

LDIR#082
CORRESPON-
DENCE
AND HEARINGS
ON JUVENILE
CODE
1961



SELDOVIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SELDOVIA, ALASKA

May 2, 1961

John S. Hellenthal
P. O. Box 941
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Hellenthal,

I deeply regret being unable to attend this week's meeting of the Legislative Council in Anchorage. Because of an unfortunate coincidence of dates, my superintendent will be absent from school the remainder of the week to attend an administrator's meeting.

My interest in juvenile problems remains undiminished, however, so I am sending along some dittoed sheets containing my personal and professional views on possible changes in our present laws. I would appreciate your giving them to other members of the Council.

Thank you, Mr. Hellenthal, for letting me know of the meeting.

Very truly yours,

William M. Ullom
William M. Ullom

John S. Hellenthal

May 1, 1961

Mr. William M. Ullom
Box 105
Seldovia, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ullom:

Because of your interest in juvenile problems as evinced by your letter to Gov. Egan of January 22, 1961, you may wish to know that the Legislative Council is beginning meetings at the Captain's Room, Westward Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday morning, May 4, 1961, and you are welcome to present yourself and your views.

Sincerely,

John S. Hellenthal

JSH:hrk

William M. Ullom: I am 39, father of two teen-age children, and I have been a school teacher for 8 years. I am interested in the welfare of our youth and feel deeply that we, despite our experience, continue to be too permissive with our children. Most of the problems I have encountered with juvenile behavior started in the home, but I believe that society is compounding these problems by also being too permissive in its attitude. We cannot equate the welfare of our youth with their desires, though that is exactly what the youth would have us do. As long as we accept their attitude--and they can certainly be insistent--the problem will continue to grow. Following are changes I would like to see made in state law to cover some of the inadequacies in our present code:

- I. Make it a felony to contribute to the alcoholic delinquency of minors below the age of 21 with a mandatory minimum sentence.
- II. Require all sales of alcoholic beverages, beer included, for off-premise consumption to be signed for by a purchaser showing a valid, fool-proof, state-issued identification. All dispensers of such package goods must have a register for the sole purpose of identifying purchaser and goods purchased. These registers will be open to inspection at any time by any law enforcement officer of the state or its political subdivisions.
- III. Make it a gross misdemeanor for a minor to have alcoholic beverages in his possession or for a minor to be apprehended while under the influence of alcohol WITH THE MINOR BEING SUBJECT TO A PENALTY PROVIDED BY LAW.
- IV. Lower the age of criminal responsibility to the age of 16 and, as a corollary to such law, direct the State Department of Education to commission a text to cover all Alaska law and require a half-year study of that text as a requirement for graduation from an Alaska high school.
- V. Make parents or guardians liable for property damage inflicted by minors to the extent of \$5,000.
- VI. Grant daylight driving permits to youths of 16 and 17 (daylight to be considered 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and full driving privileges to those 18 and older with the provision that permits and licenses are automatically suspended for one year for any moving violation and for 5 years for any conviction of drunken driving, driving under the influence, being drunk on a public highway, or of having intoxicants in the vehicle.
- VIII. Give local magistrates the power to try all cases involving juveniles 14 and above which they now try in cases involving violators not considered juveniles, and give the local magistrates the authority to confine a drunken juvenile in solitary confinement for a period not to exceed 24 hours--WITH THE PROVISION THAT PARENTS MUST BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE ARREST.