact. For instance, it is my belief ~~that~~ and that of many others in the mental health field that education of children is the most hopeful way to attack the problem of alcohol abuse. Unfortunately, such education is almost entirely lacking in the public schools, the one place where it could be successfully introduced. Alcohol abuse is in large part a learned behavior, learned by children from the actions of their parents and other models of "adult" behavior. Cultural norms and social pressures also play a large part in developing abusive drinking habits in young people. Once these habits are learned, they are very hard to change, as any alcohol professional can testify. These abusive attitudes towards alcohol use are learned very early. To successfully prevent such attitudes and habits from forming, learning experiences of how to drink

moderately and how to make responsible decisions regarding alcohol use must be made available. There are alcohol education kits available that start at kindergarten and gradually build and extend through the senior year in high school. These kits deal with the related topics of attitudes and social growth, as well as alcohol information. They are expensive, due to extensive audio-visual material included. One example is the "Here's Looking at You" kit, selling for \$1400 for levels K-12. I suggest you find out more about these kits. One person to write or call is:

Barbara Hoffman

Anchorage Council on Alcoholism

P.O. Box 2972 Anchorage 99510

or

Carolyn Peters

Wonder Park Elementary School

Anchorage

One thing you could do for me would be to send me information on Hammond's bill relating to alcohol. Also, if I am not satisfied with the attention paid to alcohol education as a result of this bill we are working on, how could I apply political pressure to correct this crucial lack (petitions, letters, etc)?

Sincerely,

Dan Thomas

Alcohol Counselor - Norton Sound Health Corporation

Box 966

Nome, AK. 99762

Box 2239,  
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501  
December 28, 1977.

Mr. Mike Colletta,  
Chairman, Special Senate,  
Committee on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse,  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite C,  
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

Dear Mr. Colletta,

Christmas is an extremely busy season and I could not get your draft work on legislation on alcoholism any sooner.

To my surprise, you have nothing for treatment which is the most critical issue now facing the citizens of this state. The alcoholic is a threat to himself and to all the people with whom he comes in contact. He is a potential killer and maimer as can be evidenced by the number of drunken drivers on our roads. No one can measure the physical, psychological, emotional, financial, marital, child abuse and damage that comes from an alcoholic member in the family. I feel deeply about providing help whether or not it be on a voluntary basis so that through counseling, the alcoholic will experience the positive reinforcement that comes from sobriety.

Here is an example of an alcoholic woman whom I visited at Providence Hospital yesterday - the illness being alcoholism. Her main concern was that she had no money, and nowhere to go. Several months ago, her husband, a captain on a big airline divorced her because of her alcoholism. He felt he could no longer take the responsibility for her actions especially since he was away a great deal of the time. He feared for the life of his daughter should there be a fire in the home, an automobile accident - she had been arrested on a drunken driving charge - and whatever can happen when a person is intoxicated. Being of the middle-income bracket, she never had to work. At present, she is without a home, a job, financial support and all that is required for bare existence. We were able to get her temporary board and shelter at Shiloh House when she leaves Providence Hospital.

This person has applied to the welfare for help but the agent told her she did not qualify. Fortunately, there is still charity being done in the city. It is unfair that the sale of alcohol would not be the means to help her since it is alcohol that divested her of all she owned.

We need places for the alcoholic and get the necessary help from income from the sales of alcoholic beverages not from the taxpayers in general. Why could there not be an insurance fee on the sale of alcoholic beverages to guarantee the appropriations necessary for programs.

All eggs have been put in the same basket with all the money appropriated for alcoholics in Anchorage going to the Salvation Army. I do not question the program but I do feel that it does not fit all alcoholics. It might be of value for the Fourth Avenue alcoholic but not for the more sophisticated white-collar professional - executive. In my counseling experience, I have met lawyers, pharmacists, doctors, a retired Air Force major, teachers etc. No one can expect one program to meet the needs of all. An alcoholic must feel comfortable with a program before he can change his behavior.

Having been a teacher for over twenty-seven years, I know the importance of education and prevention but I also know from experience that young people learn more from example than from words. When I taught in Nulato 1952 - 1962, the State School curriculum included a program on narcotics. The grade-eight students were requested to take a test on the dangers of alcohol and drugs in addition to the standard achievement test. One of my pupils, a very bright boy, took this test but only two years later, killed himself as a result of handling a gun improperly when he was intoxicated. Teaching is futile without good example in the school, home and society. Advertising the use and sales of alcohol on TV and in newspapers is deplorable. A two-page ad in the Anchorage Times went so far as to state that their sale was an asset to any home. There is hardly a movie that does not depict a middle-class or wealthy home as serving liquor when a person enters the room. A cocktail hour is set before any great meal, not to mention the wine that is served at table. Serving alcohol is an "in thing" to do. The children learn more from this than any book learning they can get at school. I realize that education is important but appropriation of moneys should be in proportion to the benefits derived. Knowing all about alcohol does not necessarily make me sober anymore than knowing all about religion will make me a religious person.

To me, alcohol-related offenses should be treated in an alcohol program not in a jail. Most alcoholics are not malicious offenders but victims of alcoholism. Since it is legal to obtain alcohol in any quantity, the State should provide help for people afflicted with the problem. As you can see, I come on behalf of the suffering alcoholic. For people like myself who are trying to help the alcoholic, the lack of funds for treatment and consequently, the dearth of programs make our efforts futile.

If we are to help alleviate the growing problem of alcoholism, we must go to the roots of the problem. I hope that your committee will attack the rising problem effectively.

Best wishes for a very Happy New Year,

Your loyal constituent,

*Sister Dorothy Forest*

Ameh  
✕

Thanks for this chance. Neat ideas.  
Maybe confusing for average little  
citizens because of form but worth the  
try. I am glad you did this.

I am also glad you visited, but I think  
maybe some of the comments that so much  
agreed with the governor were left out  
of the pamphlet. I heard that too.

The political actions of some legislators on  
this may help lose them the elections if they  
don't think first of most Alaskans instead  
of the retail & wholesale men. Please be  
brave,



**National  
Council  
OR  
Alcoholism** - ALASKA REGION

4510 International Airport Road, Suite 1  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502  
Phone 243-4324 or 243-4306

December 23, 1977

Mike Colletta, Chairman  
Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West 6th Avenue - Suite C  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

Dear Mike:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the special citizens' legislation concerning "An Act Relating to the Treatment of Alcoholism and Alcohol Beverages and Providing for an Effective Date". I will not attempt at this time to phrase the recommendations in correct legislative language, but will mention for the record several areas which have great importance and impact on the subject:

Section 1. Prevention and Education: Prevention and education monies should be separate from, and accounted for, differently from treatment monies. Prevention and education should be for all residents in Alaska and should be supported throughout the State by means other than granting through the Office of Alcoholism.

Treatment dollars are used for a very limited population, and it may be appropriate to continue allocating these funds through the grant mechanisms.

A school curriculum K-12 should be implemented throughout the State immediately. This curriculum should be tailored for village, rural, and urban Alaska, and may have its foundation in the "Here's Looking At You" school curriculum from Washington State. Coupled with this curriculum, should be a labor-management type program for students and families whereby teachers identify students having problems of any nature, refer the student to a counselor who will work with the student and parents to resolve the problem.

Mike Colletta, Chairman  
December 23, 1977  
Page 2

Mandatory training should be required for teachers in the area of alcoholism with special emphasis on utilization and presentation of the curriculum, and in identification and referral techniques for use with students.

A resource center, including films, literature, etc., should be established and funded by means other than grants, as this puts the resource agency in the position of fighting with treatment programs for grant dollars. NCA-AR currently fits this role, but is grant funded.

A massive campaign should be conducted throughout the State with emphasis on television public service announcements or television paid advertising regarding the resources available, the symptoms of alcoholism, the possibility of recovery from alcoholism, and designed to generally reduce the stigma attached to the illness.

Mandatory education and training in alcoholism, the effects of alcohol, and referral and treatment procedures should be conducted for all workers in law enforcement and social services. This training and education should also be mandatory for persons making applications for liquor licenses, renewal applications, and all individuals working in establishments dispensing alcoholic beverages.

Forty hours of mandatory alcoholism education on identification and treatment should be required for State licensing of all medical and pharmaceutical personnel with at least 24 hours continuing education required each year.

Section 2. Alternative to Drinking/Treatment: Funds should be provided, as seed money only, to establish "alternatives to drinking" projects in communities which have no alternatives.

Treatment programs should be consolidated into a regional system of northern, southcentral, and southeastern in conjunction with counselor placement in all other communities for outpatient counseling only. Communities with a population of 440 or more should be actively involved in developing and financing local alcoholism services. All communities should be able to request and receive assistance in community organization, and in development of alcoholism education, prevention, and treatment activities.

Mike Colletta, Chairman  
December 23, 1977  
Page 3

Labor-management programs should be mandated by the State of Alaska for its employees and highly recommended for all other businesses.

Section 3. Local Options. Local communities should have the powers to enforce any laws which they have the power to adopt. Local option laws should be feasible to enforce and appropriate to the community's needs. Allowing local communities many options will be to no avail if these options are unenforceable.

Section 4. Enforcement. Mandatory jail time of 24 hours, coupled with appropriate screening and referral to either alcohol education or treatment, should be mandatory for everyone convicted by the courts of any alcohol-related offense. Upon lack of compliance, defendants should be promptly re-arrested.

Communities should show that they are enforcing all existing laws relating to alcoholism and alcohol misuse prior to any monies to alleviate the problems becoming available to them. If a community states they have a major problem with alcohol, but takes no active steps to enforce state and local laws, then they should be ineligible for any kind of assistance from the State to alleviate the problem.

The number of, and the powers of, the Alcohol Beverage Control agents should be increased to assist in controlling alcohol use.

I hope these ideas are useful and are consistent with your feelings from the 31 hearings you have held throughout the State.

Sincerely yours,



Suzanne W. Perry  
Executive Director

deh

Tanacross

H

December 21, 1977

Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Honorable Sirs:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you.

Enclosed please find my working draft copy of the model legislation that in my opinion would further early recovery and strategic prevention health measure for the citizens of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and services.

Sincerely,

*Carolynn M. Simeone*

Carolynn M. Simeone  
Tanacross Resident &  
Alcoholism Consultant  
M.S., Addictions

CS/cs

December 19, 1977

*H*  
*Ketchikan*

Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mike Colletta:

We appreciate your efforts in helping Alaska do something constructive in regards to its alcoholic problem. Having lived in Alaska over thirty years, we are well aware of the problem and all its repercussions.

We were unable to attend the meeting held in Ketchikan in November, so would like very much to submit the enclosed for your committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

*R.E. & Edith Nelson*

Robert E. & Edith Nelson

Box 191  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
December 21, 1977

Dear Senator Colletta:

You certainly did give us a very difficult task reviewing all comments, some worth much value and others, would I say - senseless.

I have admired the alcoholic division in Sitka for many years and see a great tie between human relations in general and the concepts of alcoholism. Wishing that sometimes, the word alcoholism could be dropped and the concept to keep going. What I mean is, many people do not attend workshops entitled alcoholism, because they feel they have nothing to gain simply because they do not have that problem. Yet, I have sat through some of these where all people can gain because the information learned helps people to live better lives. When we tag peoples problems and label them, such as alcoholism, mental health, or drugs - they shun from treatment because their problem is out in the open for everyone to view. We all know ourselves somewhat and must not really let others see too much - keeping up a social front. Could we not assist more people on the sneaky side, somehow without labeling. For instance, to me a crises intervention where people may contact a branch of this nature for the simplest problem to the most complex - this way not revealing themselves too much on the exact problem nor having to get involved with a certain State division.

When I see people who need assistance because they have lost control of themselves - I would like to call a division I know that will help them at any hour of the day or night. I do not respond that a person has broken the law but needs assistance. I hesitate to assist when I am not with another individual, I hesitate to call the police not knowing if they will arrest the person or assist them home and become their friend. Unless the public is made more aware of what is offered through divisions - they are not taken advantaged of. We all need to learn more of helping others when we see a problem - we tend to ignore happenings, hoping everything will come out all right. When some divisions get an overload of work - what they can accomplish becomes limited - therefore, programs must grow to serve more and more, so funding must grow.

Therefore, you see - I am for more assistance to teach all handling of problems when they are small and not so difficult to find solutions to. All the restrictions can be placed on people not to drink, but if their needs are not being met socially - but in bars, Clubs and home parties. They will not care what these restrictions are in order to meet their needs.

I, myself, have been trying to find ways and funds to construct a Teen Center to place our now existing Sitka Teenage Club, Inc. into the building planning social and recreational activities for teens which we are now working out of existing buildings. Find volunteers to work with us is very difficult. We possibly will

receive some funds from the alcoholic division to hire a part time youth director, coordinator, and two assistants to work on projects and open an office called the Sitka Youth Service to assist youth to lessen alcohol, drugs through information & activities as an alternative. For a year now, I have been seeking funds to carry part of the load of constructing a Sitka Teen Center. It seems the Native population can find all kinds of funding - but it is more difficult when you are serving all people. I feel the government is in great jeopardy when they turn people down for assistance because one race has priority. As a Native myself, to increase this process will only harm our Native people and build more resentment. Good luck to you in your work and may we all have good luck in the New Year with our families and all people. Sincerely,

Nina R. Bernhardt

*Nina R. Bernhardt*

# Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.

430 "C" Street, Suite 303  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone (907) 278-3567



December 22, 1977

Senator Mike Colletta, Chairman  
Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Senator Colletta:

This letter is to express our appreciation at being asked to help draft a law for consideration by the next session of the Alaska State Legislature. We feel that this approach will ultimately produce pragmatic and cost-effective approaches in stemming the progression of a perennially identified pandemic illness, namely, alcoholism.

We would also hope that continued support of Governor Hammond's tax package would help bring that proposed legislation to a successful conclusion in order to provide the necessary funds for the state alcohol programs.

Sincerely yours,

  
Patrick Pletnikoff  
Executive Director

PP/ml

cc; Files



*Sitka Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse, Inc.*

SITKA, ALASKA 99835

December 20, 1977

Information, Education,  
Referral, Outpatient  
Box 963, Sitka  
(907) 747-3636

Alcoholism Therapy  
Services (Rehab)  
Box 4310, Mt. Edgecumbe  
(907) 966-2438

Aurora's Watch  
(Halfway House)  
Box 963, Sitka  
(907) 966-2435

Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 W 6th Avenue  
Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Sirs:


Enclosed are the work drafts of four (4) of our office staff:

Bennett Stower, Director

Ruby Hales, Counselor

Vickie Diaz, Administrative Assistant

Isabella Tweedy, Counselor

  
Judy Wood

Encl: as stated

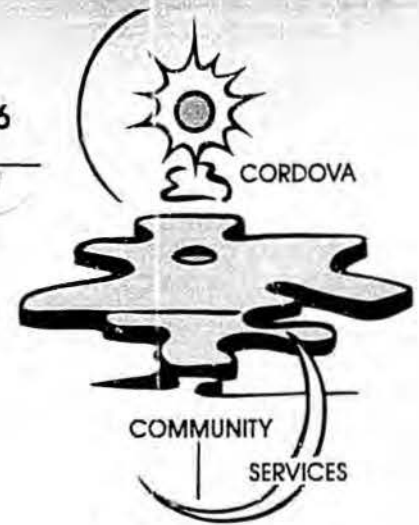
jw

p.o. box 668

cordova, alaska 99574

phone: (907) 424-7556

December 20, 1977



Special Senate Committee on Alcoholism  
1016 West 6th Avenue - Suite C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Committee:

Thank you for including us in on your work draft copy for the Legislative Bill concerning alcoholism. I have enclosed a list of concerns which we here at Cordova Community Services believe would help in dealing with the problem of alcoholism.

Two of our major concerns are in the areas of 1) prevention and education and 2) stricter law enforcement concerning alcohol related arrests and laws. We feel that education in the primary and secondary schools and the enforcement of existing laws and the establishment of stricter laws in dealing with the overall problem of alcoholism are of utmost importance in dealing with the total problem of alcoholism. We deal with the alcohol problem everyday and night and sometimes feel our hands are tied to do anything unless the existing laws are enforced. Part of the problem is not necessarily enforcing the current laws but carrying them through in the judicial area and court system of our government.

Enclosed is our list of ideas which would help us here in Cordova and perhaps give you some feedback on areas which concern us all in Alaska. Thanks again for including us. We are all concerned with the rise of alcoholism.

Sincerely,

Randy Jones  
Director - Alcoholism Treatment Program

Enclosure:

cc: Senator Jalmar Kurtula

Honorable Pete Loveseth  
State Representative

RJ/lh

A  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Dec 18, 1974

Special Committee on Alcohol Abuse:

Gentlemen: -

I have attempted to follow your outlines for writing a citizens Bill, for all the categories of testimony you list. I'm finally quit in disgust. It occurs to me that the Committee has been fed more than enough public thought on the subject of "excessive drinking" or "Alcoholism".

Further Gentlemen Committee, I do not think that passing the buck back to the public is what Governor Hammond had in mind. I believe he wanted you to collect information; assimilate that information; then come up with a Bill appropriate enough for the Legislature. After all this time you actually haven't accomplished anything. At this late hour you have put it all back onto the public's lap. Do you really want to do something about Alcoholism, or not?

So far as I can see the Committee has only been going through an academic exercise. Tossed the State Legislature and this Committee really begin to care, as to the seriousness of the "Social Stigma" of excessive drinking "Alcoholism"; more and more

people are going to become victims to the  
drug effect of Alcohol.

I have said before, and I say it again,  
the Liquor Industry must be slowed down  
in their wild fire growth. The Industry is  
distilling and selling a product that works  
on the inherent weakness of man.

Perhaps you have little over a month  
before the Alaska Legislature convenes. I  
appeal to you, even beg you to come up with  
a Bill on Alcohol Abuse. That will definitely  
put a brake on growth, advertising and  
adequate law to protect the innocent and  
punish the guilty. If you can't do this;  
then promote the Governor's Bill.

Sincerely  
Charles P. May

P.S. a copy of this letter will be mailed to  
the Governor, and possibly the News-Miner.

*Kodak  
if*

To Senator Mike Colletta and his Special Committee  
on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse: I believe it is very  
important to keep in mind at all times that you cant fix  
the broken pipe by mopping the floor.



**GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA BOROUGH**

3500 EAST TUDOR ROAD  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Anchorage, Alaska  
Sunday December 19, 1977

Senate Committee on  
Alcoholism

Dear Committee:

Did you ever consider  
Taxpayers money should not be spent to purchase  
alcoholic beverages! I see it every day.

Why do people have to drink alcoholic beverages anyway?

Why give away free drinks of alcoholic beverages at  
Christmas parties this season of the year?

Why is every one so gun ho on making money off the  
alcoholic beverages?

I am against any and all form of alcoholic beverages and  
all sales or give away in any form. I take a positive  
stand!

Sincerely,

*Maxine Byrd Whaley*  
Maxine Byrd Whaley  
P.O. Box 8216  
Mt. View, Alaska 99508

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Seward

Upon receipt of the "Write A Bill For Us" correspondence from Senator Coletta's office a group sat down and discussed the main issues. Here are some of the concerns which surfaced:

ENFORCEMENT

- Increase the penalties for all OMVI
  - Like: A year's suspension of driver's license for first offense plus mandatory ten days in jail.
- Make it possible for a judge to order a person to treatment.
- Licensing of bartenders, cocktail waitresses, liquor sales clerks.

EDUCATION-PREVENTION

- Provide a learning package such as Washington State's "Here's Looking At You" for school use and mandate a learning package in use in schools by \_\_\_ date.
- Required in-service training to persons in main-line contact with alcoholics: criminal justice system (police, lawyers, judges), social workers, clergy, and medical system (doctors, nurses).
- And as a licensing requirement for those (above) who are licensed.

LOCAL OPTION

- See "Treatment" under Alternatives/Treatment.
- Local option for treatment:
  1. Adaptable to local situation within standard limits.
  2. Involving local money.

ALTERNATIVES/TREATMENT

- Treatment: State provide a. standards, and b. matching funds for treatment programs.
- Alternatives: Funding incentives for community school programs as a good alternative to drinking.

FUNDING

1. Raise liquor taxes.
2. Channel a comparable amount of money (as that received through liquor taxes) to be used for:
  - education
  - enforcement
  - treatment
  - alternatives

*Christina H*

For An Act Entitled; "An act relating to the treatment of alcoholism; and alcoholic beverages; and providing for an effective date".

Section 1: Prevention and Education,

- A. Mandate that the state requires substance use and abuse (i.e. drug and alcohol) curriculum be a part of the state public school program in all grades Kindergarten through twelfth. The curriculum would not necessarily be a specific class or subject entitled substance abuse but rather the curriculum would and could be integrated into all subject matters. Two examples could be history; the historical growth of alcohol, and/or in science; the scientific and biological nature of alcohol on the human body.
- B. The state provides current materials, magazines, posters and all educational materials to existing alcoholism programs and school systems free of charge to be distributed throughout the community for overall public education. The state could also provide available current films and tapes to be run on local TV stations and in alcohol treatment programs free of charge or for a small rental fee.
- C. Require all Alaskan State certified teachers to attend a certain number of credit hours on alcohol or substance abuse workshops and classes.

Section 2: Alternatives to Drinking; Treatment,

- A. Establish or provide state grant monies for communities to build adult and youth recreational centers providing alternatives rather than going to local bars,
- B. Place warning labels upon bottles of alcoholic beverages containing the dangers of alcohol on the body i.e., the same type of warning labels that are on cigarette packages,
- C. Shorten the hours that retail establishments can sell and/or serve alcoholic beverages.

Section 3: Local Options.

- A. Provide state funds and/or incentives for local cities or communities to build their own alcoholism programs. Let the city decide what types of program and how big of program each city desires.

- B. Enforce the laws stricter on bootlegging.
- C. Prohibit all phone orders to liquor stores for alcoholic beverages and prohibit all taxi delivery service. Establish the law to read that one may only purchase alcoholic beverages in person at a liquor store and/or at a bar thus eliminating all phone orders and/or delivery services. This law must be enforced in order for it to work.

Section 4: Enforcement,

- A. Increase the penalties for alcohol related arrests and for DWI violations. Here again the laws must be enforced in order for them to work. The judicial side of government must be more strict in handing down their judgements in order for any laws to function properly.
- B. Establish a law similar to California's where the bartender or local establishment which serves alcoholic beverages would be held liable in the event that one of the patrons leaves the establishment intoxicated and becomes involved in an accident. Establish the law to read that the person who is serving the alcoholic beverages are the ones who would be held liable in the event of any accident.
- C. Establish stricter penalties for those establishments that deal in selling of alcoholic beverages in the event that they should break an existing law on the sale of alcoholic beverages, especially selling to minors.