

**FOLDER NO.**

**151**

January 6, 1956

Minutes of Public Hearings Held in Anchorage

The following hearings were held at Anchorage during the recess starting December 20, 1955:

1. A public meeting sponsored by Operation Statehood, on December 22, 1955 at 8:00 P.M., was attended by most of the delegates. The work being done by the various committees was discussed. A show of hands by the audience on the Tennessee Plan was requested, and a large majority favored the plan.

2. On December 22, 1955, there was a television program at which Delegates McLaughlin, V. <sup>Rivers</sup> Eischer, Buckalew and Hellenthal appeared. There was a discussion of the Proposals on Executive, Legislative, Apportionment, and Suffrage and Elections.

3. On December 26, 1955, there was another television program sponsored by the Federation of Labor. Delegates V. Rivers and Hellenthal discussed the Bill of Rights, Apportionment, Local Government and Executive Proposals.

4. The official hearings commenced on December 28, 1955, at 1:30 P.M. Delegates V. Fischer, H. Fischer, McLaughlin, V. Rivers, Buckalew, Poulsen, Marston, White and Awes were present. There was an audience of approximately one hundred.

V. Fischer and V. Rivers summarized the Local Government proposal. Edward P. Boyko, an Anchorage attorney, raised several objections including the use of the term "borough" and the provisions permitting unorganized areas to exist. He also contended that the assembly of the borough was not representative of the people, and that there

would be a constant cry for re-apportionment. He objected strongly to requiring state approval of any local matters. He also objected on the ground that there was legislative matter contained in the proposal. Milton Lightwood also raised the objection that the borough assembly was not democratic. There were several objections to city councilmen serving on the borough assembly.

Delegate Buckalew summarized the Ordinances and Resolutions Proposal, including the Tennessee Plan. Again a show of hands was requested and approximately 75% of the audience favored the Tennessee Plan. Only one person objected to it. J. L. Cooper and Wendell P. Kay spoke in favor of the Tennessee Plan.

Delegates Hellenthal and Marston summarized the proposal of the Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment Committee, and the comments from the audience were generally favorable. The voting age was discussed but there was little discussion.

The meeting recessed at 5:30 P.M. and reconvened at 7:00 P.M. The proposal of the Preamble and Bill of Rights Committee was summarized by Delegate Awes; Delegate Hellenthal summarized the minority view. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

5. Also on December 28, 1955, there was a television program attended by Delegates V. Rivers, V. Fischer, H. Fischer, White, McLaughlin, Marston, and Awes. The organization of the Convention and the Tennessee Plan were discussed.

6. On December 29, 1955, the Woman's Club sponsored a television program, attended by Delegates Buckalew, V. Rivers and White. The proposals of the Resources, Ordinances, including the Tennessee Plan, and Finances Committee were discussed.

On December 29, 1955 at 1:30 P.M., the official hearings reconvened with Delegates Buckalew, McLaughlin, White, V. Fischer and Awes being present. The discussion on the Proposal of the Bill of Rights Committee was continued. Blanche McSmith requested that certain changes be made in Section 3 of the Proposal in order to make the section more specific and detailed. Felton Griffin discussed Section 1 of the Health and Welfare and Education Article and requested that the word "indirect" be added.

Delegate White summarized the Finance and Taxation Proposal. The audience asked questions, particularly about the section providing that a debt shall be occurred only upon a referendum of the people. The Resources Proposal was discussed by Delegate White and the Judicial Program by Delegate McLaughlin.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

7. Another meeting was set for December 30, 1955, at 1:00 P.M., but it was called off due to the state of emergency declared by the mayor of Anchorage.

8. On December 30, 1955, Delegate V. Rivers appeared before the Methodist Men's Group, and gave a general summary of the work being done at the Convention.

9. On January 2, 1956, Delegates Hellenthal, V. Fischer and White appeared on a television program and discussed Local Government, Resources and Apportionment.

*Helen Fischer*  
chmn.  
*Dorothy C. Lewis*  
Secretary