

FOLDER NO.

410.1

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7/Enrolled
Style and Drafting
January 25, 1956

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STYLE AND DRAFTING

Hon. William A. Egan, President
Alaska Constitutional Convention

Dear President Egan:

Your Committee on Style and Drafting herewith presents
its redraft of the Preamble and the Article on Bill of Rights
for consideration by the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

George Sundborg, Chairman
R. Rolland Armstrong
Edward V. Davis
Victor Fischer
Mildred R. Hermann
James J. Hurley
Maurice T. Johnson
George M. McLaughlin
Katherine D. Nordale

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STYLE AND DRAFTING

Constitutional Convention
Style and Drafting/Article I
January 25, 1956

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as part of
of the Alaska State Constitution:

PREAMBLE

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, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska.

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Inherent
Rights

1 Section 1. This constitution is dedicated to the
2 principles that all persons have a natural right to
3 life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the enjoy-
4 ment of the rewards of their own industry; that all
5 persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, oppor-
6 tunities and protection under the law; and that all
7 persons have corresponding obligations to the people
8 and to the State.

Source of
Government

9 Section 2. All political power is inherent in
10 the people. Government derives from the consent of the
11 governed and exists solely for the common good.

Civil Rights

1 Section 3. No person is to be denied any civil or
2 political right because of race, color, creed, or
3 national origin. The legislature shall implement
4 this section.

Freedom of
Religion

5 Section 4. No law shall be made respecting an
6 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free
7 exercise thereof.

Freedom of
Speech

8 Section 5. Every person may freely speak, write,
9 and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the
10 abuse of that right.

Assembly;
Petition

11 Section 6. The right of the people peaceably to
12 assemble, and to petition the government shall never
13 be abridged.

Due Process

14 Section 7. No person shall be deprived of life,
15 liberty, or property, without due process of law. The
16 right of all persons to fair and just treatment in the
17 course of legislative and executive investigations
18 shall not be infringed.

Grand Jury

19 Section 8. No person shall be held to answer for
20 a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a
21 presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in
22 cases arising in the armed forces in time of war or
23 public danger. Indictment may be waived by the accused,
24 in which case the prosecution shall be by information.
25 The grand jury consists of at least twelve citizens,

1 a majority of whom concurring may return an indictment.
2 The power of grand juries to investigate and make recom-
3 mendations concerning the public welfare or safety
4 shall never be suspended.

Double Jeop-
ardy; Self-
Incrimination

5 Section 9. No person shall be put in jeopardy
6 twice for the same offense. No person shall be compelled
7 in any criminal proceeding to be a witness against
8 himself.

Treason

9 Section 10. Treason against the State consists
10 only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its
11 enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall
12 be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two
13 witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in
14 open court.

Rights of
Accused

15 Section 11. In all criminal prosecutions the
16 accused has the right to a speedy and public trial, by
17 an impartial jury of twelve, except that the legislature
18 may provide for a jury of not more than twelve nor less
19 than six in courts not of record. The accused is entitled
20 to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusa-
21 tion; to be released on bail, except for capital
22 offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption
23 great; to be confronted with the witnesses against him;
24 to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in
25 his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for
26 his defense.

Excessive
Punishment

1 Section 12. Excessive bail shall not be required,
2 nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual
3 punishments inflicted. Penal administration shall be
4 based on the principle of reformation and the need for
5 protecting the public.

Habeas Corpus

6 Section 13. The privilege of the writ of habeas
7 corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of
8 rebellion or actual or imminent invasion, the public
9 safety requires it.

Searches
and
Seizures

10 Section 14. The right of the people to be secure
11 in their persons, houses and other property, papers,
12 and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures,
13 shall not be violated. No warrants shall issue, but
14 upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation,
15 and particularly describing the place to be searched,
16 and the persons or things to be seized.

Prohibited
State Action

17 Section 15. No bill of attainder or ex post facto
18 law shall be passed. No law impairing the obligation
19 of contracts, and no law making any irrevocable grant
20 of special privileges or immunities shall be passed.
21 No conviction shall work corruption of blood or
22 forfeiture of estate.

Right to
Bear Arms

23 Section 16. A well-regulated militia being neces-
24 sary to the security of a free state, the right of the
25 people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Quartering
Soldiers

1 Section 17. No member of the armed forces shall
2 in time of peace be quartered in any house without the
3 consent of the owner or occupant, or in time of war
4 except as prescribed by law. The military shall be in
5 strict subordination to the civil power.

Civil Suits;
Trial by Jury

6 Section 18. In suits at common law, where the
7 amount in controversy exceeds two hundred fifty dollars,
8 the right of trial by a jury of twelve shall be preserved.
9 The legislature may provide for a jury of not less than
10 six in courts not of record. The legislature may pro-
11 vide for a verdict by not less than three-fourths of
12 the members of any jury in a common law suit.

Imprisonment
For Debt

13 Section 19. There shall be no imprisonment for
14 debt, except in case of absconding debtors.

Eminent
Domain

15 Section 20. Private property shall not be taken
16 or damaged for public use without just compensation.

Construction

17 Section 21. The enumeration of rights in this
18 constitution does not impair or deny others retained
19 by the people.

FIRST ENROLLED COPY

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7/Enrolled
January 9, 1956

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 7

Introduced by the Committee on the
Preamble and Bill of Rights

RESOLVED: That the following be agreed upon as part
of the Alaska State Constitution.

PREAMBLE, Article on Declaration of Rights,
and Article on Health, Education and Welfare.

1 We the people of Alaska, conscious of our heritage of
2 political, civil and religious liberty, grateful to God
3 and to those who founded the nation and pioneered this
4 great land, reaffirm our belief in government by consent
5 of the governed within the Union of States and do ordain
6 and establish this Constitution for the State of Alaska.

7 ARTICLE

8 DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Rights of
Man

9 Section 1. This constitution is to promote the
10 general welfare of the people, and is dedicated to the
11 principle that all persons have a natural right to life,
12 liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the enjoyment of
13 the gains of their own industry; that all persons are
14 equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities and
15 protection under the law. These rights carry with them
16 corresponding duties to the people and to the state.

Source
and Aim
of Political
Power

1 Section 2. All political power is inherent in the
2 people. All government originates with the people, is
3 founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely
4 for the good of the people as a whole.

Civil
Rights

5 Section 3. No person is to be denied the enjoyment
6 of any civil or political right because of race, color,
7 creed, or national origin. The legislature shall provide
8 appropriate legislation in accord herewith.

Freedom of
Speech and
Press;
Assembly
and Petition

9 Section 4. Every person may freely speak, write,
10 and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the
11 abuse of that liberty. The right of the people peace-
12 ably to assemble and to petition the government shall
13 never be abridged.

Freedom of
Religion

14 Section 5. No law shall be made respecting an
15 establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exer-
16 cise thereof.

Due
Process

17 Section 6. No person shall be deprived of life,
18 liberty or property without due process of law. The
19 right of all persons to fair and just treatment in
20 the course of legislative and executive investigations
21 shall not be infringed.

Grand
Juries,
Indictments
and
Information

22 Section 7. No person shall be held to answer for
23 a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a pre-
24 sentment or indictment of a grand jury, except when
25 waived by the accused, in which event the prosecution

1 shall be by information, but this section shall not be
2 applied to cases arising in the armed forces or in the
3 militia when in actual service in time of war or pub-
4 lic danger. The grand jury shall consist of at least
5 twelve citizens, a majority of whom concurring may re-
6 turn a true bill. The power of grand juries to inves-
7 tigate and make recommendations concerning conditions
8 involving the public welfare or safety shall never be
9 suspended.

No Double Jeopardy
No Self-Incrimination

10 Section 8. No person shall be put in jeopardy
11 twice for the same offense. No person shall be compelled
12 in any criminal proceeding to be a witness against
13 himself.

Excessive Bail,
Unusual Punishment

14 Section 9. Excessive bail shall not be required,
15 nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual
16 punishments inflicted.

Prohibited State
Action

17 Section 10. No bill of attainder, ex post facto
18 law, nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts,
19 nor any law making any irrevocable grant of special
20 privileges or immunities shall be passed, and no con-
21 viction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of
22 estate. The administration of criminal justice shall
23 be founded upon the principle of reformation as well as
24 upon the need to protect the public.

Searches
and
Seizures

1 Section 11. The right of the people to be secure
2 in their persons, houses and other property, papers,
3 and effects, against unreasonable searches and seiz-
4 ures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall
5 issue, but on probable cause, supported by oath or
6 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to
7 be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Criminal
Matters:
Trial by Jury,
Rights of
Accused

8 Section 12. In all criminal prosecutions the
9 accused has the right to a speedy and public trial,
10 by an impartial jury of twelve, except that in courts
11 not of record the jury may consist of not more than
12 twelve nor less than six persons. The accused is also
13 entitled to be informed of the nature and cause of the
14 accusation; to be released on bail, except for capital
15 offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption
16 great; to be confronted with the witnesses against him;
17 to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in
18 his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for
19 his defense.

Civil Cases:
Trial by Jury

20 Section 13. In suits at common law, where the
21 amount in controversy exceeds two hundred and fifty
22 dollars, the right of trial by jury of twelve is pre-
23 served, except that the legislature may provide for a
24 jury of not less than six in courts not of record. The
25 legislature may provide for a verdict by not less than

1 three-fourths of the members of any jury in civil
2 causes.

Habeas
Corpus

3 Section 14. The privilege of the writ of habeas
4 corpus shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of
5 rebellion or actual or imminent invasion, the public
6 safety requires it.

Militia,
Right to
Bear Arms

7 Section 15. A well-regulated militia being neces-
8 sary to the security of a free state, the right of the
9 people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.
10 The military shall be in strict subordination to the
11 civil power. No soldier, in time of peace shall be
12 quartered in any house without the consent of the owner
13 or occupant, nor in time of war, except as prescribed
14 by law.

Treason

15 Section 16. Treason against the State shall con-
16 sist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to
17 its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person
18 shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony
19 of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession
20 in open court.

Eminent
Domain

21 Section 17. Private property shall not be taken
22 or damaged for public use without just compensation.

No Imprisonment
For Debt

23 Section 18. There shall be no imprisonment for
24 debt, except in case in absconding debtors.

Construction

25 Section 19. The enumeration of rights in this con-
26 stitution shall not impair or deny others retained
27 by the people.

F I R S T E N R O L L E D C O P Y

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7/Enrolled
January 9, 1956

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 7

ARTICLE

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Public
Education

1 Section 1. The State shall establish and maintain
2 by general law a system of public schools which shall
3 be open to all children of the State and may provide
4 for other public educational institutions. Schools
5 and institutions so established shall be free from
6 sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public
7 funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other
8 private educational institution.

Public Health

9 Section 2. The State shall provide for the
10 promotion and protection of public health.

Public Welfare

11 Section 3. The State may provide for public
12 welfare for persons unable to maintain a standard of
13 living compatible with health and human dignity.

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7
December 15, 1955

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PREAMBLE AND BILL OF RIGHTS

Hon. William A. Egan
President, Alaska Constitutional Convention

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights transmits herewith a proposed Preamble, an Article containing a Declaration of Rights, and an Article on Health, Education, and Welfare, and recommends their adoption by the convention. A commentary follows each of the proposed articles.

Two minority reports are attached, one by Delegates McNealy, Armstrong and Hellenthal suggesting an article to prohibit wire-tapping and the other by Mr. Hellenthal suggesting an article on collective bargaining.

The Committee made the following disposition of the delegates' proposals referred to this Committee:

Proposal No. 2: Incorporated in part in the Declaration of Rights and the Article on Education.

Proposal No. 6: Sections 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been referred back to the floor, This Committee felt it had no jurisdiction on these subjects. The remainder of the sections were considered. The Committee adopted sections 3 and 7 with some changes. The rest of the proposal was not considered to be constitutional material.

Proposal No. 9: Section five of this proposal was reported back to the floor as not being within the terms of reference of this committee. Other articles of this proposition were included in the committee report.

Proposal No. 13: This proposal was incorporated in the Declaration of Rights with some changes.

Proposal No. 16: This proposal was a suggested preamble. The text was considered and was incorporated in part in the report of the committee.

Proposal No. 17: Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 were adopted in substance in the Proposal on Health, Welfare and Education. Section 4 was rejected as not proper constitutional material. Section 8 is a general provision that will be considered in another section of the Constitution.

Proposal No. 19: The article on the Distribution of Power was rejected as not being necessary in this Constitution. Such an article would attempt to limit the executive, judicial and legislative branches in an unrealistic way. Complete separation has never existed and would not exist under this provision.

Proposal No. 21: Mr. Harris asked that this proposal be amended by the exclusion of the phrase dealing with labor because he did

not intend it to be a right to work provision. The committee considered the proposal as amended and included some of the material in the Declaration of Rights.

Proposal No. 31: This proposal was considered and rejected on the basis that these matters were outside the terms of reference of this Committee.

Proposal No. 38: The committee considered this proposal and included sections 1 and 2 in substance in the Declaration of Rights. Section 3 was partly rejected as not being constitutional material and the balance was included in the Declaration of Rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Awes, Chairman

Ada B. Wien

R. Rolland Armstrong

Seaborn J. Buckalew

James P. Doogan

John Hellenthal

Robert J. McNealy

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7
December 15, 1955

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 7

Introduced by the Committee on the
Preamble and Bill of Rights

RESOLVED: That the following be agreed upon as part of the
Alaska State Constitution.

PREAMBLE, Article on Declaration of Rights, and
Article on Health, Education and Welfare.

1 We, the people of the State of Alaska, grateful to Almighty
2 God for our civil and religious liberty, seeking His con-
3 tinued blessing upon our endeavors to secure and transmit
4 these liberties unimpaired to posterity, do ordain and estab-
5 lish this Constitution.

6 ARTICLE

7 DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

8 Rights of Section 1. This constitution is to promote the gen-
9 Man eral welfare of the people, and is dedicated to the
10 principle that all persons have a natural right to
11 life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the en-
12 joyment of the gains of their own industry; that all

1 persons are equal and are entitled to equal rights
2 and opportunities under the law. These rights carry
3 with them corresponding duties to the people and to
4 the state.

5 Source and Section 2. All political power is inherent in the
6 Aim of Poli- people. All government originates with the people,
7 tical Power is founded upon their will only, and is instituted
8 solely for the good of the people as a whole.

9 Civil Section 3. No person is to be denied the enjoy-
10 Rights ment of any civil or political right because of race,
11 color, creed or national origin. The legislature
12 shall provide appropriate legislation in accord here-
13 with.

14 Freedom of Section 4. Every person may freely speak, write,
15 Speech and and publish on all subjects, being responsible for
16 Press; Assem- the abuse of that liberty. The right of the people
17 bly and peaceably to assemble and to petition the government
18 Petition or any department thereof shall never be abridged.

19 Freedom of Section 5. No law shall be made respecting an
20 Religion establishment of religion or prohibiting the free ex-
21 ercise thereof.

22 Due Section 6. No person shall be deprived of life,
23 Process liberty or property without due process of law.

24 Grand Juries, Section 7. The grand jury shall consist of twelve
25 Indictments citizens, any nine of whom concurring may find an

1 and Informa-- indictment or a true bill; Provided, that no grand
tion
2 jury shall be convened except upon an order of a
3 judge of a court having the power to try and determine
4 felonies; but when so assembled such grand jury shall
5 have power to investigate and return indictments for
6 all character and grades of crime; and that the power
7 of grand juries to inquire into the willful misconduct
8 in office of public officers, and to find indictments
9 in connection therewith, shall never be suspended.

10 No person shall be prosecuted criminally for felony
11 other than by indictment or information, which shall
12 be concurrent remedies, but this shall not be applied
13 to cases arising in the land or naval forces or in the
14 militia when in actual service in time of war or pub-
15 lic danger.

16 No Double Section 8. No person shall be put in jeopardy
Jeopardy
17 No Self- twice for the same offense. No person shall be com-
Incrimina-
18 tion pelled in any criminal proceeding to be a witness
19 against himself.

20 Excessive Section 9. Excessive bail shall not be required,
Bail, Unusual
21 Punishments nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual
22 punishments inflicted.

23 Prohibited Section 10. No bill of attainder, ex post facto
State
24 Action law, nor any law impairing the obligation of con-
25 tracts, nor any law making any irrevocable grant of

1 special privileges or immunities shall be passed, and
2 no conviction shall work corruption of blood or for-
3 feiture of estate. The administration of criminal
4 justice shall be founded on principles of reformation,
5 and not vindictiveness.

6 Searches and
7 Seizures

Section 11. The right of the people to be secure
8 in their persons, houses and other property, papers,
9 and effects, against unreasonable searches and seiz-
10 ures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall
11 issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or
12 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to
be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

13 Criminal
14 Matters:
15 Trial by
16 Jury, Rights
17 of Accused

Section 12. In all criminal prosecutions the ac-
18 cused has the right to a speedy and public trial, by
19 an impartial jury. In courts not of record the jury
20 may consist of not more than twelve nor less than six
21 persons. The accused is also entitled to be informed
22 of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be re-
leased on bail, except for capital offenses; to be
confronted with the witnesses against him; to have
compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor,
and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

23 Civil Cases:
24 Trial by
25 Jury

Section 13. In suits at common law, where the
amount in controversy exceeds two hundred and fifty
dollars, the right of trial by jury is preserved, ex-

1 cept that the legislature may provide for a jury of
2 not less than six in courts not of record. The legis-
3 lature may provide for a verdict by not less than
4 three-fourths of the members of the jury...

5
6 Habeas Cor-
7 pus

 Section 14. The privilege of the writ of habeas
8 corpus shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases
9 of rebellion, invasion or imminent peril, the public
 safety requires it.

10 Militia,
11 Right to
12 Bear Arms

 Section 15. A well-regulated militia being nec-
13 essary to the security of a free state, the right of
14 the people to keep and bear arms shall not be in-
15 fringed. The military shall be in strict subordina-
16 tion to the civil power. No soldier, in time of peace
17 shall be quartered in any house without the consent of
 the owner or occupant, nor in time of war, except as
 prescribed by law.

18 Treason

 Section 16. Treason against the State shall con-
19 sist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to
20 its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person
21 shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony
22 of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confes-
23 sion in open court.

24 Eminent
25 Domain

 Section 17. Private property shall not be taken
 or damaged for public use without just compensation.

1 No Imprison-
2 ment for Debt

Section 18. There shall be no imprisonment for
debt, except in cases where there is a strong pre-
sumption of fraud.

4 Construction

Section 19. The enumeration of rights in this
5 constitution shall not impair or deny others retained
6 by the people.

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 7

ARTICLE

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

1 Public Section 1. The State shall establish and maintain
2 Educa- by general law a system of public schools which shall
3 tion be open to all children of the State and may provide
4 for other public educational institutions. Schools and
5 institutions so established shall be free from sectar-
6 ian control. No money shall be paid from public funds
7 for the direct benefit of any religious or other pri-
8 vate institution.

9 Public Section 2. The State shall provide for the promo-
10 Health tion and protection of public health.

11 Public Section 3. The State may provide for public wel-
12 Welfare fare for persons unable to maintain a standard of liv-
13 ing compatible with health and human dignity.

14 Substand- Section 4. The State may provide for and assist in
15 ard Areas the clearance, development and rehabilitation of sub-
16 and Public standard areas and for public housing.
Housing

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
MINORITY REPORT

BILL OF RIGHTS

1 1. We believe that the following should be inserted as a
2 sentence following the first sentence of Section 10, to-wit:

3 "Wire tapping or obtaining unauthorized informa-
4 tion by other technical means or devices is pro-
5 hibited. Evidence obtained in violation of this
6 section shall be inadmissable in the courts."
7

8 2. We reach this conclusion because we believe that this
9 practice is prohibited by implication by the 4th Amendment to
10 the Federal Constitution. The United States Supreme Court has
11 reached the same conclusion. We are of the opinion that had
12 this practice been possible and prevalent in the days of the
13 founding Fathers it would have been expressly prohibited by
14 name.

R. J. McNealy

R. Rolland Armstrong

J. Hellenthal

MINORITY REPORT

1 1. Persons in society have the moral and legal right to organ-
2 ize and bargain collectively in democratic and peaceful manner.

3 2. The right of man to organize into free associations of his
4 own choosing is necessitated by the common good and is a funda-
5 mental, civil, natural and philosophical right that strengthens
6 the general welfare.

7 3. The right to bargain collectively carries with it the cor-
8 relative right of the majority of the group to bind the minority
9 by and to the provisions of security agreements fairly arrived at.

10 4. Therefore the following section should be included in the
11 Declaration of Rights:

12 "Persons in private employment and those employed
13 by the State or local governments, when engaged in
14 proprietary and non-governmental activity, and
15 groups of persons, shall have the right to organize
16 and bargain collectively. Persons in public employ-
17 ment shall have the right to organize, present to
18 and make known to the State, or any of its political
19 subdivisions or agencies, their grievances and pro-
20 posals through representatives of their own choosing."

John Hellenthal

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Commentary on the Preamble and the Declaration of
Rights

(Sections 1 and 2 Rights of Man. Sources and Aim of Political Power)

These sections affirm the sovereignty of the people and the origin of government.

(Section 3 Civil Rights)

In this paragraph we have provided for the equal enjoyment of the rights of all people regardless of race, color or national origin. This section obligates the legislature to implement the provision by legislation. At present, we have Civil Rights Legislation in the Territorial statutes, which the legislature shall retain or improve. It is impossible and unwise to enumerate in this Constitution all of the places where and conditions under which civil rights must be guaranteed.

(Section 4 Freedom of Speech and Press; Assembly and Petition.)

This provision, like the provision in the Federal Constitution, guarantees the freedom of speech, press, assembly and the right to petition the government. This right to petition is broader than in the Federal Constitution, which limits the right to petition to grievances.

(Sections 5 and 6 Freedom of Religion. Due Process)

These sections are identical with the Federal Constitution. A statement on use of public funds for religious and other private schools is part of the article on Education.

(Section 7 Grand Jury)

The grand jury is preserved, for all purposes, particularly for investigation of public officials. A grand jury of twelve is provided as adequate for performance of its functions. The article provides for alternative procedure of indictment or information, and allows the judge to call the grand jury at any time. Many states have found the same or similar procedure to be most satisfactory.

(Section 8 Double Jeopardy: Self Incrimination)

This section is the same as the Federal Constitution with one exception. In the clause pertaining to self incrimination, the phrase "criminal proceeding" is used rather than the more limited phrase "criminal case" of the Federal Document.

(Section 9 Excessive Bail, Unusual Punishment)

This statement on excessive bail is identical with the United States Constitution.

(Section 10 Prohibited State Action)

In general the Federal Constitution is followed in this statement. In addition, the section prohibits any law granting any special privilege or immunity. Considerable time was spent on the matter

(Section 11 Searches and Seizures)

The general language of the Federal Constitution is used. A prohibition against wire tapping was reviewed, but was not considered to be constitutional material.

(Section 12 Criminal Matters: Trial by Jury, Rights of Accused)

This section protects the rights of the accused in criminal cases. The legislature may provide for a jury of not more than twelve and not less than six in courts not of record; experience has shown this to be adequate protection of the rights of the accused in such courts. It also gives the defendant the opportunity to be released on bail except in capital offences.

(Section 13 Civil Cases: Trial by Jury)

This section preserves the right to trial by jury in Civil suits where the amount in controversy exceeds two hundred fifty dollars. The legislature may provide for a jury of not less than six in courts not of record and that a verdict may be handed down by not less than $3/4$ of the jury. These qualifications have proven satisfactory in other jurisdictions. Experience shows this to be a desirable provision.

(Section 14 Habeas Corpus)

This section is identical with the Federal Constitution, with the exception of the additional phrase "imminent peril." This addition brings this declaration into conformity with circumstances which may have to be met under modern warfare.

(Section 15 Militia. Right to Bear Arms.)

This section is identical with the Federal Constitution, except for the addition of the provision on the subordination of the military to the civil power, which appears in the majority of state documents.

(Section 16 Treason)

This is identical with Article III, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

(Section 17 Eminent Domain)

This section is identical with the Federal Constitution, except for the addition of the words "or damaged." These words were added in recognition of the fact that property may be damaged or made worthless as an incident of the taking of other property for public use. It is our belief that the property owner should be compensated for such injury.

(Section 18 Imprisonment for Debt)

Many of the state constitutions provide a prohibition of imprisonment for debt. The qualifying phrase "where there is a strong presumption of fraud", is included to prevent persons having fraudulent intent from incurring debts and fleeing the State without making payment.

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/7
December 15, 1955

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Commentary on the Article of Health, Education and Welfare

(Section 1 Education)

This paragraph on Education provides for the establishment and maintenance of the system of public schools and other educational institutions. They will be free from sectarian control. These statements follow closely that of H. R. 2535.

This section prohibits the direct use of public funds for religious and other private institutions.

(Sections 2 and 3 Health and Welfare)

These sections authorize the legislature to provide for health and welfare as the need arises.

(Section 4 Substandard Areas and Public Housing)

It is necessary to have a statement relative to these subjects, so the legislature has necessary authority to act when action is desirable.