

733

H CRA

HR 20

-

H CR 45

0072

HR

20

WORK ORDER REQUEST FORM

№ 8561

KEYWORDS: Families

ASSIGNED TO Cook

REQUEST FOR: BILL RESOLUTION RESEARCH OTHER

SUBJECT White House Conference on Families

REQUESTED FOR House CRA BY Marge Gorsuch EXT. _____

* DELIVER TO House CRA TAKEN BY Noah

INSTRUCTIONS, EXPLANATIONS Draft resolution based on attached urging Alaska's participation in the White House Conference on Families. (Simple House Resolution) Contact Marjorie before drafting.

OBTAIN

SPECIAL DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED

AUTHORIZED TO CONFER WITH _____

RETURN _____

TO REQUESTER

APPROVED: BCD Director, Legal Services

Director, Research

REVIEWED _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TYPIST/PROOFREADER

IN 5/8 DUE _____

TYPED - Draft _____ DATE _____

Final _____ DATE _____

PROOFED _____ DELIVERED _____

DRAFT

FINAL



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Community & Regional Affairs

Pouch V
State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Official Business

BILL NUMBER AND TITLE: White House Conference on Families Work Draft
(RESOLUTION)

ORIGINAL SPONSOR: _____
RECEIVED FROM: _____

OTHER SPONSORS: _____
FURTHER REFERRALS: _____

HEARING DATE: 5/9/80

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bill Parker	X	Pat Carney	X
	Margaret Branson	X	Charlie Parr	X
	Pat O'Connell	X	Fred Zharoff	X
			Ray Metcalfe	X

A draft of the proposed resolution was circulated for consideration by the committee which would be the sponsor.

There was concurrence that such a resolution be introduced.

HCR20 introduced by the House C&RA Committee on 5/12/80

COMMITTEE ACTION:

TAPE # SIDE Footage

Juneau Legal Women
P.O. Box 1312
Juneau, Alaska 99802

May 12, 1980

The Honorable Jay S. Hammond
Governor
State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

The Juneau Legal Women, a group of local people, mostly women attorneys, who are interested in issues of law, would like to take this opportunity to urge you not to withdraw Alaska's delegation to the White House Conference on Families. We think it is clear that a free exchange of ideas is necessary on topics involving the family, including those topics which may be considered sensitive, but actually reflect the reality of the family structures in which many Alaskans live. We urge you not to cut off this opportunity for exchange of ideas and not to withdraw Alaska from the Conference on Families.

Sincerely,

Juneau Legal Women

cc: Betty Davis
Walter Soboloff
Mrs. Paul Glover



1979 - '80

Johanna E. Hotch
Grand President

Sally Kookesh
Grand 2nd Vice President

Evelyn Hotch
Grand Treasurer

Emma Widmark
Grand 1st Vice President

Irma R. Young
Grand Secretary

Joan Lewis
Grand Sgt-At-Arms

PO Box 496
Haines, Alaska 99827

April 11, 1980

Honorable Governor Jay Hammond
Office of the Governor
120-4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Honorable Governor Hammond:

~~As Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) I would~~
~~like to express my full support to the results of the State White~~
~~House Conference on Families which was held in Anchorage.~~ I would
also like to state my appreciation for being appointed to attend
the Conference. It was very informative and a stimulating
experience.

I would also like to commend your efforts in holding this Conference.
~~It showed that the State has demonstrated its concern for the govern-~~
~~ment role in its relationship to the family life in the State of~~
Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

Johanna E. Hotch
ANS Grand President

JEH:iy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GRAND PRESIDENT, EMERITUS
Mildred Sparks - Haines

Clara Nalkong - Hydaburg

Mary Jones - Kotzebue

Stella Martin - Juneau

Bessie Visaya - Juneau

Lottie Nannauck - Kake

Gertrude Wolfe - Hoonah

Elizabeth Baines - Metlakalla

Helen Sanderson - Hydaburg

Barbara Lewis - Anchorage

SSRA BOX 78 H
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 9, 1980

Honorable Jay Hammond
Office of the Governor
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

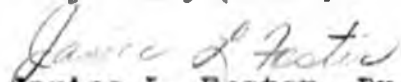
It has come to my attention that you are considering withdrawing the Alaskan delegation to the White House Conference on Families. I wish to inform you that AAUW could not support that action.

The Conference was called to identify ways to strengthen and support American families. It is important that we have the opportunity to meet with scholars, professionals and policy makers to assess the current status of public and private programs which affect our families. Controversial issues may well be addressed; but what better way to air diverse opinions than in an open forum such as this conference?

I am reminded of your strong support for Alaska Public Forum. I am puzzled as to why you feel Alaskans, who are most versed in participatory government, should be kept home.

I urge you to reconsider your position and encourage Alaskan delegates to participate in this important dialogue with government.

Very truly yours,


Janice L. Foster, President
Alaska State Division



FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN, INC.
MENDENHALL CHAPTER Box 1401 Juneau, AK 99802

May 12, 1980

Honorable Jay S. Hammond
Office of the Governor
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hammond:

This letter is to urge you not to withdraw Alaska from the White House Conference on Families. We have reviewed the report of the Alaska Statewide Conference and feel it contains many concerns of Alaska citizens that should be taken to the national conference. Many of these are concerns of our organization; i.e. equal opportunity in employment and education, child care and other family concerns of the working women, employment of the elderly, etc.

By copy of this letter we are also advising all members of the Legislature of our concern.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Darlin
Marie Darlin, President

Presented by: Jensen
Introduced: 5/15/80
Drafted by: J.J.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 662

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE ALASKA DELEGATION IN THE
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES.

WHEREAS, legislation at the federal level affects families in many ways, and

WHEREAS, a national discussion of these issues may be beneficial in reducing the negative effects of legislation on families, and

WHEREAS, the White House Conference on Families was designed for this purpose, and

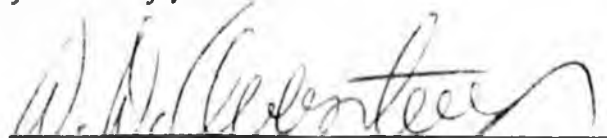
WHEREAS, the citizens of Juneau and of Alaska saw potential benefit in having their viewpoints on such issues represented in the national conference, and

WHEREAS, a multitude of Juneau citizens participated in the development of ideas to be represented by the state delegation, and in the selection of delegates, and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau has already supported the participation of its citizens in this process;

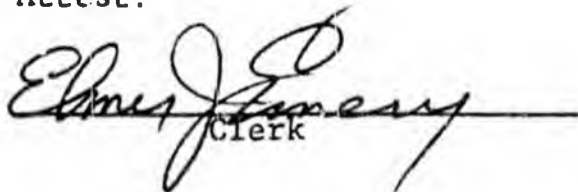
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau strongly urges the Governor of Alaska to support the participation of the Alaska delegation in the White House Conference on Families.

Adopted this 15th day of May, 1980.



Mayor

Attest:



Clerk

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Relating to participation
by the State of Alaska in the
White House Conference on Families

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS President Carter has announced a White House Conference on Families in 1980 to identify ways to strengthen and support American families; and

WHEREAS Governor Hammond issued an Executive Proclamation on January 31, 1980 declaring March, 1980 as White House Conference on Families Month and inviting community organizations to spearhead local participation through meetings and hearings to assist in developing state and national public policy to support families; and

WHEREAS the goal of the State program was identified by Governor Hammond in such proclamation as the assessment of needs and development of policies, through broad public participation, which would give support to families in the delivery of programs and services; and

WHEREAS the organizational work to implement the Governor's directive was dominated by volunteer efforts statewide with the support of the Governor's Office; and

WHEREAS hearings were held in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Sitka, Seldovia, Soldotna, and the Yukon-Kuskokwim area; and

WHEREAS testimony was also developed by the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Alaska Native Sisterhood, Fairbanks Native Association, Kodiak Native Association, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference; and

WHEREAS the Alaska White House Conference on Families was held on March 28, 29 in Anchorage and was a culmination of a variety of statewide hearings, reports, organizational meetings, public testimony, and village council meetings and included delegates chosen by direct involvement through local activities, elections, local steering committees, local advisory committees, and appointments by legislators; and

WHEREAS such delegates discussed issues related to family strengths and supports, diversity of families, changing realities of family life, impact of public and private institutional policies on families, impact of discrimination, families with special needs, and developed twelve issues/concerns with action-oriented recommendations based on these themes; and

WHEREAS the Conference participants elected six delegates to represent the State of Alaska at the White House Conference on Families; and

WHEREAS the Alaskan delegation can offer much insight to the White House Conference on unique features of the Alaska lifestyle which tend to strengthen family life--the ability to enjoy and appreciate the natural habitat, the social openness and trust, and a large degree of individual self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS the broad-based participation of individuals from

throughout the state has produced a delegation representative of the diversity of views and philosophies on the subject of family life which exists in Alaska; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests that the State of Alaska participate in the White House Conference on the Family and that the duly elected delegates attend the Conference ~~to be held on~~

Natl.

↓ appointed

League of Women Voters of Alaska

May 8, 1980

Honorable Jay S. Hammond
Governor
State of Alaska
Pouch A,
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports continued State participation in the White House Conference on Families.

The League worked closely with state and local community organizers throughout the entire process from planning community hearings to acting as recorders and facilitators. You are to be commended for carrying out the process in such an open manner. The entire process of choosing delegates was well done.

The League is appalled that you would consider abandoning the White House Conference on the Family and negating the grass root effort and commitment of Alaskans that went into choosing delegates and identifying issues impacting families in Alaska today.

The citizens of this state participated in the local hearings and state conference in good faith that they and Alaska's ideas would become part of the national dialogue on families. It is your responsibility to support this citizen/state effort and continue with the state participation in the conference.

The family is the most important basic unit in our society, and one which is strongly impacted by the more traditional political issues of economics. To consider withdrawing Alaska from dialogue on the family simply because more traditional issues are already consuming your time and energy is untenable. Non-participation is not the answer to controversy.

The League of Women Voters of Alaska urges you to keep faith with the citizens of Alaska who support the ideals of this conference and wish to continue the State's participation in the White House Conference on Families.

Sincerely,

Jean Stassel
Jean Stassel ^{mh}
President
LWV

at y *Ann Ph...*
1980
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RESOLUTION

Whereas the Alaska Home Economics Association and the Future Homemakers of America have supported the National White House Conference on Families for the past year in our programs, and

Whereas this program has aroused deep issues as well as needs throughout our country, and

Since the Alaska Home Economics Association is a force for families,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Home Economics Association will support the State of Alaska's continued participation in the White House Conference on Families to insure the Alaska perspective will be communicated.

Marjorie Schmiege
President Alaska
Home Economics Assn.
Adviser Future
Homemakers of America
1800 Evergreen Ave.
Juneau 99801

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

177 Behrends Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801
May 10, 1980

Governor Jay Hammond
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Hammond,

The Juneau Douglas Branch of the American Association of University Women met today and discussed your recent letter relating to the White House Conference on Families. The members voted unanimously to support Alaska's participation in the National Conference.

Our membership feels that Alaska's unique concerns will not be heard by the nation, if we are not present. Whatever action is taken at the National Conference, Alaska must be there to lend its voice to the proceedings.

Sincerely,

Barbara Potter

Barbara Potter
President A.A.U.W.

May 19, 1980

Dear Governor Hammond

The Juneau Unitarian Fellowship participated in the White House Conference on Families by submitting testimony at the local hearings in Juneau.

We unanimously agreed at our meeting this morning that Alaska should participate in the National Conference.

Sincerely

Cealy Cunningham
Chairperson

Box 458

Douglas Ak 9982

P.O. Box 249

Douglas, Alaska 99824

May 13, 1980

Governor Jay Hammond
Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hammond, and House and Senate members:

I've been informed that Alaska's participation in the White House conference on Families is in question.

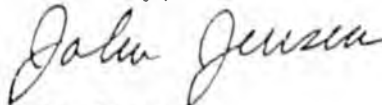
I would strongly urge you to support Alaska's participation in that conference for two reasons:

1. You as lawmakers know that your decisions have an impact on the living patterns and institutions of society. Legislation at all levels--federal, state, and municipal--cannot fail to have impact on families.. In a sense it is not possible to "do nothing," because the consequences of governmental policy reach deeply into society already. The only issue is whether we will face problems squarely.

2. The document prepared by Alaskans comprises the opinions of a wide spectrum of people, containing both liberal and conservative viewpoints. The delegates selected also are representative of nearly all viewpoints and should effectively represent the diversity of opinions within our state.

I hope you will sustain the confidence of people in our state's democratic processes and support our participation in the upcoming conference.

Sincerely,



John Jensen

Assemblyman/City and Borough of Juneau

Susan R. Clark
1109 C Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Governor Jay Hammond
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99811..

9 May 1980

Dear Governor Hammond,

I am disappointed and perplexed that you have proposed Alaska's withdrawal from the national White House Conference on Families. I am concerned that delegates to the State Conference and alternates to the National Conference were not informed of this serious proposal by a letter from you, and many may still be unaware if their local newspapers or media did not pick up on the story.

Speaking for Juneau's involvement, a large spectrum of people gave oral or written testimony or support to the local hearings. Some spent a great deal of time and thought on their presentation with the idea that their contributions would matter. They did. Juneau came up with a position paper which contained both "liberal" and "conservative" concerns, and the three elected delegates were bound by that paper in their actions at the State Conference.


Although some groups would claim that only their families are legitimate ones, I do not feel that most Alaskans believe that families, the basic nurturing unit of our society, can be stereotyped. In fact, nationwide figures show that an employed father, a housewife mother, and children (any number) is only 15% of our nation's families. In Alaska where there is a higher than average incidence of employed women, this percentage is even lower.

Nor do I feel that the scare issues of ERA, abortion and gay rights are a significant part of the Conference outcome. None were targeted as major issue areas by any panel, and the latter two were mentioned only by the first panel and in a conservative context. The ERA is simply a fact of Alaskan life and law since our own state ERA was passed eight years ago. The conference was at times frustrating to people of all persuasions, but it was on the whole a democratic process, and the concluding document is a democratic document. It cannot fail, therefore, to contain things with which we may not all agree, but to censor or alter it in any way now would cause even more distrust of government.

Special attention was given at the Conference to the needs and concerns of our native peoples. Rosita Worl and Mary Jane Fate were excellent and informative keynote speakers there. Alaska's Native and rural people have unique family concerns which will not be heard at the national level if we are to withdraw.

Please reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Susan R. Clark, alternate delegate to
the National Conference

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND THE
MAINTENANCE OF FAMILIES

by

Rosita Worl

Presented to the
White House Conference on Families
Anchorage, Alaska
March 28, 1980

The social ramifications of government intervention on family structure are both constructive and destructive; planned and inadvertent; excessive and inadequate; and responsive and repressive. Because of their special and unique relationship to the federal government, American Indians and Alaska Natives have been directly and intimately affected by government policy. The government has the power to aggregate, disperse, and displace Native American families. I would like to make it explicitly clear that I am not speaking of an infamous "black page" in American history, but rather of ongoing processes which continue to affect the survival of families.

Governmental practices continue to allow the removal of Native children from their homes and even communities. In 1973, the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs' Subcommittee on Indian Affairs received reports that alarmingly high percentages of Indian children were being separated from their parents through actions of non-tribal governmental agencies. Studies by the Association on American Indian Affairs, state welfare offices, and private child welfare groups indicated that in some areas as many as 25 percent of all Indian children are being placed in institutions or in foster or adoptive homes, usually with non-Native families (Senate Select Committee Report on S. 1214, The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977).

During the enrollment of Alaska Native shareholders under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act, Alaska Natives were shocked to learn of the high number of Native infants who were systematically placed in non-Native adoptive homes. The concept of "illegitimate child" did not exist in many parts of Alaska until white missionaries

introduced it. The idea of a "fatherless child" was viewed as the ultimate absurdity. Zealous individuals pressured Native girls to give up their "fatherless children" instead of allowing them or other family members to care for the children, which has been the traditional pattern.

Although the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977, enacted to deter these mass removals, established legislative standards to govern the placement of Native children in foster or adoptive care settings, Native children continue to be removed from their homes and communities through a host of different programs. Church-sponsored programs of many kinds aggressively recruit and remove Native children from their homes and communities. Native families are subject to the close scrutiny of welfare agents who hold different concepts about kinship, family, and children. Judicial decisions appear to favor non-Native parents in cases in which Native and non-Native parents separate. Also, in spite of the Molly Hootch case, many Native children are still forced to leave their homes and communities to reside in boarding school facilities because the law requires them to attend school, and no local program is available. Currently, we have generations of Natives who were thus displaced at critical times of their lives. Because of this, they were denied the experience of living as a member of a family unit, and they cannot be expected to provide as healthy a family environment as they might have otherwise.

The educational process itself erodes Native value systems and ideas of family and community. Education teaches culture, and the education provided by white America for Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos has always been aimed at teaching Western culture, the ideologies of which are founded on competition rather than cooperation and on individualism

rather than the group. I suggest that Americans concerned about the disintegration of the family unit should analyze the effects of the system of values and attitudes which encourages individualism.

At this point I would like to demonstrate how legislative action based on the American concept of individualism can serve to divide families. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, each Native individual was enrolled as a shareholder. However, the legislation did not allow children born after 1971 to be enrolled. Several thousand Native children born after the passage of the act have been disenfranchised from their entitlement and equal participation in political and economic Native corporations organized under ANCSA. In a single family, some children will participate while others will not. Such discrimination is bound to generate divisiveness and conflict among family members and in the larger community.

I make no attempt to delineate the various patterns of family organization found among Alaskan Inupiat, Yupik, Aleut, Athapaskan, Tlingit, Tshimpshian, or Haida. The forms, organization, and composition of Alaska Native families are diverse and complex. Each group has adopted kinship systems which have perpetuated their survival. Traditional family forms among Alaska Natives include matrilineal, patrilineal, or bilateral extended families. The concept of traditional families takes different forms and meanings in different societies. I would like to emphasize that families are distinct from household units; families may be dispersed through several households but continue to interact as a single family unit. However, government policies appear to equate families with households and develop laws and regulations oriented toward the single household unit. In Native and many other

ethnic communities, modes of affiliation, reciprocity, and familial relations have different residential patterns. Furthermore, functions which the larger society has delegated to institutional agencies, such as child welfare and old-age offices, are still maintained by the families and communities which have remained culturally intact.

The government has a clear policy of protecting the environment, but no policy exists to protect the family. Whenever developments or legislation which may alter the environment are proposed, voluminous environmental impact statements are drafted and evaluated. However, these same environmental impact statements ignore the impacts, stress, and tension that will be placed on families.

Alaskan families are facing and will continue to face rapid and extensive pressures for change, most immediately those associated with outer continental shelf and other oil and gas projects. Negative impacts on families experiencing rapid and extensive change will be rampant in the state, and social disintegration, social illness, and family traumas manifesting themselves in alcoholism and violence will be the consequences. The government has been grossly negligent in delineating and recognizing such social ramifications. I maintain that governments must analyze the scope of the economic policies and resulting impacts on families as well as those from legislative, administrative, and judicial decisions. Once these are identified, we must seek remedies and mitigative measures to minimize the negative impacts on families.

Family organizations differ in our diverse and pluralistic society and should not be forced into one dominant ideological mold. The maintenance of family units, in whatever form, has been the foundation and strength of America.

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****COPY****

ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HR 20

2ND SESSION 11TH LEG

5/16/80 11:40 A

23 YEAS 12 NAYS 5 N/V

N	ANDERSON	Y	ELIASON	N	MARTIN	A	FARR
N	BARNES	N	FREEMAN	Y	MEEKINS	Y	PHILLIPS
N	BEIRNE	Y	FULLER	N	METCALFE	N	RANDOLPH
N	BETTISWORTH	Y	GARDINER	Y	MILES	Y	ROGERS
A	BRANSON	Y	GUY	Y	MILLER	Y	SCHAEFFER
A	BROWN	Y	HALFORD	N	MONTGOMERY	Y	SMITH
Y	BUCHHOLDT	A	HAUGEN	Y	MOSS	Y	ZHAROFF
Y	CARNEY	N	HAYES	Y	MUNSON		
N	CHATTERTON	N	HURLBERT	A	O'CONNELL		
Y	COTTEN	Y	MCKINNON	Y	OSTERBACK		
Y	DUNCAN	Y	MALONE	Y	PARKER		

+ VOTED FOR

* CHANGED VOTE

SSRA BOX 78 H
Anchorage, AK 99507

May 9, 1980

Honorable Jay Hammond
Office of the Governor
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:


It has come to my attention that you are considering withdrawing the Alaskan delegation to the White House Conference on Families. I wish to inform you that AAW could not support that action.

The Conference was called to identify ways to strengthen and support American families. It is important that we have the opportunity to meet with scholars, professionals and policy makers to assess the current status of public and private programs which affect our families. Controversial issues may well be addressed; but what better way to air diverse opinions than in an open forum such as this conference?

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I urge you to reconsider your position and encourage Alaskan delegates to participate in this important dialogue with government.

Very truly yours,


Janice L. Foster, President
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Sincerely,

Juneau Legal Women

cc: Betty Davis
Walter Soboloff
Mrs. Paul Glover



1979 - '80

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Sally Kookesh
Grand 2nd Vice President

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PO Box 496
Haines, Alaska 99827

April 11, 1980

Honorable Governor Jay Hammond
Office of the Governor
120-4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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I would also like to commend your efforts in holding this Conference. It showed that the State has demonstrated its concern for the government role in its relationship to the family life in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

Johanna E. Hotch

Johanna E. Hotch
ANS Grand President

JEH:ly

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GRAND PRESIDENT, EMERITUS
Mildred Spats - Haines

Clara Natkong - Hydaburg

Mary Jones - Ketchikan

Bessie Visaya - Juneau

Lottie Nannauck - Kake

Stella Martin - Juneau

Gertrude Wolfe - Hoonah

Elizabeth Reiner - Matiakalla

Helen Sanderson - Hydaburg

Beth Lewis - Anchorage



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

PAK 5/1

April 28, 1980

OPEN LETTER TO WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES
NATIONAL DELEGATES

Ms. Leslye Korvola
1094 Coppett
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Korvol.:

No matter how one may define "family", most would agree that certain economic, educational, social and societal concerns are common to all families. Beyond these, there are spiritual, moralistic and life-style considerations which draw controversy. Underlying both the controversial and non-controversial issues is the very serious question as to what degree government should involve itself in any of them.

Many have expressed desires that the role of Alaska's delegation to the Conference on Families be expanded to provide a forum for crusading on behalf of controversial issues. Some, for example, would have you take either a militant pro or anti-abortion stance; a militant pro or anti-ERA position; or a militant pro or anti-gay rights posture. While it may be argued that these issues impact families, it would be a serious mistake to let them be perceived as the focus of your efforts. Surely, there are enough non-controversial matters impacting families to deal with without permitting the more controversial to obscure the views of most Alaskans and thus incur increasing opposition to Alaska's participation in the Conference.

Frankly, the entire effort is already fraught with the potential to become simply another exercise which, like many governmental invasions into the lives of its citizens, is conceived in hope, only later to abort in dismay.

In my view, many problems confronting families today lie not in the temperal realm so much as they pertain to impoveritization of the human spirit. As such they are not likely to be significantly impacted by yet another governmental program designed to obscure the problem beneath a flurry of tax dollars. Since this prime root cause of many family ailments transcends the political arena, it cannot, and should not, be addressed by government if we are to maintain a proper separation of church and state. Therefore, I look for no magic resolution of major family problems to flow forth from this conference.

Unlike those who fear the conference will result in some dramatic - or dismaying - federal program which either bolsters or corrodes the family structure, I suspect the effort instead may accomplish little. In view of recent and prospective massive cuthacks in federal spending, fears -- or hopes -- seem exaggerated that costly new proposals more heavily involving government in family life will be funded by the Congress. Accordingly, though I might have preferred that President Carter had not brought the proposal up at all, much less have then lobbed it to us governor, I doubt that the Conference's deliberations will yield an end product which would have major impact.

Nonetheless, there is growing agitation against Alaska's participation in the conference. Several legislators have urged me to withdraw. Recently, the Republican party adopted a platform plank requesting withdrawal, as five other states have done.

In my view, the last thing we Alaskans need at this moment is another divisive issue, real or imaginary. With the aggravations of capital move, d(2), gas pipelines, petrochemicals, stratospheric interest rates, the fish price crash, the economic crunch, and reapportionment, we already have sufficient turmoil. Unfortunately, the Whitehouse Conference on Families seems fertile soil from which such has already sprouted.

In view of this, I selected three delegates who, in my belief, reflected the views of most Alaskans as to what were appropriate positions for the Alaskan delegation to take at the conference. It is my understanding, however, that some delegates have asserted they feel no constraints to stay

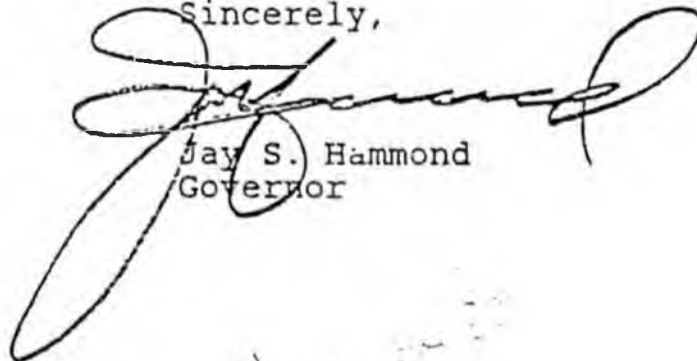
April 28, 1980

within non-controversial boundaries and intend to delve into other issues which many feel do not represent the views of most Alaskans. While it is, of course, permissible for anyone to attend the conference and, as an individual, espouse such views, those who intend to do so under the aegis of the State of Alaska would not, in the view of most Alaskans, serve the State's best interests.

Before reaching a final decision as to whether I shall concur with their request, I am advising, by copies of this letter, legislators, the Republican party, and a multitude of concerned citizens who have urged Alaska to withdraw from the Conference, that I would ask all nine delegates to meet and review the policy positions you would present to the Conference.

Subsequently, should my three appointed delegates recommend we go forward with participation in the Conference, we should do so; otherwise, we will withdraw.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay S. Hammond". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

HCR

15

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER:

March 20, 1979

Date: 27 April 79

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on C&RA has had HCR 15

Relating to employee-occupied state housing.

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Community & Regional Affairs

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Official Business

DATE: 4/27/79

BILL NUMBER AND TITLE: HCR 15 Relating to employee-occupied state housing

ORIGINAL SPONSOR : Parker

OTHER SPONSORS:

RECEIVED FROM:

FURTHER REFERRALS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Parker X
Margaret Branson X
Pat O'Connell X

Pat Carney X
Charlie Parr
Fred Zharoff X
Ray Metcalfe X

INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

WITNESSES TESTIFYING:

The resolution was circulated for recommendations of committee members and passed out.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Passed out of committee.

TAPE # 8 SIDE 1 Sections 1

HCR

45

COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

HOUSE

2/14/80

FURTHER:

Date: 27 Feb 80

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS has had SSHCR 45

"Relating to the senior citizen tax exemption."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE:

By: House C&RA

To: Finance HOUSE BILL No. SSHCR 45

SENATE BILL No. _____

PAGE: 1

LINE: 18

Insert additional paragraph to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that qualifying residents 65 years of age or over who because of administrative interpretation and guidelines did not receive full exemption from municipal property tax for real property owned and occupied receive payment, retroactive to January 1, 1973, for such taxes. Reimbursement for such retroactive payments will be as provided for in AS 29.53.020 (c).



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Community & Regional Affairs

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE REPORT

The House Community & Regional Affairs Committee recommends that SSHCR 45 relating to the senior citizen tax exemption have a further referral to the House Finance Committee. Further, it is the intent of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee that qualifying residents 65 years of age or over who because of administrative interpretation and guidelines did not receive full exemption from municipal property tax for real property owned and occupied receive payment, retroactive to January 1, 1973, for such taxes. Reimbursement for such retroactive payments should be as provided for as in AS 29.53.020 (g).



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Pouch V
State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Official Business

Community & Regional Affairs

BILL NUMBER AND TITLE: SSHCR 45 Re Senior Citizen's Tax Exemption

ORIGINAL SPONSOR: Malone, Beirne, ^{Chatterton, Montgomery, Munson, Phillips}
RECEIVED FROM: _____ OTHER SPONSORS: _____
FURTHER REFERRALS: _____

HEARING DATE: Feb. 22, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Parker X Pat Carney
Margaret Branson X Charlie Parr X
Pat O'Connell X Fred Zharoff X
Ray Metcalfe X

The Committee preceeded discussion of the bill with an overview of a report on the subject of exemptions prepared by the Dept. of C&RA, "An Examination of Property Tax Exemptions" by Terry Early, State Assessor. The questions related to exemptions were discussed and the "circuit breaker" legislation included in the material was outlined. The Dept. reiterated its opposition to further exemptions wich erode the tax base and shift the burden of taxation to others in the community. Early stated that senior citizens exemptions should be based on need. And that property tax should be based on ability to pay. There are currently 3 different approaches used to tax boats--the Municipal League is working on a solution to this problem. The problem with the current optional exemption to the property tax is that the resource rich communities benefit. There should be some consideration given to payment in lieu of taxes for communities which have a preponderance of state & federally owned facilities.

The word " contiguous" was removed in the SSHCR45. One of the problems with the bill is that a subdivider can hold the land in tax exempt status.

Parr- Discusses history of "circuit breaker" approach. It started in the Midwest in an attempt to help low income persons. In Michigan if the taxes exceed 3% of income, the state will reimburse 60%.

Early - The state currently reimburses for 1 acre urban land and 5 acres rural land. The Dept. believes there should be a limit on the amount of land which is tax free. 70% of the money in Anch. goes to one individual. How much are we willing to subsidize?

Metcalfe - There should be some provision for those who hold leasehold interests in land which are not saleable. The base exemption should be on the value rather than on the property size.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Adopted Parr's amendment. Recommends a further referral to Finance Committee and a redo of the fiscal note.
TAPE # _____ SIDE _____ Footage _____

Parr- The transferred payments question should be looked at. Leave room for the municipalities to decide what they want to do. State shouldn't be making all those decisions. Local government should have discretion.

Plotnick, Office of Aging
Favors SSHCR 45. Programs for the elderly should be based on need but Seniors are generally in need. The exemption is actually more valuable than the longevity bonus. Your home is your castle.

Metcalf - Value of property should be determinent.

Plotnick- Estate taxes will take more than this situation.

Malone - On the question of senior citizen's exemption being based on need, it is not necessarily based on need but rather public policy as benefit for a certain category of people. The intent of the resolution is that the property owned and occupied as permanent place of abode be exempt. There is no intent of changing the law rather to clarify it. Malone reviews the history of the law as addressed in letter from J. Chenoweth.

The question was raised whether or not there should be a provision added to the resolution stating that administrative guidelines contrary to the intent of the law should not be promulgated. Malone responds that the administrative regs were actually made ineffective by the Pegues memo on the subject and that it has been determined that resolutions are not appropriate mechanisms for repealing regulations.

People who should have received exemptions should probably receive it retroactively.

Malone cites the law which has two distinct parts:

1. Provides eligible residents are entitled as a matter of law to the exemption
2. provides that the legislative appropriate money to fill loss of revenue to the municipalities--reimbursement subject to funding by the legislature.. Therefore, if there isn't enough money, the senior is still entitled to the exemption. Advise people that they are entitled to reimbursements. Municipalities could absorb but a supplemental may be in order by the state.

Parr- Amend to add " Be it further resolved that qualifying residents 65 years of age and older who because of administrative interpretation did not receive the full amount of the exemption, be reimbursed.

Redo fiscal note and ask for Finance Committee referral.

Fiscal note for an existing law is unusual (Parr)

Dove Kull testifies in support of the bill.

Decision made by sponsor, Rep. Malone to deal with amendment in the form of a letter of intent to the Finance Committee.



ombudsman

Frank Flavin

State of Alaska

October 26, 1979

Palmer McCarter
Director
Division of Local Government Assistance
Department of Community and Regional Affairs
Pouch B
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Reply to:

- 840 K Street, Room 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-4011
- Pouch W0
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4970
- P.O. Box 74358
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(907) 452-4001

Re: Ombudsman Complaint A79-0788
(Pending)

Dear Mr. McCarter:

On July 24, 1979, this office received a complaint alleging that the State Assessor has arbitrarily limited the senior citizens property tax exemption to one acre in urban areas and five acres in rural areas. According to the complainant, the State Assessor does not have statutory authority under AS 29.53.020 (e) to impose such a limitation on the property tax exemption granted to senior citizens.

Please take notice that this complaint has been fully investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman, and has been found to be Justified.

In our investigation of this complaint, we found that the property tax exemption in question is based on AS 29.53.020 (e) which states:

The real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode by a resident 65 years of age or over is exempt from taxation of the assessed value of the real property. Only one exemption may be granted with respect to the same property and, if two or more persons are eligible for an exemption with respect to the same property, the parties shall decide between or among themselves which shall receive the benefit of the exemption. No real property may be exempted under this subsection which the assessor determines, after notice and hearing to the parties concerned, has been conveyed to the applicant primarily for the purpose of obtaining the exemption. The determination of the assessor is appealable under AS 44.62.560 - 44.62.570. (emphasis added)

When this law was originally enacted in 1972, it contained a provision to limit the exemption to those individuals with an annual income of less than \$10,000.00. That provision was repealed in 1973. In 1976 the legislature passed an amendment to limit the exemption to the upper third quartile of assessed values in the state during the previous year. However, this provision was repealed during the 1977 Legislative Session, retroactive to January 1, 1977. Thus the quartile system was never

Page two

placed in effect.

The only limitation stated in the present statute on the amount of land to be included in the exemption is the phrase "real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode." The last two sentences of subsection (e) are clearly intended to prohibit the fraudulent transfer of real property to senior citizens for the purpose of avoiding taxes. As currently written, AS 29.53.020 (e) contains no mention of, or reference to, any specific acreage limitation on the amount of "real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode."

Shortly after this statute was first enacted, the State Assessor began utilizing administrative guidelines to impose an acreage limitation on the amount of land that senior citizens claimed as their permanent place of abode. These guidelines were based on the argument that the amount of land in the exemption must be strictly construed pursuant to 19 AAC 35.120 (4) of the Alaska Administrative Code. Subsection (4) of that Regulation, adopted in 1973, defines "permanent place of abode" as "a dwelling, or a dwelling unit in a multiple dwelling, including lots and outbuildings, or an appropriate portion thereof, which are necessary to convenient use of the dwelling unit." Since the Regulation does not contain mention of any specific acreage limitation, administrative guidelines were used to limit the exemption to one acre in urban areas and five acres in rural areas.

Over the years, at least three municipalities attempted to give full exemptions to senior citizens living on parcels larger than the one-acre and five-acre limitations. These municipalities took the position that the State did not have the statutory authority to limit the exemption to a specific number of acres. The State Assessor dissuaded the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough from exempting large parcels by threatening to reject their reimbursement requests. In 1977, however, the State reimbursed the Kenai Borough on the basis of the full amount of the property claimed by senior citizens rather than the one-acre and five-acre formula. Due to the controversy surrounding the use of administrative guidelines to justify an acreage limit, the State Assessor drafted an amendment to 19 AAC 35.120 (4) which would have further defined "permanent place of abode" as "limited to not more than one acre if urban nor more than five acres if rural."

This proposed change in the Regulations met with strong opposition and in early 1978 the Legislature's Administrative Regulation Review Committee held hearings on the proposed amendment. After an exhaustive search, the Legislative Counsel could find no evidence to support the contention that the Legislature had ever intended a specific acreage limitation on the senior citizens exemption. In a written opinion, the Legislative Counsel concluded:

there appears to be no basis in law by which the state assessor may direct or authorize local assessors to give approval to less than the entire parcel shown by an otherwise qualified applicant to be his or her permanent place of abode.

Page three

After the March 1978 hearings, members of the Administrative Regulation Review Committee were divided on the issue of whether there should be an acreage limitation. The only point agreed upon by the Committee was that if such an acreage limitation is to be instituted it must be written into the statute, not adopted by regulation or administrative guideline. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the Legislature for consideration as an amendment to the statute. A bill to amend the statute was introduced in the 1978 session, but no final action was taken on it. So the State Assessor continued to administer the one-acre and five-acre limitations through the use of administrative guidelines. This resulted in the filing of a complaint with the Ombudsman and initiation of the present investigation.

In responding to our original inquiry regarding this complaint, the State Assessor asserted that the one acre and five acre limitation was mandated by the municipalities. Several municipal tax assessors assert, on the other hand, that the State Assessor forced this formula on the municipalities. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs requested an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on the agency's authority to impose a specific acreage limitation.

In an opinion dated August 17, 1979, Assistant Attorney General Rodger W. Pegues wrote that the State Assessor's one-acre and five-acre limitation "comports" with the purpose expressed in the phrase "owned and occupied" in the statute. Mr. Pegues justified his assertion not on the basis of specific reference to evidence of legislative intent but rather on the supposition that "we do not believe that a windfall for holders of vast tracts of land was intended or that the exemption was designed to encourage speculation in realty and the withdrawal of large tracts from the market." Mr. Pegues concluded that if the State Assessor's language of limitation were incorporated into the agency's regulations "as an interpretation of AS 29.53.020 (e), it would survive judicial scrutiny. However, until it is adopted as a regulation under the Administrative Procedure Act, it can have no legal force or effect on a person claiming the exemption." The Attorney General's opinion also suggested that if the Assessor has consistently interpreted AS 29.53.020 (e) as incorporating the one-acre and five-acre limitation, "the interpretive regulation can be given retroactive effect when it is adopted."

On the basis of the above-cited opinion, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs recently announced that it will hold public hearings for the purpose of amending the definition of "permanent place of abode" (19 AAC 35.120 (4)) to include the one and five acre limitations. That is precisely what the agency attempted unsuccessfully to do in early 1978. The agency's present course of action runs contrary to the recommendation made to the agency by the Legislature's Administrative Regulation Review Committee in 1978.

FINDING: We find the complaint to be Justified. We find the phrase "real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode" in AS 29.53.020 (e) to be clear on its face. We found no evidence of legislative intent and no persuasive interpretive rules to indicate that the legislature meant the phrase to authorize a specific acreage limitation.

The present statute should be applied as written: without an acreage limitation.

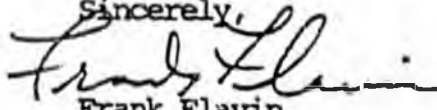
We also find that the definition of "permanent place of abode" in the Regulations (19 AAC 35.120 (4)) is in conflict with the language of the statute since "necessary to convenient use" implies a limitation of the exemption. In a similar manner, the State Assessor's "administrative guidelines," which have been used in the past to justify the one-acre and five-acre limitation, are also in conflict with the language and intent of the statute.

We find that the agency, by administratively imposing a limitation on a general tax exemption granted to a specific group of citizens, has infringed upon the functions of the Legislature. Tax relief is a question for legislators to decide, not a policy matter that should be decided by administrative officials. The State Tax Assessor and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs have assumed a taxing role by implementing specific acreage limitations on the Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption. For this reason we find the agency's actions to be arbitrary and an abuse of administrative powers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We recommend that the Department of Community and Regional Affairs desist from enforcing the one-acre and five-acre "administrative guidelines" which are counter to the language of the statute.
2. We recommend that the agency not adopt the proposed change in 19 AAC 35.120 (4) which would further define "permanent place of abode" as "limited to not more than one acre if urban, nor more than five acres if rural."
3. We recommend that the agency amend 19 AAC 35.120 (4) to eliminate the phrase "which are necessary to convenient use of the dwelling unit" from the definition of "Permanent place of abode."
4. We recommend that if the agency believes there should be an acreage limitation on the Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption, then the agency should address the issue by asking the Governor to introduce a bill to amend AS 29.53.020 (e) in the forthcoming session.

Since this report of our findings contains formal recommendations made by this office, may we have a response from you within thirty days, pursuant to AS 24.55.190 (b) and AS 24.55.200. Should you wish to discuss any part of this report, please feel free to call me at 276-4011.

Sincerely,

Frank Flavin
Ombudsman

FF/RB/jm

cc: Terry Earley, State Assessor
Don Gilman, Mayor, Kenai Peninsula Borough
Pat McKee, Assessor, Municipality of Anchorage

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 1978

SUBJECT: Acreage limitations on senior citizen property tax exemption applications.

TO: Representative Hugh Malone, Speaker
House of Representatives

FROM: John B. Chenoweth
Legislative Counsel

You have been asked by a constituent to comment on the validity of a determination by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs providing only a partial exemption to homestead property under the senior citizens property tax exemption program, AS 29.53.020(e) - (i). The constituent apparently received approval of a portion of his homestead, but the entirety of the parcel was not approved, thereby requiring a payment by him of a portion of the tax.

The applicable statutes are AS 29.53.020(e) and (f):

(e) The real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode by a resident 65 years of age or over is exempt from taxation of the assessed value of the real property. Only one exemption may be granted with respect to the same property and, if two or more persons are eligible for an exemption with respect to the same property, the parties shall decide between or among themselves which shall receive the benefit of the exemption. No real property may be exempted under this subsection which the assessor determines, after notice and hearing to the parties concerned, has been conveyed to the applicant primarily for the purpose of obtaining the exemption. The determination of the assessor is appealable under AS 44.62.560 - 44.62.570.

January 21, 1978

- . (f) No exemption may be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form prescribed by the state assessor for use by local assessors. The claimant must file the application no later than January 15 of the assessment year for which the exemption is sought, but during the same year the governing body of the municipality for good cause shown may waive the claimant's failure to make timely application for the exemption for that year and authorize the assessor to accept the application as if timely filed. The claimant must file a separate application for each assessment year in which the exemption is sought. If an application is filed within the required time and is approved by the assessor, he shall allow an exemption in accordance with the provisions of this section. If a claimant whose failure to file by January 15 of the assessment year has been waived as provided in this subsection and the application for exemption is approved, the amount of tax which the claimant may have already paid for the assessment year with respect to the property exempted shall be refunded to him. The assessor may at any time require proof in the form he considers necessary of the right and amount of an exemption claimed under this section.

To implement the program, the Department had adopted administrative regulations in 19 AAC 35. A definition of "permanent place of abode" is provided in 19 AAC 35.120(4):

"permanent place of abode" means a dwelling, or a dwelling unit in a multiple dwelling, including lots and outbuildings, or an appropriate portion thereof, which are necessary to the convenient use of the dwelling unit;

The underscored language is apparently the basis by which the local assessor or the state assessor determines that less than the entirety of a homestead owned and occupied by a qualifying senior citizen is eligible for the tax exemption.

January 21, 1978

There appears to be no basis in law by which the state assessor may direct or authorize local assessors to give approval to less than the entire parcel shown by an otherwise qualified applicant to be his or her permanent place of abode.

Your courses, as I see them, are these:

(1) you may write to the constituents indicating that they have a right of appeal of the decision of the assessor under the applicable provision of the Administrative Procedure Act;

(2) you may direct, or suggest that the constituents direct, a letter to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, under AS 44.62.220 - 44.62.230, asking amendment of the regulation to repeal the language in the definition of "permanent place of abode" that authorizes exemption of a portion of the applicant's residence parcel;

(3) you may, directly or through the Administrative Regulation Review Committee, seek annulment of the regulation; or

(4) you may submit a bill to make clear that the whole parcel used by an otherwise qualified applicant as his permanent place of abode shall qualify for the exemption, with the bill carrying a retroactive clause to protect the interest of your constituent and others similarly situated.

(Further on this matter, though not directly applicable to the instance you have described: Amendments to the senior citizens property tax exemption pending with the Department of Law make more specific the limitation alluded to. The limitation on acreage which would qualify for the exemption is specifically set at one acre in "urban" areas and five acres in "rural" areas. Apparently, the pending amendments do not otherwise describe or define when an area is "rural" or "urban".)

JBC:jpd

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. SS HCR 45
Title Relating to senior citizen tax exemption
Requested by Malone, et al Date _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Community & Regional Affairs
Program Category Affected Social Services
Budget Request Unit(s) Affected Senior Citizen Tax Relief

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.		67.0	75.0	84.0	94.0	105.0
TOTAL		67.0	75.0	84.0	94.0	105.0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		67.0	75.0	84.0	94.0	105.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

No fiscal impact to administration. Assume the grant requirement will increase about 12% per year.

Grant requirement largely based on estimates from local municipalities.

IV. DATE 2/6/80 PREPARED BY LaDonna Brown
AGENCY Local Government Assistance
PHONE 465-4739
Original: Legislative Finance
cc: Budget and Management
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Community & Regional Affairs

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE REPORT

The House Community & Regional Affairs Committee recommends that SSHCR 45 relating to the senior citizen tax exemption have a further referral to the House Finance Committee. Further, it is the intent of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee that qualifying residents 65 years of age or over who because of administrative interpretation and guidelines did not receive full exemption from municipal property tax for real property owned and occupied receive payment, retroactive to January 1, 1973, for such taxes. Reimbursement for such retroactive payments should be as provided for as in AS 29.53.020 (g).



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Community & Regional Affairs

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: Committee Members
FROM: Rep. Bill Parker, Chairman
DATE: 2/21/80
RE: Property Tax Exemptions

Tomorrow, Feb. 22, the Committee will be hearing SSHCR 45 relating to senior citizen tax exemption. In conjunction with review of this bill, and in light of the fact that the committee will be hearing a number of bills related to property tax exemptions, I would like the committee to consider a report done by the Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs entitled "An Examination of Property Tax Exemptions." (attached)

Pages 2-8 and the Appendix will be particularly pertinent to the discussion. I am interested in your reaction to the proposal by the Dept. to consider a "circuit breaker" approach to the question of property tax relief. (See Appendix)

AN EXAMINATION OF PROPERTY TAX

EXEMPTIONS

Prepared by the

Department of Community and Regional Affairs

Local Government Assistance Division

Office of State Assessor

INDEX

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APPENDIX

Model Circuit Breaker

INTRODUCTION

During the first session of the 11th Legislature, several bills that dealt with exemptions were introduced.

At that time, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs asked for time to study and be able to report on the whole exemption problem before additional erosion of the local tax base is allowed.

The attached report is a synopsis of the information developed by this study, with some recommendations included. Some suggested legislation is also included.

It should be pointed out that this report deals strictly with the major exemption problems. In many cases, the study only points out the problem or suggests several options. The main thrust of the study was not to suggest solutions, but instead, point out problems and offer technical assistance in the development of acceptable solutions by elected officials.

EXEMPTION

Background-Philosophy and Policy

Property tax exemptions are nearly as old as the property tax itself, and are as often misunderstood. The basic description of tax exemption and tax reform is a shifting of the tax burden from one taxpayer to another.

The cost of local government will be about the same regardless of the revenue source and the tax structure used to support it. Whether or not those costs are reasonable is another subject, and is not discussed herein. However, which segment of society pays what portion of that local government cost is very dependent on that tax structure. The net effect of granting property tax exemption is to correspondingly increase the burden on the balance of the taxpayers in direct proportion to the exempted amount.

Originally, exemptions were created to prevent government from taxing itself. The reason being that the public entity should not have to pay taxes to itself. Over the years, the definition of public entity was expanded to include churches, and then with the advent of a more complex society, additional reasons for granting exemptions to special interest groups were established. A proliferation of exemptions to these special interest groups in many areas of the country has added to the unrest over property taxes, and in many instances has increased the burden on the average taxpayer. It is felt that before the State of Alaska proceeds any further down the exemption trail, an attempt should be made to establish priorities and policies. A lack of firm

policy in other states has led to a hodge podge of exemptions that defy logic in some instances (i.e. exemptions extended to Beet Sugar manufacturers, owners of middle income apartment dwellings, and department stores).

Credibility of the property tax has been questioned continuously and with increasing intensity. A major cause of unrest with the tax is the feeling by taxpayers that they are paying more than their fair share. This unrest can only be resolved by a scrupulously equitable and uniform system founded upon the broadest possible tax base.

There are several reasons generally given for allowing the property tax base to be eroded by exemptions. Any of these reasons could be more effectively achieved through more direct and more visible subsidies. Little rationale can be found for increasing the complexity and expense of the assessment process to provide grants-in-aid for whatever worthwhile cause.

As a broad policy statement, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs favors few if any additional exemptions, and feels that all exemption programs should be reviewed in the following context:

ANY EXEMPTION GRANTED MUST EITHER BE FOR PUBLIC PROPERTY OR FOR SUFFICIENT PUBLIC GOOD TO JUSTIFY A TRANSFER OF BURDEN TO THE BALANCE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Additionally, non-uniformity of exemption can create problems.

The current optional exemptions create animosity in taxpayers. Although, in general, the Department is in favor of local control, the optional exemptions are one area where local control causes more problems than it solves.

Taxpayers have a tendency to brag about any tax break they get, and those who don't get the same breaks are generally upset. Fairbanks taxpayers don't think they should pay sales tax because Anchorage doesn't, and Anchorage wants a \$10,000 residential exemption because Fairbanks has one. Also, some select communities can grant additional optional exemptions, and the only loss in revenue is to the State General Fund (see discussion of residential exemptions on page 14).

Based on the stated policy and philosophy in this section, the following are discussions of what are considered to be the major exemption problems currently facing the local assessor in Alaska.

SENIOR CITIZENS AND OTHER GROUPS

Current statutes providing for property tax relief to senior citizens do not appear to be as equitable as is desirable. Any revision to these specific programs will require decisions as to the reason for the exemption at the very beginning.

There appear to be several reasons for exempting Senior Citizens.

The three major reasons are:

1) They are, in many cases, on a fixed income and cannot absorb property taxes increased by inflation.

2) It is considered desirable to provide tax relief as an incentive to continue as residents of the State of Alaska.

3) It is considerably less expensive to assist a senior citizen to maintain their own home than to have them reside in a state supported facility.

Other reasons sometimes advanced such as:

Showing our esteem for and gratitude to the pioneers
of the state or

Rewarding our wartime veterans

are better left to the normal grant-in-aid type programs.

Once the reasons for the exemption are established, the next logical area for examination becomes other groups also deserving of this type of exemption and meeting the same criteria. There

are at least two categories that have been mentioned recently, they are; Disabled Veterans and Indigent Persons. Therefore, some sort of master plan or master policy should be developed that is capable of dealing effectively and equitably with each of these groups on some basis.

The next consideration has to be one of equity and what is a proper measure thereof.

The major reasons listed earlier seem to indicate that the effectiveness of this type of program should probably be based on need.

The next step would appear to be to examine the current programs to determine if they meet this criteria:

SENIOR CITIZEN HOMEOWNERS

The Senior Citizen Homeowner is exempted from paying property tax on his residence, with some limits on the amount of acreage, but no limits on the dollar amounts. In 1978 this averaged approximately \$586 per applicant. However, the range of tax dollars saved ran from a high of \$6,245 to a low of \$3.35.

SENIOR CITIZEN RENTER

The Senior Citizen Renter is rebated a portion of the previous year's rent based on a formula which is: $1/2$ the current millage

rate, in municipality where the senior resides, (taken as a percentage) multiplied by the rent paid. A practical example of this formula is as follows:

Local Millage x 1/2 as percentage x Rent Paid = Rebate

$$15 \text{ Mill} \quad \times \quad (1/2) \quad = \quad 7.5\% \quad \times \quad \$3,600 \quad = \quad \$270$$

This rebate, however, is limited to a maximum of \$375 per year, per applicant. The average rebate from 1978 was \$181 per person.

It is very obvious that there are inequities within this system as it now exists. It does not seem reasonable that the average savings in one program is larger than the maximum allowable under the other program. Also the Senior Citizen Homeowner Program is for the current year and the senior doesn't have to pay out any cash whereas the renter pays out money and is rebated. Still another apparent problem is lack of any criteria dealing with ability to pay. Under the current system are rebating \$6,000 plus to several homeowners but limiting renters to a maximum of \$375. By establishing some kind of income criteria, the same amount of benefits might be distributed more equitably among senior citizens.

In many areas of the country a "circuit breaker" type exemption program has been instituted and seems to work relatively well in most instances.

There is a major difference between administration of a circuit breaker and our current system. The circuit breaker concept, although simple in nature, can be designed to meet numerous criteria. It could provide a limited property tax relief to low income taxpayers and more substantial relief to senior citizens and disabled veterans if that was the desired effect.

This circuit breaker can be modified to provide many kinds of relief to many segments of society depending on the financial capabilities and the desires of the legislature. Because of billing and filing dates in Alaska it would have to be done as a rebate like the renters now is. This is not the optimum, but because of the improved equity this problem might be overlooked. Also the administration might better be handled by the Department of Revenue as opposed to present location, however, it is possible to leave administration with Community and Regional Affairs.

The appendix includes a suggested model Circuit Breaker Bill.

MOTOR VEHICLES, BOATS, AND PLANES

MOTOR VEHICLES

Assessment and taxation of motor vehicles is treated three different ways by the various municipalities. Some levy an ad valorem (at value) tax, some levy the state collected registration tax which is based on a rate schedule by age of the vehicle, and others do not tax vehicles at all.

The discovery of taxable vehicles is a major problem, in most jurisdictions levying an ad valorem tax on vehicles. It is almost a "volunteer" tax. The owner must declare the vehicle in order for the vehicle to be "discovered" on the tax roll. Investigation for discovery becomes intolerably time consuming and expensive, especially in view of the limited return in revenue for each vehicle.

Putting an equitable value on a vehicle is also a problem. Accurate use of "blue book" requires fairly detailed description of the vehicle and a reasonable estimate of its conditions. Description by the owner is seldom complete and condition remains a guess without personal inspection. Therefore, the jurisdiction is generally inclined to accept the owner's estimate of value.

These problems have the effect of penalizing the more honest taxpayer and subsidizing the less scrupulous, thereby destroying the theory of equally proportionate participation and also the credibility of the tax system.

AS 28.10.255 provides an optional procedure as an alternative to ad valorem tax. The statute allows the municipality to have a registration tax collected by the state at the time the annual state registration fee is collected. The state then retains a portion of the tax collected for administration and pays the remainder to the municipality.

This alternative to ad valorem tax has decreased administration costs substantially for the Municipality of Anchorage.

It appears that the major reason only three municipalities have thus far chosen to exercise this option is objection to the rate schedule provided. This schedule has been tailormade to fit Anchorage ad valorem rates and thus results in a rate per vehicle substantially higher than the comparable rate for ad valorem taxes in most jurisdictions. Obviously, vehicle owners object to the increased tax rate.

Another objection has been that the state collected tax is combined with the registration fee which makes a substantial lump sum payment that is difficult for many taxpayers to meet all at once.

BOATS

The assessment and taxation of boats is not only subject to the same problems as vehicles but also is further complicated by the problems of establishing the tax situs. This many times, requires an elaborate agreement between jurisdictions both interstate and

intrastate. For instance, in the case of a vessel registered in a home port in Washington but fishing the entire season out of Bristol Bay.

The statewide equity in the taxation of boats is further eroded by AS 29.53.025 (1) which allows the jurisdiction the option to levy not more than \$5.00 for a boat less than 5 tons nor more than \$15.00 for a boat of more than 5 tons.

This optional levy provision amounts to much the same thing as exemption from property tax. It can be construed as a tax break to a selected group of small businessmen (fishermen) and a select group of residents (boat dwellers), who demand much the same service (i.e. refuse disposal and police) as do other residents, but because of strong lobbying efforts, do not pay a proportionate share of local government costs.

Current situs provisions further complicate the matter.

29.53.060 states in part "(a) The assessor of a municipality shall assess property at it's full and true value as of January 1 of the assessment year,...". Most assessors feel that that date is an, as of, appraisal date, (the date to which appraisals are tied) as opposed to a situs date, (the date when physical presence is required for taxation).

This, however, is not a universal interpretation and in fact should be made clear.

If in fact, this is a situs date, then many boat owners would

move to non-taxing jurisdictions for that one day to avoid property taxes. Again the honest taxpayer has to pay and the less than honest or more devious taxpayer does not.

PLANES

Aircraft is another category of property that is highly transitory, expensive, and subject to rapid depreciation.

Often municipalities are taxing, at least commercial, aircraft based on "value per average daily landings". Others use a "flat rate" schedule, while some planes are valued at full and true value.

Any or all of these categories of property may be exempted under the "grandfather rights" provision, AS 29.53.052, which allows any exemptions in effect on September 10, 1972 to be continued indefinitely.

MOVABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

All of the items previously discussed in this section fall under the category of movable personal property. This broad heading also includes other types of vehicles such as snow machines and motorcycles etc. Proper administration of a property tax on these personal type vehicles is in many cases thought to cost more than it generates; if in fact it is possible to properly administer a normal property tax on this type of property.

There are two solutions apparent to this problem. They are:

1. Mandatory state registration and flat rate tax collections would provide equity and at the same time is the most economical method for assessment and tax collection for these mobile types of property. This has proven effective with automobiles, if the rate is properly structured.

It is our recommendation that such a mandatory act be adopted.

2. Mandatory exemption: The idea of exempting motor vehicles, boats, and planes would have a severe revenue reducing effect on some municipalities. However, mandatory exemptions must be considered as a viable solution to current problems.

OPTIONAL EXEMPTIONS

Optional exemptions in many cases hinder movement toward more equitable distribution of tax burdens in the state. While these optional exemptions are good window dressing in the eyes of supporters of local control, they are basically a method of shifting the burden locally and in some cases away from that of the local municipality to the balance of the state.

Residential Exemption - The statute provides for an optional exemption of up to \$10,000 on a place of residence. It should be pointed out that almost all of the municipalities that grant this exemption are wealthy in terms of money generated by natural resources. In most of those cases the exemptions are granted at the expense of the balance of the taxpayers of the State. When the cost of government remains static but assessed values are reduced (i.e. residential exemption), normally the millage rates go up. In areas where the state levies 20 mills minus the local rate on oil and gas properties, it is also evident that increases in local rates decrease state revenue. The end result of granting the optional residential exemption is a shifting of the burden from the residential property owner to the business community and the balance of the state. It should also be pointed out that the residential property owners benefiting from this exemption are the same property owners who are already benefiting the most from the natural resource development.

The other types of exemption, although not of the same magnitude,

do cause hard feelings and in some cases can cause lack of growth in those units that are not wealthy enough to grant them. They compound the old adage, "that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer." Those units that can grant optional exemptions can more easily attract new business and increase their tax base while poorer municipalities do not have that advantage.

The Department therefore recommends that the following policy be adopted:

NO ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL EXEMPTIONS BE ADOPTED AND THAT HEARINGS BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH TO ELIMINATING THE OPTIONAL EXEMPTIONS EITHER BY MAKING THEM MANDATORY STATEWIDE OR NON-EXEMPT STATEWIDE.

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

The extensive land and other property holdings of federal and state governments have long been a problem for local governments. Generally speaking, these holdings are exempt from local property taxation.

These exempt properties still require public services provided by local government such as trash removal, police protection, fire protection, etc.

As the percentage of governmental land within these municipalities increase, so does the burden for support of that local government increase on the balance of the taxpayers. Communities that have a large preponderance of state and federally owned facilities, normally speaking, have a tendency towards having higher tax rates than similar municipalities without this percentage of tax exempt properties. Considering that state and federal facilities generally service more than just the community in which these facilities are located, it seems unreasonable that local residents should be forced to bear this disproportionate share of services provided to those facilities.

In some cases, the federal government currently pays fees in lieu of taxes for services provided their facilities. This, however, is not true in all cases.

It would seem reasonable that the State should pay some sort of fee in lieu of taxes at least on improved facilities that create

a need for services. This fee should not necessarily be equivalent to property taxes, but should relate to the cost of the services provided by the local municipality.

APPENDIX

An Act to provide State relief to householders for extraordinary property tax burden.

SECTION I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this act is to provide property tax relief through a system of tax credits and refunds and appropriations from the General Fund to certain persons who own or rent their homesteads.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THIS ACT. (a) "Income" means a sum of Federal adjusted gross income as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and all non-taxable income including but not limited to the amount of capital gains excluded from adjusted gross income; alimony, support money, non-taxable strike benefits, cash public assistance and relief, the gross amount of any pension or annuity, all payments received under Federal Social Security and State unemployment insurance laws, non-taxable interest received from the Federal government or any of its instrumentalities, workman's compensation and a gross amount of "loss of time" insurance. Income does not include gifts from a non-governmental source or surplus foods or other relief in kind supplied by a public or private agency.

(b) "Household" means the association of persons who live in the same dwelling, sharing its furnishings, facilities, accommodations, and expenses. That term does not include bona fide leasees, tenants or roomers and boarders on contract.

(c) "Household income" means all income received by all persons of the household in a calendar year.

(d) "Homestead" means the dwelling, whether owned or rented, and so much of the land surrounding it, not exceeding one acre, if urban, or five acres if rural, as is reasonably necessary for the use of the building as a home and may consist of a portion of a multi-dwelling or multi-purpose building and a part of the land upon which it is built. It does not include personal property such as furniture, furnishings or appliances, but a mobile home or a houseboat may be a homestead.

(e) "Claimant" means a person who has filed a claim under this act and was domiciled in this state for the entire calendar year for which he files for relief under this act. When two or more individuals of a household are able to meet the qualifications for claimant, they may determine among them who the claimant shall be. If they are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the commissioner and his/her decision shall be final.

(f) "Property taxes accrued" means property taxes (exclusive of special assessment, delinquent interest and charges for service) levied on a claimant's homestead in this state in 1980 or any other calendar year thereafter. For purposes of this paragraph, property taxes are levied when the taxes become due and payable. If claimant owns his homestead on the assessment date "property taxes" accrued means taxes levied on the levy date for that year even if the claimant does not own his homestead for the entire year.

When a household owns and occupies two or more different homesteads in this state in the same calendar year, property taxes accrued shall relate only to that property occupied by the household as a

homestead on the levy date. If a homestead is an integral part of a large unit such as a farm or multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building, property taxes accrued shall be that percentage of the total property taxes accrued as the value of the homestead is of the total value. For purposes of this paragraph, "unit" refers to a parcel of property covered by a single tax statement of which the homestead is part.

(g) "Gross rent" means rent actually paid in cash or its equivalent solely for the right of occupancy of the homestead. Exclusive of charges for utilities, services, furniture, furnishings, or personal appliances furnished by the landlord as part of the rental agreement.

When a claimant owns two or more homesteads in a year and does not own his homestead as of the levy date, gross rent shall mean the total rent paid for the homestead most recently rented multiplied by the number whose numerator is twelve and whose denominator is the number of months said homestead has been rented by the claimant. If the landlord and tenants have not dealt with each other at arms-length and the commissioner is satisfied that the gross rent charge is excessive, he/she may adjust the gross rent to a reasonable amount for purposes of this act.

(h) "Rent constituting property taxes accrued" means 20 percent of the gross rent.

(i) "Senior citizen" means an applicant who is 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the levy year.

(j) "Disabled veteran" means a person honorably separated from the military service of the United States whose disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the uniformed services of the United States, and whose disability has been rated by the branch of the service or the Veterans Administration at 50% or more.

SECTION III. CLAIM IS PERSONAL. The right to file a claim under this act shall be personal to the claimant and shall not survive his death, but such right may be exercised on behalf of the claimant by his legal guardian or attorney-in-fact. If the claimant dies after having filed a timely claim, the amount therein shall be disbursed to another member of the household as determined by the commissioner. If the claimant is the only member of his household, the claim may be paid to the executor or administrator. But, if neither is appointed and qualified within two years of the filing of the claim, the amount claimed shall escheat to the State.

SECTION IV. CLAIM IS A REBATE FROM STATE FUNDS. Subject to limitations provided in this act, the claimant may claim, in any year, a rebate for property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued for the preceding year. The amount of the rebate after authorization by the commissioner shall be paid to the claimant from balances retained by the state for general purposes.

SECTION V. FILING DATE. No claim, with respect to property taxes accrued or with respect to rent constituting property taxes accrued, shall be paid or allowed, unless the claim is actually filed with

and in the possession of the department on or before April 15, 1980. Subject to the same conditions and limitations, claims may be filed on or before April 15 with respect to property taxes accrued for the next preceding calendar year.

SECTION VI. SATISFACTION OF OUTSTANDING TAX LIABILITIES. The amount of any claim otherwise payable in this act may be applied by the department against any liability outstanding on the books of the department against the claimant or against his or her spouse who was a member of the claimant's household in the year for which the claim relates.

SECTION VII. ONE CLAIM PER HOUSEHOLD. Only one claimant per household per year shall be entitled to relief under this act.

SECTION VIII. COMPUTATION OF CREDIT. The amount of any claim made pursuant to this act shall be determined as follows:

(a) A senior citizen or disabled veteran is entitled to claim a grant under this act in the amount of property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued upon the homestead not to exceed \$500. Property taxes accrued by a senior citizen or disabled veteran in excess of \$500 are also eligible for claim under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A claimant shall be entitled to reimbursement equal to 60% of the amount by which the property taxes on the homestead or the credit for rental of the homestead for the taxable year exceeds the percentage of the claimants total household income for that

taxable year computed as follows:

<u>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Not over \$5,000	3.5%
Over \$5,000 but not over \$6,000	4.0%
Over \$6,000 but not over \$7,000	4.5%
Over \$7,000 but not over \$8,000	5.0%
Over \$8,000 but nor over \$9,000	5.5%
Over \$9,000	6.0%

(c) No credit under this section shall exceed \$1,500.

(d) The department shall prepare a table under which claims under this act shall be determined. The table shall be published in the department's regulations and shall be placed on the appropriate forms. The amount of the claim as shown in the table for each bracket shall be computed only to the nearest dollar.

(e) The claimant, at his election, shall not be required to record on his claim the amount claimed by him.

(f) The claim allowable of persons making this election shall be computed by the department.

SECTION IX. ADMINISTRATION. The commissioner shall make available suitable forms with instructions for claimants including a form which may be included with or as part of the individual income tax claim. The claim shall be in such form as the commissioner may prescribe.

SECTION X. PROOF OF CLAIM. Every claimant under this act shall supply to the department in support of his claim reasonable proof of rent paid, name and address of owner or managing agent of property rented, property taxes accrued, changes of homestead and a statement that the property taxes accrued and used for these purposes have been, or will be paid by them and that there are no delinquent property taxes on the homestead.

SECTION XI. DENIAL OF CLAIM. If it is determined that a claim is excessive and was filed with fraudulent intent, the claim shall be disallowed in full. If the claim has been paid, the amount paid may be recovered by assessment as income taxes are assessed, and the assessment shall bear interest from the date of payment of the claim until refunded or paid at the rate of one-and-one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) percent per month. The claimant in such case and any person who assisted in the preparation or filing of such excessive claim or supplied information upon which such excessive claim was prepared with fraudulent intent is guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION XII. PUBLIC WELFARE RECIPIENTS EXCLUDED. No claim for refund under this act shall be allowed to any person who is receiving public funds for the payment of taxes or rent during the period for which the claim is filed.

SECTION XIII. DISALLOWANCE OF CERTAIN CLAIMS. A claim shall be disallowed if the department finds that the claimant received title to his homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under this act.

SECTION XIV. AS 29.53.020 (e) through (i) is annulled.

SECTION XV. AS 29.73.060 is annulled.

House District Six Democrats sent the following message to SENATOR KERTULA, District Six; REP. CARNEY, District Six; SENATOR HACKNEY, Senate H.E.S.S.; REP. BUCKHOLDT, House H.E.S.S.; SENATOR SACKETT, Senate Finance; and REP. MEEKINS, House Finance:

THE DEMOCRATS AT A MEETING ON FEBRUARY 2, 1980 UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED THE PACKAGE OF BILLS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SERVICES TO ELDERLY.

SPECIAL CONCERN WAS VOICED FOR PASSAGE OF A STRONG OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION, H.B. 618 AND AN IDENTICAL BILL ON THE SENATE SIDE. THE ONLY OPPOSITION TO THIS BILL APPEARS TO COME FROM SOME OF THE SENIOR CENTERS BECAUSE OF MIS-INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THEIR FUNDING UNDER THE OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION IF ESTABLISHED. WE ARE NOT INFORMED AS TO THE SOURCE OF THIS MIS-INFORMATION, BUT HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT ISSUES FROM A CENTRAL SOURCE.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR A VIABLE AND EFFECTIVE OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

SIGNED

JOHN SHAW

The following telegram was sent through 278-3068 on February 2, 1980 to SENATOR HACKNEY, Chairman Senate H.E.S.S. Committee and to REP. THELMA BUCKHOLDT, House H.E.S.S. Committee:

THE 950 SPONSORED CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS TOOK ACTION ON A NUMBER OF BILLS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR ALASKA'S RESIDENT ELDERLY. THE PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION FROM THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SERVICES TO ELDERLY HAS RECEIVED OUR MEMBERS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT. WE REQUEST ESPECIALLY THE PASSAGE OF A STRONG AND VIABLE OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

FRANK EATON

President

Alaska MUNICIPAL League

TELEPHONES
(907) 586-1325
586-6526

204 N. FRANKLIN ST.
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

2/22/80

to: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

from: Ginny Chitwood, AML Executive Director G.C.

re: senior citizen exemptions

Presently there are differences of opinion on how to determine the amount of the senior citizen property tax exemption. Municipal attorneys have advised that municipalities must exempt the entire parcel. Reimbursement, however, is based on a limited acreage formula. When you mandate exemptions without reimbursement, you cause everyone else's taxes to be raised to make up the difference. The League urges action to clarify the issue. SSHCR 45 is one way to do this.

C&RA

BILL WORK SHEET

BILL NO. SSA/CRA 45 re Senior Citizens Tax Exemption

Received from _____
Referred to _____

Original Sponsor _____
Fiscal Note CRA Requested

Malone (Boyer) 3799

✓ Beane 4948

CONTACTS: ✓ Chatterton 4955 ✓ Morrison 3877

✓ Montgomery 4984 ✓ Phillips 4949

LAA Legal Research Contact _____

✓ Danny Plotnick 4903 (Walter Duke Rowat)

✓ Debbie Baker 3030 (fiscal note) Position requested

✓ Gene Kull 6-2676