

FOLDER NO.

171

December 6, 1955

Alaska Constitutional Convention

PRESS RELEASE

Local Government Committee Hearings

Mayor Douglas Preston of Fairbanks has been invited to testify on behalf of the League of Alaskan Cities, of which he is President, at hearings called by the Committee on Local Government of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. The public hearings have been scheduled to be held Saturday, December 10, at 9:30 AM in the Convention Hall at College, Alaska.

The Local Government Committee has also extended an invitation through Mayor Preston to officials of other communities in Alaska to present their views and suggestions on possible local government provisions in the constitution.

Committee Chairman John Rosswog said today that "the hearings will be open to the general public and any individual or representative of any interested group will be welcome to present testimony."

The local government group is currently drafting tentative provisions for inclusion in the constitution. According to Rosswog, they will be presented at Saturday's hearing.

In addition to Chairman Rosswog, Cordova businessman, the committee membership includes Maynard Londborg, minister of the Swedish Covenant Church in Unalakleet; Victor Fischer, city planning consultant from Anchorage; John Cross, bush pilot from Kotzebue; James Doogan, Fairbanks businessman and former city councilman; Eldor Lee, fisherman and a game guide in Petersburg; and Victor Rivers, Anchorage civil engineer and former Territorial Senator.

November 30, 1955

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska Constitutional Convention

Convention Committees Set Target Dates for Recommending Proposals
to Convention

Committees of the Constitutional Convention have scheduled target dates for the submission to the Convention of drafts of their respective articles. The Committees have been very busy assembling facts, formulating their proposals and reconciling differences of viewpoint. The committees below have announced that they are aiming for the following dates for reporting out their proposals:

Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Appointments	December 2
Committee on Ordinances and Transitional Measures	December 5
Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights	December 5
Committee on Judiciary Branch	December 7
Committee on Legislative Branch	December 10
Committee on Executive Branch	December 10
Committee on Finance and Taxation	December 12
Committee on Local Government	December 15

A summary of the Committees' work is contained in the attached report.

November 29, 1955

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

TO: All Alaskan Newspapers, and Radio and Television Stations
FROM: Committee on Local Government, Constitutional Convention,
College, Alaska

Suggestions for the organization of local government units in the state of Alaska are being solicited by a committee of the Alaska Constitutional Convention.

Chairman John Rosswog, of the Committee on Local Government, announced today that his committee will be happy to receive any ideas, suggestions, or proposals that any citizen or group may have about the establishment of any new forms of local government.

The local government group is one of a series currently working on framing the constitution for the future state. Committee meetings are held on the campus of the University of Alaska.

Rosswog explained that the members of his committee have been engaged in a thorough analysis of local government forms existing in the various states and in foreign countries. The local government needs of Alaska have also been given a substantial amount of study.

"The members of our committee feel that every opportunity should be given to Alaskans to participate in framing the Alaska Constitution," Rosswog said.

"By giving us their views upon the adequacies and inadequacies of our present local governments and their ideas about the future, the people can help assure constitutional provisions that will not only be workable, but also acceptable."

Communications can be addressed to the Committee on Local Government, Alaska Constitutional Convention, College, Alaska.

After tentative proposals have been formulated, the committee plans to hold public hearings. Advance notice of such hearings will be given to all interested persons and organizations.

November 29, 1955

Alaska Constitutional Convention

PRESS RELEASE

Governors Invited to Public Hearings

At the request of Victor Rivers, Chairman of the Committee on the Executive Branch; William Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, invited former Governor Ernest Gruening and Governor B. Frank Heinzleman to appear and testify before public hearings of the Executive Committee on Saturday, December 3, 1955 at 9:30 A.M. A telegram was sent to Governor Heintzleman Monday, November 28, cordially inviting him to appear and convey his views regarding provision in the state constitution on executive authority. Governor Gruening, who is at College, Alaska, to receive an honorary degree as Dr. of Laws LL.D. from the University of Alaska, has been invited orally and has indicated that he will be able to attend.

Other committee hearings scheduled for Saturday, December 3, 1955, are as follows:

2:00 P.M. - Committee on Finance and
Taxation

3:00 P.M. - Committee on Resources

All committees have extended to the public an invitation to attend and to present opinions and reflections relative to that portion of the Constitution which the Committee will be responsible for drafting. Those who wish to be heard should notify the Secretary of the Convention in advance. (Telephone 2692, College, Alaska.) The committees hope that witnesses will sup-

plement their oral testimony with written statements which can be left with the committees.

The members of the Committee on the Executive Branch are: Chairman, Victor Rivers, of Anchorage; Frank Barr, Fairbanks; John Boswell, Fairbanks; Thomas Harris, Valdez; Maynard Londborg, Unalakleet; Katherine Nordale, Juneau; and H. R. VanderLeest, of Juneau.

The Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Taxation is Leslie Nerland, Fairbanks, and his committee includes Dorothy Awes, Anchorage; Frank Barr, Fairbanks; James Nolan, Wrangell; Frank Feratovich, Klawock; Chris Poulsen, Anchorage; and Barrie White of Anchorage.

W. O. Smith of Ketchikan is Chairman of the Committee on Resources, and the other members are John Boswell, Fairbanks; Truman Emberg, Dillingham; Leonard King, Haines; Peter Reader, Nome; Burke Riley, Haines; B. D. Stewart, Sitka; Barrie White, Anchorage; and Ada Wien of Fairbanks.

November 28, 1955

PRESS RELEASE

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Convention to Discuss Unicameral vs. Bicameral Legislature

The Convention voted today to meet as a Committee of the Whole at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 30 at Constitution Hall, University of Alaska, to discuss the question of whether the State Constitution should provide for a unicameral or a bicameral legislature. The motion to hold this special meeting was made by Mr. Steve McCutcheon, Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Branch, which is the Convention Committee primarily concerned with this question. Mr. McCutcheon explained that his Committee had not reached a decision on this basic question and that the members were unanimous in their desire to have an expression of views by Delegates on the subject at a time when members of the public could attend.

The work of several Convention Committees will be affected by the decision which the Convention in due course makes on this question. For example, the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment has been considering alternate forms of districting and apportionment for a unicameral and a bicameral legislature. Its work will contribute to the Convention decision and, in turn, be affected by it.

Thomas B. Stewart
Secretary
Alaska Constitutional Convention

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska Constitutional Convention

Two Committees of the Alaska Constitutional Convention have scheduled public hearings on Saturday morning, November 26, 1955. The hearings will be held on the second floor of Constitution Hall, University of Alaska.

Miss Dorothy Awes, of Anchorage, Chairman of the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights, states that her committee will convene at 9:30 A.M. to hear witnesses desirous of presenting information or views on the subjects dealt with by her Committee. Other members of that Committee are R. Rolland Armstrong, Juneau; James P. Doogan, Fairbanks; Seaborn J. Buckalew, Anchorage; Robert J. McNealy, Fairbanks; John Hellenenthal, Anchorage; and Ada B. Wien, of Fairbanks.

Mr. John Hellenenthal, of Anchorage, Chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment, invites persons desirous of appearing before his Committee to attend hearings scheduled for 11:30 A.M. Other members of this Committee are John B. Coghill, of Nenana; Douglas Gray, Douglas; Frank Peratrovich, Klawock; M. J. Walsh, Nome; George D. Cooper, Fairbanks; and M. R. Marston, of Anchorage.

These are the first hearings to be scheduled by Committees of the Constitutional Convention. Others will follow. The hearings will afford the Committees an opportunity to obtain expressions of public opinion on the subjects to which they are assigned. They will also give members of the general public a chance to be heard by those who are drafting the Constitution for the State of Alaska.

Thomas B. Stewart

Secretary

Alaska Constitutional Convention

PRESS RELEASE

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

November 25, 1955

The Committee on Resources of the Alaska Constitutional Convention invited E. L. (Bob) Bartlett, Delegate to the United States Congress from Alaska, to attend its November 22 meeting, and to discuss with the Committee the history of resource provisions in Statehood enabling bills in Congress.

Chairman W. O. Smith explained that Senate Bill 49 and H. R. 2535, the most recent statehood bills are almost identical in their treatment of land grants to the state. Both provide that the state shall be granted approximately 103,550,000 acres of land as follows:

800,000 acres for the purpose of furthering the development of and expansion of communities.

100,000,000 acres for general support of state government.

500,000 acres for legislative, executive and judicial buildings.

200,000 acres for institutions for the mentally ill.

200,000 acres for penitentiaries.

200,000 acres for schools and asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind.

500,000 acres for normal schools.

200,000 acres for state, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions.

250,000 acres for homes for needy pioneers.

500,000 acres for the University of Alaska in addition to grants heretofore made.

All grants to the state made or confirmed under these bills would include mineral deposits. The grants of mineral lands to the state and the right to prospect and mine them would be made upon the express condition that all sales of any of the mineral lands so granted shall contain a reservation to the state of such minerals. The bills provide that any lands or minerals disposed of contrary to the Acts shall be forfeited to the U. S. by appropriate proceedings instituted by the Attorney General for that purpose in the U. S. District Court for Alaska. It should be noted that no lands would be granted to the state of Alaska for the express purpose of supporting public elementary and high schools. The 100,000,000 acre grant for general purposes of state government would presumably cover support of public schools.

Mr. Bartlett was asked about the possibility of the Senate's adhering rigidly to the Reservation concept of mineral rights as expressed in recent enabling bills.

Mr. Boswell raised the question of duality of mineral disposition procedures in the event mineral rights were reserved to the State for disposition only through lease. He expressed concern that in a competitive position with Public Domain lands, State lands would be less attractive to mineral claimants.

Mr. Bartlett stated that earlier bills did not instruct the states as to the administration of subsurface lands; that in 1950 and 1951 thinking on the Senate side commenced to change,

that S50 of the 82nd Congress contained three limitations:

1. State could not dispose of more than 640 acres to any one person, firm or association.
2. State required to observe royalty provision of not more than 12½ percent.
3. Income derived to be covered into Public School fund.

Mr. Bartlett stated further: The first committee draft of the reservation concept provided for a fixed royalty rate which was later modified to set merely an upper limit, leaving to the State legislature establishment of a royalty scale within that top limit.

In the 83rd Congress, Mr. Bartlett stated, the bill reported out by the late Senator Butler provided that grants of mineral lands be made on the express condition they contain mineral reservation in the State, and be disposed of only by lease.

The measure which passed the Senate in 1954 contained substantially similar requirements as to reservation to the state of minerals and their disposition by lease.

The current bills are substantially similar except that the prohibition against the sale of more than 640 acres to any one purchaser has been removed. In this respect the proposed Tayia project was cited.

Reference was made by Mr. Bartlett to a memorandum from Herbert J. Slaughter of the Solicitor's Office, which memorandum was made available to the Committee and traces the history of

Congressional thinking on the point of reserving minerals, in Federal grants, to the State. The bills before the last Congress differed in one respect - namely, that concerning mineral reservations in the proposed 800,000 acre grant for Community Development purposes.

Mr. Slaughter's conclusions suggest that the 1927 Act confirming title of mineral bearing school sections evidenced for the first time a change in Congressional attitude which is reflected in turn in recent statehood enabling bills.

Mr. Stewart raised the question of the taxability of leasehold interests under the proposed State lease arrangement and indicated also that certain exemptions were granted lessees of Federal Coal Lands.

Mr. White inquired "Could not the Constitution state that disposition of minerals be made by methods other than leasing, should the enabling act allow?" Mr. Bartlett replied that it could.

Questions were propounded by Delegates Ralph Rivers, Yule Kilcher, and Committee members touching on related subject matter. Mr. Rivers suggested that state lands' administration be determined by the legislature subject to terms and restrictions of the enabling law.

Delegate Kilcher's questions brought out the provision in current enabling bills whereby a limited State preference right of selection would exist on restoration to public domain of lands in Federal reservations, subject, however, to priority of

the Veteran's Preference Act of September 1944, as amended.

Mr. Bartlett's concluding references were to the effect that the latest language contained in enabling bills did not prescribe rates of royalty; that the Senate feels it is being especially liberal as to proposed acreage grants as well as to any grant of minerals; that the Congress may well feel it is committed to the course followed elsewhere since 1927 which may continue to be observed and which, therefore, accounts for the reservation language in present enabling acts.

November 25, 1955

PRESS RELEASE

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

MORE CONVENTION COMMITTEES SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The following Committees of the Alaska Constitutional Convention will hold public hearings in Constitution Hall, University of Alaska, on Saturday afternoon, December 3:

9:30 A.M. - Committee on the Executive Branch

2:00 P.M. - Committee on Finance and Taxation

3:00 P.M. - Committee on Resources

These committees invite all who wish to be heard to notify the Secretary of the Convention in advance. (Telephone 2692, College, Alaska).

The Committees hope that witnesses will bring written statements which can be left with the Committees and which will serve to supplement oral testimony.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Executive Branch, Victor C. Rivers of Anchorage, stated that his committee would welcome an expression of opinion from members of the public on the composition and the scope of authority of the Executive Branch of the future State Government and related matters. Other members of the committee are: Frank Barr, Fairbanks; John C. Boswell, Fairbanks; Thomas C. Harris, Valdez; Maynard D. Londborg, Unalakleet; Katherine Nordale, Juneau; and H. R. Vanderleest, Juneau.

The Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Taxation, Delegate Leslie Nerland of Fairbanks, pointed out that the purpose of his Committee's hearing is to enable members of the public to present views on finance and tax matters which may be useful in considering provisions for the State Constitution. He made it clear, however, that the Committee will not consider tax or other proposals which are

properly subjects for legislation. Other members of the Committee are: James Nolan of Wrangell, Barrie M. White of Anchorage, Dorothy Awes of Anchorage, Frank Barr of Fairbanks, Frank Peratrovich of Klawock, and Chris Poulsen of Anchorage.

The Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Delegate W. O. Smith of Ketchikan, stated that his committee will welcome information or views from members of the public on land, including tidelands, mineral, water, forest, fisheries and other resources which may assist the delegates in drafting provisions on this subject for the State Constitution. Other members of the Resources Committee are: John C. Boswell of Fairbanks, Burke Riley of Haines, Truman C. Emberg of Dillingham, Leonard King of Haines, Peter L. Reader of Nome, B. D. Stewart of Sitka, Barrie M. White of Anchorage, and Ada B. Wien of Fairbanks.

This is the second series of public hearings scheduled by Committees of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, the first being the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights at 9:30 A.M. and the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Appointment at 11:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 26.

Additional committee hearings will be announced at a later date.

Thomas B. Stewart, Secretary
Alaska Constitutional Convention

November 23, 1955

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska Constitutional Convention

Committees of the Alaska Constitutional Convention will hold meetings on television each day at 4:00 P.M. on Channel 11 in Fairbanks for the next ten days exclusive of Thanksgiving and Sunday. These meetings will give the public an opportunity to see the Convention's committees in action, and will provide a better understanding of the work that is being done.

The Committee on the Judiciary Branch appeared on television on Monday, November 21, 1955, at 4:00 P.M., and the Committee on the Executive Branch appeared on Tuesday, November 22, 1955, at 4:00 P.M. The following television meetings are scheduled from November 23 to December 3, 1955.

- WEDNESDAY - Committee on the Legislative Branch. Committee members
Nov. 23 are: Chairman, Steve McCutcheon of Anchorage; George D. Cooper, Fairbanks; Helen Fischer, Anchorage; Jack Hinckel, Kodiak; Eldor Lee, Petersburg; John McNees, Nome; Dora Sweeney, Juneau.
- FRIDAY - Committee on Suffrage, Elections, and Apportionment.
Nov. 25 Committee members are: Chairman, John Hellenthal of Anchorage; John B. Coghill, Nenana; George D. Cooper, Fairbanks; Douglas Gray, Douglas; M. R. Marston, Spenard; Frank Peratrovich, Klawock; M. J. Walsh, Nome.
- SATURDAY - Committee on the Preamble and the Bill of Rights. Committee
Nov. 26 members are: Chairman, Dorothy Awes of Anchorage; R. Rolland Armstrong, Juneau; Seaborn J. Buckalew, Anchorage; James P. Doogan, Fairbanks; John Hellenthal, Anchorage; Robert J. McNealy, Fairbanks; Ada B. Fien, Fairbanks.
- MONDAY - Committee on Finance and Taxation. Committee members are:
Nov. 28 Chairman, Leslie Nerland of Fairbanks; Dorothy Awes, Anchorage; Frank Barr, Fairbanks; James Nolan, Wrangell; Frank Peratrovich, Klawock; Chris Poulsen, Anchorage; Barrie M. White, Anchorage.

- TUESDAY - Committee on Local Government. Committee members are:
Nov. 29 Chairman, John Rosswog of Cordova; John Cross, Kotzebue;
James P. Doogan, Fairbanks; Victor Fischer, Anchorage;
Eldor Lee, Petersburg; Maynard L. Londborg, Unalakleet;
Victor Rivers, Anchorage.
- WEDNESDAY - Committee on Resources. Committee members are: Chairman,
Nov. 30 W. O. Smith of Ketchikan; John C. Boswell, Fairbanks;
Truman C. Emberg, Dillingham; Leonard King, Haines; Burke
Riley, Haines; Peter L. Reader, Nome; B. D. Stewart, Sitka;
Barrie M. White, Anchorage; Ada B. Wien, Fairbanks.
- THURSDAY - Committee on Ordinances and Transitional Measures. Comm-
Dec. 1 ittee members are: Chairman, Robert J. McNealy, of Fair-
banks; Seaborn J. Buckalew, Anchorage; Herb Hilscher,
Anchorage; James Hurley, Palmer; Yule F. Kilscher, Homer;
William W. Knight, Sitka; W. W. Laws, Nome; B. D. Stewart,
Sitka; H. R. VanderLeest, Juneau.
- FRIDAY - Committee on Direct Legislation, Amendment, and Revision.
Dec. 2 Committee members are: Chairman, E. B. Collins, of Fair-
banks; Jack Hinckel, Kodiak; Leonard King, Haines; M. R.
Marston, Spenard; Irwin L. Metcalf, Seward; W. O. Smith,
Ketchikan; Warren A. Taylor, Fairbanks.
- SATURDAY - Committee on Resolutions and Recommendations. Committee
Dec. 3 members are: Chairman, John Cross of Kotzebue; Douglas
Gray, Douglas; Truman Emberg, Dillingham; Leslie Nerland,
Fairbanks; Chris Poulsen, Anchorage; Peter Reader, Nome;
and R. E. Robertson, Juneau.

Thomas B. Stewart

Secretary

Alaska Constitutional Convention

PRESS RELEASE - FAIRBANKS ONLY

KFAR and KFAR-TV
Midnight Sun Broadcasting Company
Fairbanks, Alaska

KTVF
Fairbanks, Alaska

KFRB
Alaska Broadcasting Company
Fairbanks, Alaska

Jessen's Weekly
Fairbanks, Alaska

Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks, Alaska

Farthest North Collegian
College, Alaska

Polar Star
College, Alaska

Mrs. Zora Banks
Box 936
Fairbanks, Alaska

Outside

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Editorial Department
Seattle, Washington

The Seattle Times
Seattle Washington

E. L. Bartlett
1029 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

FULL, COMPLETE AND EXACT LIST OF ALASKA NEWSPAPERS

R Ketchikan Daily News
Ketchikan, Alaska

R Wrangell Sentinel
Wrangell, Alaska

R Petersburg Press
Petersburg, Alaska

R Sitka Sentinel
Sitka, Alaska

R Daily Alaska Empire
Box 1991
Juneau, Alaska

R The Juneau Independent
Box 2390
Juneau, Alaska

R Cordova Times
Cordova, Alaska

R Valdez Breeze
Valdez, Alaska

R Petticoat Gazette
Seward, Alaska

R Kodiak Mirror
Kodiak, Alaska

R The Beacon
Dillingham, Alaska

R Spenard Life
Spenard Station
Anchorage, Alaska

R Anchorage Times
Box 40
Anchorage, Alaska

R Anchorage Daily News
Anchorage, Alaska

R The Valley Frontiersman
Palmer, Alaska

R Chugiak Calendar
Chugiak, Alaska

R Jessen's Weekly
Fairbanks, Alaska

R Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks, Alaska

R Nome Nugget
Nome, Alaska

R Delta Midnight Sun
Big Delta, Alaska

R Kenai Peninsula Pioneer
Homer, Alaska

R Farthest North Collegian
College, Alaska

R The Polar Star
College, Alaska

A The Alaska Spotlight
948 East Fifth Avenue
Anchorage
and
Mrs. Zora Banks
R Box 736
Fairbanks