

FOLDER NO.

105

**PROPOSED
CONSTITUTION
FOR THE
STATE OF ALASKA**

A Report to the People of Alaska

from

**THE ALASKA
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

College, Alaska, February, 1956

This summary and explanation was prepared to present the basic facts about the proposed Constitution. A copy of the Constitution and ordinances adopted by the Convention may be obtained from the Alaska Statehood Committee, Box 1371, Juneau, Alaska.

Wm A Egan

President

★ Three Questions

Your Constitutional Convention was directed to prepare a Constitution for your approval and "to take all measures necessary or proper for the admission of Alaska as a State of the Union". The Convention has submitted its recommendations in three questions to be answered by the voters of Alaska on one ballot at the Primary Election, April 24, 1956.

1. "Shall the Constitution for the State of Alaska, prepared and agreed upon by the Alaska Constitutional Convention, be adopted?" Yes
No
2. "Shall Ordinance Number Two (Alaska-Tennessee Plan) of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, calling for the immediate election of two United States Senators and one United States Representative, be adopted?" Yes
No
3. "Shall Ordinance Number Three of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, prohibiting the use of fish traps for the taking of salmon for commercial purposes in the coastal waters of the State, be adopted?" Yes
No

★ What Your Vote Will Mean

QUESTION #1

Before Alaska may become a state its Constitution must be approved by the people of Alaska and by the Congress of the United States. If a majority of the voters favor the Constitution, Congress may admit Alaska to the Union at any time. If the voters disapprove the Constitution, it will be necessary to hold another Convention and write a new Constitution before Congress can grant statehood.

QUESTION #2

If the people ratify the Constitution, approval of the Alaska-Tennessee Plan would enable them to take the next step toward statehood without waiting for Congress to act. It follows the example set by Tennessee and other states in providing for sending two Senators and a Representative to Washington next January to present Alaska's claim in person and to take their seats immediately upon favorable action by the Congress. They would be elected at the general election in October, 1956. Since the primary election will already have been held, party nominations will be made by party conventions for this election only. Independent candidates may be nominated by petition in the usual manner.

QUESTION #3

If a majority of the voters approve both the Constitution and Ordinance Number 3, the use of fish traps for commercial fishing for salmon will be prohibited as soon as Alaska becomes a state

★ What the Constitution Means

"We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska."—*Preamble, Constitution of the State of Alaska.*

The Constitution of a state is its most important law. Its authority comes directly from the people whose vote is required to adopt it or to change it. It determines the basic structure of government and the powers and responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. It lays down essential principles and safeguards for the conduct of the public business and guarantees the rights and liberties of all the people.

In writing the Constitution for the State of Alaska, the Convention has determined that:

1. It should embody the best of America's 180 years of experience in self-government;
2. It should fit the special needs and traditions of Alaska;
3. It should be short and flexible, to allow for the great changes that the future will bring to Alaska;
4. It should provide for a government that is energetic in fostering the growth and development of the whole State and the welfare of all the people;
5. It should respect and guard the equal rights and dignity of all citizens.

★ The Basic Design

To accomplish these ends, the Convention prepared a simple plan of state government that is characteristically American.

To make the laws, there is to be a legislature composed of a senate of 20 members elected for four-year terms and a house of representatives of 40 members elected for two-year terms.

To enforce the laws and direct the administration of state affairs, there is to be a governor elected for a four-year term.

To interpret the laws and administer justice, there is to be a single system of courts consisting of a supreme court, a superior court and other courts that the legislature may establish.

The powers of state government are divided among these three departments so that each has full responsibility for its own conduct, yet each can be checked by the others or by the people. All are bound both by the State and by the United States Constitution. All are subject finally, to the absolute control exercised by the people in the polling booth.

This system in its essential features is very similar to that of the national government in Washington. This is because the Convention found that the state governments that worked best were those that conformed most closely to the simple design given to the government of the United States by the Convention that met in Philadelphia in 1787.

★ Highlights of the Constitution

1. A Strong and Liberal Bill of Rights

The first article of the constitution contains such time-tested guarantees of personal rights and individual liberties as the freedom to worship, to speak, to assemble and discuss the policies of government as one sees fit; equal rights, opportunities, and protection for person and property under the law; trial by jury. Special point is made of rights that have become important in recent years: freedom from discrimination with respect to any civil or political right on account of race, color, creed, or national origin; and the right "to fair and just treatment in the course of legislative and executive investigations."

2. A Strong and Representative Legislature

The first legislature under the state constitution will be the first truly representative law-making body in the history of Alaska. The house of representatives is based primarily on population, the senate primarily on area. The twenty senators are allocated among four great natural geographic areas. Each of these areas will elect two senators at large and one additional senator for each pair of districts from which members of the house of representatives are elected. The smaller representative and senate districts within each large district make it certain that the smaller communities as well as the major cities will be represented in each house.

The twenty senators and forty representatives are necessary in order to give fair representation to all parts of the State. The legislature will be larger than the territorial legislature, but much smaller than most state legislatures.

Representation will be kept up to date every ten years by an automatic reapportionment carried out by the governor on the advice of a board representing each of the four major districts and subject to review by the courts. Thus, the constitution guards against what has become a great evil in many states: a legislature that becomes more and more unrepresentative and loses public confidence because it refuses to reapportion itself.

To enable the legislature to pay close, continuing attention to the affairs of a growing state, the constitution provides that it shall meet in regular session for as long as may be necessary every year and that its members shall be paid annual salaries. A legislative council will make studies and prepare programs between sessions.

One of the most important legislative checks is the governor's veto, which may be overridden only by a three-fourths or a two-thirds vote depending on the nature of the measure.

In addition, there are specific limitations and standards that control the action of the legislature with respect

to taxation and finance, natural resources, the organization of state administration and the courts, local government, public officers and employees, and property held by the United States or by native Alaskans.

Finally, the people themselves may, under a very deliberate procedure, enact certain laws by the initiative or reject acts of the legislature by the referendum.

In brief, the State of Alaska will have a legislature with more power to serve and less opportunity to neglect or violate the vital interests of the people of the State than have many of the older states.

3. A Strong and Responsible Executive

The strong legislature is balanced by a strong governor. There will be no independently elected officers, and this will enable the people to hold the governor wholly responsible for the conduct of state administration.

The secretary of state succeeds to the office of governor in case of a vacancy, or acts in the absence or incapacity of the governor. The secretary of state will be nominated in the primaries, but, in order to insure a secretary of state and a governor of the same party, a vote for governor in the general election is a vote for the candidate for secretary of state on the same ticket.

The constitution limits the number of principal executive departments to twenty, thereby avoiding complicated and wasteful hodgepodge of offices, departments and agencies. The governor, subject to veto by the legislature, can reorganize the departments for greater efficiency. The legislature may, if necessary, create boards or commissions outside the principal departments for regulatory or quasi-judicial functions.

Each principal department will be headed by a single executive unless the legislature provides that particular departments shall be headed by boards. Department heads are to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Single department heads will serve at the pleasure of the governor; boards at the head of departments may be removed as provided by law. If a board is authorized to appoint a principal executive officer, the appointment will require the approval of the governor.

4. An Independent and Responsible Judiciary

The court system applies principles laid down by the American Bar Association and other professional and civic groups on the basis of experience with the federal courts and those of the forty-eight states. Its main features are unity, simplicity, efficiency, accessibility and political independence combined with ultimate responsibility to the people. It is carefully designed to eliminate the frustrating delays and technicalities that are common in the complicated court systems of many of the older states.

There will be a supreme court of last resort, a superior court of general jurisdiction sitting in convenient places throughout the State and such other courts as the legislature may create. The supreme court will make the rules for all the courts, subject to the right of the legislature by a two-thirds vote to change rules of practice and procedure. The chief justice, with the assistance of an administrative director, will be responsible for the efficient administration of the entire judicial system. Provisions of this kind in the New Jersey constitution of

1947 transformed one of the most inefficient and costly state court systems into one of the most efficient.

The method of selecting judges has behind it years of successful experience in Missouri and California. The governor will appoint the judges from nominees presented to him by a judicial council composed of three laymen appointed by the governor with the consent of the legislature, three attorneys named by the organized bar, and the chief justice.

Three years after his first appointment a judge, to remain in office, must submit his name to the voters of the state or of his district for approval or rejection. After that a superior court judge must submit his name every six years and a supreme court judge every ten years. This makes the judges responsible to the people without subjecting them to partisan politics or unseemly competitive campaigns for election.

A judge may be impeached or removed for demonstrated incapacity to perform his duties. Judges will retire at the age of seventy.

In addition to nominating judges, the judicial council will conduct studies and make reports and recommendations for improving the administration of justice.

5. The Right to Vote

The voting age is fixed at nineteen, when most young people have completed high school and started supporting themselves. The residence requirement is one year in the State and thirty days in the election district. A voter must be able to read or speak English and may be required to register. Additional voting qualifications may, as in the past, be required for local bond issue elections.

6. Health, Education and Welfare

The special importance of public schools and of provisions for public health and public welfare is recognized in Article VII. The legislature is directed to provide for meeting these needs, and in so doing may determine whether the departments administering them shall be headed by boards or by single executives appointed by the governor.

The public schools must be free from sectarian control, and no public money may go to the direct benefit of any private educational institution.

The University of Alaska is to be the state university, governed by a board of regents appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature.

7. Administering the State's Natural Resources

The future wealth of the State of Alaska will depend largely on how it administers the immense and varied resources to which it will fall heir. Article VIII of the constitution provides standards for the use, conservation and development of natural resources, including lands, minerals, forests, fish, wildlife, and waters.

The article's primary purpose is to balance maximum use of natural resources with their continued availability to future generations. In keeping with that purpose, all replenishable resources are to be administered, insofar as practicable, on the sustained yield principle. This includes fish, forests, wildlife and grasslands, among others.

The constitution's treatment of mining is a direct reflection of Congressional thinking, as shown by recent

Statehood enabling bills. The Congress favors State retention of mineral rights in State lands and has proposed Federal land grants to the State on that basis. The Constitution, therefore, gives flexible treatment to the subject in order that amendment will not be necessary if Congressional thinking should change. In either event, the familiar Federal concepts of discovery and appropriation will be followed by the State in the creation of mining rights. Likewise, water rights will be based on appropriation and use.

Under Enabling Bill provisions the State will fall heir to existing Federal mining leases, including oil leases, and will receive immediate income from those sources.

All leases or disposals of state lands or interests are made subject to procedures to protect the public interest and the rights of all citizens in the public domain or in property rights previously acquired. The grant of any exclusive right or special privilege of fishery in the natural waters of the State is forbidden.

8. Public Finance

The convention sought to lay a constitutional basis for sound and prudent tax and spending policies and to avoid restrictions that have nearly hamstrung some state and local governments. It therefore rejected rigid tax and debt limits and forbade creation of dedicated funds for specific functions.

Save for exempted property used for non-profit, religious, charitable, cemetery or educational purposes, the legislature may determine the kinds and subjects of taxation and prescribe standards for appraisal of property for state or local tax purposes. No public money, property or credit may be used or disposed of except for a public purpose.

Subject to certain exceptions, the state and its political subdivisions may borrow money only for capital improvements, and then only with the consent of the voters. The exceptions permit borrowing by law for certain short-term or emergency purposes and the issuance of bonds supported wholly by the revenues of a public enterprise or corporation or by special assessments on benefited property.

In accordance with the best modern practice, the constitution requires the governor to submit to the legislature a comprehensive executive budget covering all state income and expenditures. The legislature is directed to appoint an auditor to maintain a check upon the governor and his departments.

9. Local Self-Government

The convention sought to provide for a simple, flexible system of local government adapted to the needs of the people of Alaska. It was determined to guard against the creation of unnecessary local units and taxing authorities or the establishment of anything like the typical county with its tight unchangeable boundaries, its heavy overhead of elected officials and independent boards, and its inadequate powers and finances.

There will be just two classes of local governments: boroughs and cities. While Alaska will be divided into a limited number of boroughs, full scale borough governments will be organized only as the need for borough-wide services and the means to support them arise.

Organized boroughs will be governed by elected assemblies. Cooperation between a borough and cities within it is encouraged by provisions for inter-governmental agreements and for representation of members of city councils on borough assemblies.

First class boroughs and cities and others designated by the legislature will have home rule. This means that they will have the right to draw up their own charters and to exercise any governmental powers not denied to them by law or charter.

Communities that are not ready for city government may be permitted to set up service areas under the supervision of the assembly in an organized borough, or under state supervision, if in an unorganized borough. This will prevent the multiplication of independent special districts, uncoordinated with either of the two basic units of local government

Local boundaries may be adjusted through action by a local boundary commission, subject to reversal by the legislature. This method was decided on as a result of a study of experience in both the United States and Canada.

10. Keeping the Constitution Up-To-Date

The constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature with approval by the people.

Recognizing the right of the people to take a fresh look at their basic law at reasonable intervals, the convention provided for a popular vote every ten years on the calling of a constitutional convention. The holding of a convention cannot be thwarted nor its proper powers restricted, as in many states, by an unsympathetic legislature.

The nature of the constitution should make frequent amendment unnecessary. The proposed document, unlike many state constitutions, is confined to basic policy and structure of government, leaving it to the legislature and the courts to round out and adapt the system to changing conditions. Many matters that require constitutional amendment in other states can be taken care of by law or by virtue of automatic self-executing provisions in the constitution itself. Legislative reapportionment, changes in local government powers and boundaries, reorganization within the executive and judicial branches, changes in the tax system, even borrowing money, are examples.

11. A People's Document

The people will be firmly in the driver's seat when the constitution goes into effect. They will be protected against oppressive or excessive governmental action by the limitations in the constitution and by the checks and balances among the governor, the legislature and the courts.

An even more important check is the power of the people at the polls.

Of somewhat similar effect are the provisions for the initiative and referendum, the requirement of a referendum on debt, the popular vote on constitutional amendments or revisions and on the calling of a convention, and the home rule charter rights of the larger boroughs and cities.

DA
February 9, 1956

Executive Committee
Alaska Statehood Committee
Fairbanks, Alaska

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to a motion passed by the Constitutional Convention, President Egan appointed a Ratification Committee to stay on a day or two after the convention adjourned and make recommendations regarding ratification.

The committee met on February 7th and 8th and drafted the enclosed report to delegates.

To elaborate a little on several of the suggestions:

- 1) The committee felt that the vast benefits which would accrue to Alaska under the current enabling act could well have much greater publicity in Alaska, that perhaps Delegate Bartlett would be willing to prepare a precis and that this information could enhance ratification.
- 2) The committee feels strongly that a wonderful opportunity for publicizing statehood throughout the States exists in the current situation of preparing and ratifying a constitution, and particularly in attempting the Alaska-Tennessee Plan, that much of your committee's effort might be expended in this direction, and that reactions to this publicity in the States could well be of the greatest help in getting a large ratification vote.
- 3) As to minority groups who might have some complaint about the constitution or fear of what may happen to them under statehood, the committee thought the best way to handle the matter would be to obtain the necessary information to solve the problem or

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Executive Committee
Alaska Statehood Committee

February 9, 1956

allay the fear from the best possible source, to communicate with the leaders of such groups to reach an understanding, and then have those leaders circulate the information through their own groups.

The committee is prepared to help in any way it can, as it is sure all the delegates are.

Sincerely,

Barrie M. White, Jr., Chairman

SUMMARY OF ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION OF U.S. CONSTITUTION

All states except Rhode Island sent delegations to the convention. Delegations voted as delegations from the state from which sent. In all, 55 delegates were in attendance, but attendance varied from time to time. By 8 September 1787 final agreement was near. A 5-man Committee on Style and Arrangement was appointed and on 10 Sept the Convention held its last day of debate on details. A final copy was referred back on 12 September. It was examined clause by clause and a few changes made during the period 13-15 September. Finally on 17 September, each of the 12 state delegations voted approval.

On the date of signing and final approval by the state delegations there were only 42 delegates in attendance. 39 of the 42 in attendance signed the document and the other three refused to sign it. Formal signing and approval were on September 17, 1787.

Ratification.

Ratification of the Constitution was by special ratifying conventions in the states. Only one state (Rhode Island, which had refused to attend the Convention) refused to call a convention, and instead submitted the Constitution to a popular referendum. The Constitution was rejected overwhelmingly by a vote of 237 For; and 2,708 Against. Later, in 1790, Rhode Island called a ratifying convention and finally approved the Constitution by a close vote: For, 34; Against, 32).

The first state to ratify the Const. was Delaware on December 7, 1787. The ratifying convention approved the document unanimously. By June 21, 1788 the nine states required to ratify the Const. to put it into effect had approved the document. States ratifying the Const. during this period were: Delaware, Pennsylvania, Georgia, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire.

Thereafter, Virginia and New York conventions ratified the document in June and July, 1788. North Carolina would not ratify the Const. as written by the Convention, but when the new Congress submitted 12 amendments North Carolina called a second ratifying convention and approved the document on ~~August 25~~ 25 August 1789. Then, in ~~May 1790~~ January 1790 Rhode Island finally fell into line and called a convention which on 29 May 1790 ratified the Const.

Thus it took from Dec. 1787 to June 21, 1788 for the required nine states to ratify, and until 29 May 1790 before all 13 states had approved the Const.

In three states the ratifying conventions unanimously approved the document: Delaware, New Jersey, and Georgia. In all other states there was a contented vote and the total

votes in the conventions which did not approve the Const.
unanimously were as follows: For, 977; Against, 577

SCHEDULE OF ADOPTION AND
RATIFICATION OF U. S. CONSTITUTION

- Feb.- May, 1787 -- Date set for opening of Constitutional Convention was May 14, 1787. By that date all states except New Hampshire and Rhode Island had named delegates. New Hampshire finally sent delegates (23 July) but Rhode Island ignored the Convention.
- 25 May 1787 -- on 14 May only the delegates from Virginia and Pennsylvania were on hand, and it was not until May 25 that a quorum of 7 states was obtained, and the convention was formally opened.
- 17 Sept., 1787 -- On 17 Sept., each of the 12 state delegations voted approval. Three of the 42 delegates present refused to sign the engrossed copy. When the other 39 delegates had signed, and a letter of transmittal to Congress had been prepared, the Convention formally adjourned.
- 28 Sept., 1787 -- Congress resolved to transmit the Constitution to the legislature of each state for submission to special ratifying conventions.
- 7 December, 1787 -- Delaware Convention ratified (unanimous vote of ratifying convention).
- ~~17~~ 18 Dec., 1787 -- Pennsylvania ratified (vote 46-23).
18 Dec., 1787 -- New Jersey ratified (unanimous vote).
2 January 1788 -- Georgia ratified (unanimous vote).
- 9 January, 1788 -- Connecticut ratified (vote 128-40).
- 7 February, 1788 -- Massachusetts ratified unconditionally but recommended 9 amendments (vote 187-168).
- 24 March, 1788 -- Rhode Island Legislature refused to call a ratifying convention but provided for a popular referendum to be held 24 March. Out of 2,945 of the more than 6,000 eligible to vote, only ~~227~~ 237 votes were in favor of Constitution. Finally, in January 1790 a state ratifying convention was called and on 29 May 1790 Rhode Island finally ratified (vote 34-32).
- 28 April 1788 -- Maryland convention ratified (vote 63-11).
- 23 May 1788 -- South Carolina Legislature barely passed the resolution calling the ratifying convention by one vote, but ratification passed the convention on 23 May (vote 149-73).
- 21 June 1788 -- New Hampshire ratified, but proposed 12 amendments (vote 57-47). This ratification made the ninth state to ratify, and under the terms of the Constitution only approval of nine states was required to put the Constitution into effect.

25 June 1788 -- Virginia ratified but submitted proposals for a bill of rights of 20 articles as well as 20 other changes (vote 89-79).

26 July 1788 -- New York ratified (vote 30-27).

2 August 1788 -- North Carolina withheld ratification in the convention which met on 21 July until the incorporation of certain amendments, particularly a bill of rights(16-23). The new Congress submitted 12 proposed amendments on 25 Sept. 1789 and a second convention was called which ratified the amended Constitution on 21 November 1789 (vote 194-77).

55 Club
Ratification Committee/1
February 9, 1956

Report of the Ratification Committee

To all members of the 55 Club:

Following adjournment of the convention, the President appointed a Ratification Committee pursuant to a motion passed by the convention.

The committee met on February 7th and 8th at Constitution Hall and would like to pass on to you the following information and suggestions for your consideration:

A. Convention decisions:

1. 200 of the large signed constitutions were printed. Distribution will be Congress, 1; Secretary of Alaska, 1; University Museum, 1; Territorial Museum, 1; Department of Libraries, 1; delegates, 55; District Courts, 4; Governor, 1; Delegate to Congress, 1; high schools, 32; libraries, approximately 33; balance to cover future schools and libraries.
2. 15,000 bound copies of the constitution will be printed. Distribution will be 10 each to the delegates and the balance to the Statehood Committee for distribution, available upon request.
3. 15,000 apportionment maps will be printed and inserted in the constitution.
4. 100,000 copies of the summary prepared by Mr. Bebout will be printed and given the Statehood Committee for distribution.
5. That \$200 be allotted for 2,000 envelopes for mailing copies of the News-Miner special edition to the States.
6. That if, after all convention expenses have been paid, sufficient funds remain, the Statehood Committee be allotted \$1,500 to cover cost of News-Miner special edition above estimates.

B. Alaska Statehood Committee:

1. The Statehood Committee has obtained the services of Vincent A. Carrozza until April 24 as consultant, and Doris Ann Bartlett as secretary, and has budgeted the sum of \$16,000 for the ratification effort. Their office address will be: Box 1755, Fairbanks, Alaska.
2. The Statehood Committee will act as distribution agent for copies of the constitution and of the summary, and will generally engage in publicity and educational measures leading to ratification. Mr. Carrozza plans to travel to parts of the Territory to meet with delegates and groups interested in helping the ratification effort.
3. The Statehood Committee plans, subject to ratification, to enter into a contract with the Public Administration Service of Chicago to undertake a study of necessary measures in the transition from territory to state.

C. Recommendations to Delegates:

1. It is planned that copies of the large constitution to be presented to schools and libraries be sent to one delegate in each of the towns. The delegate should contact other delegates in the immediate neighborhood and the school or library to receive the document, and arrange a suitable presentation ceremony.
2. As questions about or objections to the constitution arise, delegates are urged to submit answers or explanations to the Fairbanks address of the Statehood Committee for redistribution through appropriate news channels. Committee chairmen are asked particularly to be alert to this need, which could easily become urgent near the deadline.
3. The Statehood Committee will be contacting organizations and news media arranging educational programs, who will in turn contact delegates for participation and advice. It is important that all delegates participate to the fullest extent possible.
4. Delegates are urged to make the fullest use of constitutions and summaries available from the Statehood Committee. It will be particularly effective if favorable comments can be obtained from throughout the States and these comments relayed to the Statehood Committee for distribution through news channels.

5. The committee feels that statehood and ratification are part of the same "package" and urges delegates to participate in statehood work wherever possible. Citizens' committees can be useful in this work, and we pass on the information that Operation Statehood will soon be contacting all delegates urging the formation of a similar group in other towns.

D. Recommendations to Statehood Committee:

1. In addition to measures outlined above, the committee is recommending to the Statehood Committee that:
 - a. The Governor be asked to proclaim April 24, 1956 "Ratification Day".
 - b. Publicity and distribution of materials be extended throughout the States, to further statehood generally and promote favorable comment helpful to ratification.
 - c. In the case of groups who may feel they have been slighted or who may be worried about their status under statehood i.e., schools, sportsmen's organizations, and federal employees, every effort be made to clear up points of doubt with heads of such organizations and resulting information disseminated throughout the membership.
 - d. Terms of recent enabling acts be summarized and distributed throughout Alaska.

If any delegate has additional ideas to aid ratification, please pass them on to the Statehood Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ratification Committee

Barrie M. White, Jr., Chairman
W. O. Smith
Frank Peratrovich
Katherine Nordale
Leslie Nerland
James Hurley
Edward V. Davis
John M. Cross
George D. Cooper
John C. Boswell
R. Rolland Armstrong
William A. Egan, ex-officio

February 8, 1956

Minutes of the Ratification Committee

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 8, 1956. Six members were present: Chairman White, Smith, Boswell, Cross, Cooper and Nordale.

The minutes of the first meeting were distributed.

It was reported that the president had decided to order 10,000 copies of the constitution printed. Mr. Boswell reported that maps could be secured to be included with the pamphlets. 5,000 maps for \$273.80 plus airfreight costs of \$23.80 would be a total of \$297.60. 10,000 for \$437.60 plus airfreight costs of \$47.60 would total \$485.20, which would be a cost of .0485 a piece. The News Miner can produce them in about ten days after the order is placed.

Tom Stewart, Secretary of the Convention, reported as follows:

1. The Statehood Committee has increased its budget to \$16,000 in order to employ a person with newspaper experience to keep releases flowing to the public. The committee is considering Florence Douthit, Ralph Browne and Kay Kennedy.
2. The Statehood Committee has approved the budget as presented to this committee yesterday.
3. The printed constitutions will be mailed from the Fairbanks headquarters and the scroll copies of the constitution will be mailed from the Juneau headquarters.
4. The Statehood Committee addresses between now and election will be: Box 1755, Fairbanks, Alaska and Box 153, Juneau, Alaska.

Smith moved and Boswell seconded that we recommend that maps be included in the first 15,000 copies of the constitution. Motion carried.

It was agreed that each delegate who may be called upon to answer questions or reply to newspaper comments, letters to the editor, etc. send copies to the headquarters of the Statehood Committee to keep them informed of public reactions.

Dolores Goad gave a report on the financial condition of the convention, revealing that a balance of \$9,000 remains.

The matter of ceremonies accompanying the presentation of the scroll copies to schools was discussed. Boswell moved and Nordale

seconded that we suggest that each delegate living in a town where there is a high school assume the responsibility of making the presentation to the school and that the matter in other towns be handled by the Statehood Committee. Motion carried.

The matter of citizens' committees presented by Tom Stewart at our first meeting was discussed. Chairman White stated that Operation Statehood plans to send copies of all its material to the delegates in the hope that other branches of Operation Statehood may be organized.

Cooper moved and Cross seconded that the committee recommend that the Governor proclaim April 24 "Constitution Day" to encourage interest in voting for ratification. Motion carried.

Chairman White suggested that each delegate attempt to get statements and newspaper publicity that may appear in the States and send the material to the Statehood Committee.

Smith moved and Cross seconded that we recommend that the Statehood Committee secure from E. L. Bartlett a statement analyzing the provisions of the two enabling bills with his comments pointing out the favorable provisions of the bills. Motion carried.

Boswell moved and Smith seconded that we make the following recommendations to the Statehood Committee with reference to printed material:

	<u>No. Copies</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Constitutions	15,000	\$ 4212.00
Maps	15,000	750.00
Summaries	100,000	1000.00
Mailing charges		<u>750.00</u>
	Total	\$ 6712.00

Boswell moved and Cooper seconded that this committee recommend that Jessen's Weekly be given the printing of the summaries. Motion carried.

Boswell moved and Cross seconded that this committee notify President Egan that after all our recommendations are carried out and other expenses taken care of the President use his own discretion as to paying \$1500 to the Statehood Committee for the added costs of the special newspaper edition. Motion carried.

It was agreed that a general outline of plans and recommendations be sent to each delegate which would include a summary of the plans of the Statehood Committee as presented to this committee.

The Chairman suggested that each member of this committee be mailed the following with a covering letter from the Chairman:

1. Minutes of the two meetings.
2. Our recommendations to the Statehood Committee.
3. Our recommendations to the president.
4. Lists of the home addresses of all delegates and the two addresses of the Statehood Committee headquarters.

He also suggested that a letter go to all delegates reporting the recommendations of this committee and the general plans for ratification.

At 12:00 noon the committee adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

Katherine D. Nordale
Secretary

7-A

RATIFICATION COMMITTEE OF 55 CLUB

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 7, 1956, Barrie White, chairman, presiding.

There are 12 members of this committee: Peratrovich, Merland Hurley, Davis, Armstrong, Smith, Boswell, Cross, Cooper, Nordale White, and President Egan.

Members present at this meeting were Smith, Boswell, Cross, Cooper, Nordale, President Egan, and Tom Stewart, Secretary.

Also present were Barr, Fischer and Coghill.

Nordale was named secretary.

Tom Stewart reported on the following plans of the Statehood Committee:

1. 50,000 copies of the newspaper will be distributed through other newspapers in the territory, and the Chambers of Commerce where no newspapers are published.
2. 500 copies are being sent to high schools. This number is equal to 10% of the student body of each school, or at least 10 copies to each school.
3. 2,000 copies will be sent to the States.
4. The Statehood Committee would appreciate additional help from the Convention to defray additional costs and to pay for envelopes, since we had originally been quoted a price of \$3,500.00, and now are quoted an inflated price of \$5,000.00.
5. The Statehood Committee are considering having 5,000 copies of the constitution printed in pamphlet form.
6. Will set up headquarters in Fairbanks in space contributed by Warren Taylor with Doris Ann Bartlett employed full-time, and Vincent Carroga employed part-time during the summer months, and full time before and during the election.
7. A summary is to be prepared by Mr. Bebout, and the Statehood Committee wants suggestions from the Committee on the best use of the pamphlet, and suggests that possibly the convention may pay for the cost.

8. A series of radio programs using delegates wherever possible is being planned. Mr. Carroza would plan and schedule radio and television appearances.

9. Local public meetings are planned by the headquarters, and the Statehood Committee will underwrite cost of travel, if necessary, for speakers.

10. Sponsorship of a school contest through the Commissioner of Education is planned.

Mr. Stewart suggested that there may be citizen committees originated and organized in various towns who would assist in publicity.

Mr. Stewart explained the plan of the Statehood Committee for transitional studies to be made by the Public Administration Services.

A discussion was had upon the problem presented by the transfer of certain federal agencies to state agencies. Examples being the Alaska Road Commission, Fish and Wildlife Service, the District Courts, and the Alaska Native Service. Mr. Egan pointed out that some thought should be given to a manner of informing federal employees in these agencies of the efforts being made by the Statehood Committee to plan for the transition.

Mr. Egan asked the Committee to consider whether or not the Convention should pay the additional \$1,500.00 for the newspapers, and pay for the envelopes for distribution. Mr. Cooper moved, Mr. Boswell seconded, that we recommend that \$200.00 of convention funds be allocated for the envelopes. Motion carried.

Mr. Boswell moved and Mr. Cross seconded, that printed copies of the signed document be sent to high schools, public libraries, the Library of Congress, Governor, Delegate Bartlett, the District Court libraries, and a reserve of at least 10 copies be held for future distribution. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the possibility of including copies of the apportionment map with the bound pamphlet of the constitution. It was decided to go into the matter of the maps and report back at the next meeting.

The following suggestions were made as to the distribution of the 2,000 copies that were to go to the States:

- 200 - National Democratic and Republican Conventions
- 200 - State and Territorial Legislatures - 2 to speaker of
house, 2 to President of Senate
- 200 - E. L. Bartlett
- 500 - Libraries - First 500 in States
- 25 - National headquarters of organizations who have acted
favorably on Alaska statehood
- 100 - National Statehood Committee
- 581 - Governors - 1 to each governor of states and territories,
435 to members of Congress and 2 delegates, and 96 Senators.
- 125 - Newspapers

Mr. Bebout explained the summary, and suggested speakers be made available, and that radio time be allocated. He also suggested that material be prepared for answering questions that may arise on various parts of the constitution.

The following figures were quoted as to the cost of the pamphlets:

5,000	-	\$1,713.37
10,000	-	\$2,936.55
20,000	-	\$5,362.72
50,000	-	\$12,683.10

Meeting adjourned until 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 8, 1956.

Katherine D. Nordale
Secretary

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

University of Alaska
1955

DELEGATES

Armstrong, R. Rolland
 Awe, Dorothy J.
 Barr, Frank
 Boswell, John C.
 Buckalew, Seaborn J., Jr.
 Coghill, John B.
 Collins, E. B.
 Cooper, George D.
 Cross, John M.
 Davis, Edward V.
 Doogan, James P.
 Egan, William A.
 Emberg, Truman C.
 Fischer, Helen
 Fischer, Victor
 Gray, Douglas
 Harris, Thomas C.
 Hellenthal, John S.
 Hermann, Mildred R.
 Hilscher, Herb
 Hinckel, Jack
 Hurley, James
 Johnson, Maurice T.
 Kilcher, Yule F.
 King, Leonard H.
 Knight, William W.
 Laws, W. W.
 Lee, Eldor R.
 Lomborg, Maynard D.
 McCutcheon, Steve
 McLaughlin, George M.
 McNealy, Robert J.
 McNees, John A.
 Marston, Col. M. R.
 Metcalf, Irwin L.
 Nerland, Leslie
 Nolan, James
 Nordale, Katherine D.
 Peratrovich, Frank
 Poulsen, Chris
 Reader, Peter L.
 Riley, Burke
 Rivers, Ralph J.
 Rivers, Victor O.
 Robertson, R. E.
 Roasvog, John H.
 Stewart, B. D.
 Smith, W. O.
 Sundborg, George
 Swensen, Dora M.
 Taylor, Warren A.
 VanderLeest, H. E.
 Walsh, M. J.
 White, Barrie M.
 Wien, Ada B.

OFFICERS

William A. Egan
 President
 Frank Peratrovich
 1st Vice-President
 Ralph J. Rivers
 2nd Vice-President
 Thomas B. Stewart
 Secretary

Home, Feb. 27th

Dear D.A. & Vince!

Am glad to hear you are handling the ratification task at your end. Just received Vince's first communique; also the 4 constitutions that Bill sent me for Homer Highschool & library, and Kenai Highschool & library.

There are two questions I'd like you to answer me as quickly as possible:

① There is a Highschool of sort in Seldovia and Nimitchik, and a public library in Seldovia. Should I get ② or more constitutions in those, or redistribute the 4 I got?

② Am busy as all set out at home, but don't mind to loose several days to travel to Kenai, and/or (!) Seldovia, Nimitchik, but I have no transportation. Could your committee pay that? From 40-75 \$ maybe, if all places included, is about 30\$ for Kenai only. The area being one of small privately owned hand fish traps, it would certainly be a good thing to do some work there - but I am broke!

Hoping to hear from you soon: Y.F. Kilcher

P.S. By the way, D.A., when do we get our money for the trip home?
 (Ratification)