TESTIMONY

SUBMITTED

TO

THE ALASKA NATIVES COMMISSION
TASK FORCE ON ECONOMICS

IN CONNECTION WITH A HEARING
ON ECONOMIC ISSUES
AND
SOLUTIONS

AT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA OCTOBER 16, 1992

ALASKA NATIVES COMMISSION

JOINT FEDERAL-STATE COMMISSION
ON
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING ALASKA NATIVES
4000 Old Seward Highway, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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ALASKA NATIVES COMMISSION

ECONOMICS TASK FORCE

HEARING ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

9:53 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: MORRIS THOMPSON

MARTIN MOORE

MARY JANE FATE, CO-CHAIR

FATHER JAMES SEBESTA

FRANK PAGANO

OTHERS COMMISSIONERS, JOHN SHIVELY PUBLIC MEMBERS, AND STAFF PRESENT:

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PROCEEDINGS

(On record at 9:53 a.m.)
(Tape #1.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Morris Thompson, and with me this morning is John Shively; and John and I are members of the Economic Task Force for the Alaska Natives Commission; and this morning we'd like to start the hearing by welcoming J. Wayne Erickson, who's a safety engineer and author; and he's with Erickson's Adventures. Please go ahead.

MR. ERICKSON: Thank you. I don't know if -- are these needed, or are we trying to use them or. . .

REPORTER: You can use them; they go straight to my machine.

MR. ERICKSON: Okay. My card says I am a safety engineer and that I am an author. I've spent most of my life as a mining engineer. I was just sent a -- I just had the pleasure of visiting with Buddy Lang. Back five years ago, Buddy and I were responsible for the underground mine training program at the -- in Juneau for the Greens Creek Mine.

It was there that I became more hands-on associated with the Native problems, if you will. And what I'm here today to do is to present an outline for a solution of the problems that you folks have already defined -- a portion of the solution. There's no one solution to all of the problems;

but there are steps that I think that can be taken that would be very positive in creating an economic base that would allow some of the social problems and educational problems to be addressed.

Before -- I do want to touch just a little bit on the problems and the background, because if you're trying to define a route to where you're going, you have to know where you are. And before you can de -- tell where you are, you have to understand where you've been; and it is this line of thinking that I am very encouraged and excited about the Native situation and the talk I hear about the preserving of the Native heritage, all of the good things of the past that should be brought forth -- forward.

I also see within the discussion that I've heard, there is -- the real recognition that you have to have an economic base. Training and education are fine; but only if they will take you onward. To give an education and stop at that point without the opportunity to advance it, is sometimes more detrimental than it is beneficial.

At the University of Juneau, we set up our Underground Mine Training Program, and we did it with the intent of having a time for the opening of the Greens Creek Mine. They were going to be employing some 350 people. At that time, there was only 12 registered underground EBSHA (ph.) people in the state of Alaska -- EBSHA (ph.) being Mine

Safety and Health Agency. There was only 12 of us that were certified as being underground miners in the whole state. They were going to employ over 300 people at the Greens Creek, so we set up the school to train, so that when they graduated they could be a labor pool available to go to work at the Greens Creek Mine.

We set it up in two semesters. The -- everything worked right according to schedule; the mine was -- reached a new development stage; the ferry was built to transport the people; and everything was dead set to go; and then the bureaucracy got into a fight between the Coast Guard, environmental-quality people, and so forth, about who had jurisdiction over building a dock to take the ferry to take the people out to the mine. This fight lasted for almost four months and delayed the opening of the mine by that extent.

I bring this up, because it demonstrates a point I want to make. We had a young gentleman in our class that had looked to this opportunity to work at Greens Creek as a lifetime opportunity -- something that he dreamt about all the time. They didn't hire him, simply because of the lack of the ferry.

We set the second semester of classes; we put another 150 people out. The young man realized it would be a long time before he was hired; he became depressed; he committed suicide. I counted that as a failure of our system.

We were doing something for the people; but then we were slamming the door in their face and not allowing them to go ahead.

Now the Native corporations have, with your world, the last major mineral resource undeveloped areas that exist. We have a -- pressures on the outside world to eliminate mining from all federal grounds. They no longer want miners on any federal grounds. The only place that mining can then take place is on private-ownership grounds. And the Native corporations own the largest single block of mineral potential ground in the -- North America.

There are two reasons why it has not been developed to the extent that it could be, to the benefit of the regional corporations and the local Native corporations. One is the division that exists between the Native villages and the regional corporations. You have a gap -- a wide gap that exists in communication, economic incentives, and so forth, between the two that prohibits -- it doesn't prohibit, but it obstructs the development of our mineral resources.

On the other side of it, we've had to depend upon Outside mining companies to come in and to develop the resources of Alaska; and, frankly, they don't really care about the Native problem. They're not here to address the problems of the Native corporations; they're not here to address the social problems, the educational problems, the

rest of it. They're here for the bottom line only, and that's to make money. They put a lot of advertisements out, a lot of publicity out that they're -- they -- of all of their great social consciences that they have.

But, in truth, what they are is a legal entity that lives by the law. They will do what the law says that they have to do, and they do it. They're not law breakers; they live by the law. That law can be represented by the contracts that come from the Native corporations to them; but that contract that they have has to address the problems that you as a Native corp -- people have. If you don't address those problems at that level, at that contract level, before you ever start, you'll never resolve the -- you'll never address; you'll never begin to resolve the issues that are there.

so the first thing that you have to do, if you're even thinking about developing your mineral resources, is to try to point out to the regional and the Native village corporations -- and this idea is not mine; this is one that has come through talking with people from AFN, and talking to Native corporate officers, and geologists, and all of this -- is to set up a program that works with the Native villages that educates them on the advantages and the disadvantages of mineral development on their land; so that they know what they're getting into; they know what they can expect; they know what they can demand of the contract with the company

that mines it; or they can set up their own mining company to mine it. But it has to be a defined thing; it has to be a step thing that you address these problems, so that when you end up with a mined-out piece of property, it is not only the taxes that you may have collected during the mining process, or the jobs that you may have (indiscernible), but you will have created an asset that when a mine leaves is still an asset for that village that's there. And these people can look at something that will go on forever.

It's not just the life of the mine that we're talking about; we're talking about all the way through; but the only way you can incorporate this is if you do it at the very beginning. It has to start at the beginning; and it has to start at the local level; and it has to start with an understanding of what the mining process is. But when that is attained, then you sit down and you negotiate with whoever's going to mine it, whether it's a regional corporation, whether it's an Outside corporation. And you make sure that you get the things that you need and want, to make that Native village proper and continue on with addressing the problems that exist; whether they're water; whether they're sewage; whether they're education.

But it all has to begin by addressing first the Natives, second your mining company, then you can go into your

training program, and then you can go through the prospect -the process of exploration, developing, and mining.

The way it can begin is a study is needed to do such things as evaluate Red Dog. Red Dog is a classic -- one of the very few classic cases you've gotten, where you've had a successful corporate entity come in, and develop a mine, and has worked with the Natives to create jobs and other particular benefits.

But I think it's pretty well recognized within the industry and within the Native community that there was perhaps much more that could have been done that was not done. And I believe that. The Red Dog people are good people; Cominco is good people; but they do not have the incentive to try to develop a program that is really meaningful for the Natives. They did what they were required to do by law and by contract. They've done some very good things; and you should know that; and you should be able to lay that on the table for your villages and say:

"Okay, this is what you stand to gain by development here. Here are some of the problems that could have been avoided; here are some of the advantages that could have been realized; and this is how you proceed."

So the whole program has to begin with an in-depth study of Red Dog and one or two other examples that exist around the state, to define the package that you want to sit down and talk to the Native corporations, and the villages -- the village council, if you will; and from that council -- from those meetings, you evolve a program that is meaningful that you can present to the mining companies; and, from there, you go ahead.

Then you set up your training program. If you do that, you have cooperations such as from the Bureau of Mines. T.S. Areas (ph.) is a -- director of the Bureau of Mines. He's also a Native -- an Oklahoma Native. He would like to see a training program established to aid the Natives in this mining process; but to set up a mining training program without the mines is tantamount to disaster, again, as we've already experienced; and we don't want to do that.

So you have to have a place to begin; and I say the place to begin is with Red Dog. The second step is the council meetings with the Natives. And the third step is with the corporate entities.

This is how I see the evolutionary process and development of the mineral resources of the Native corporations in Alaska. It can be a major step in the reinto the resolving of not only the economic problems, but the social problems if done right.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Erickson. I was remiss when we started the hearing. Father Sebesta,

you're one of the Commissioners, and Frank are more than welcome to join us if they'd like. They're both Commission members as well. Mr. Erickson, thank you for your comments.

John, did you have any thoughts or comments?

MR. SHIVELY: Well, you know, maybe a couple, since I was sort of involved in Red Dog. I mean, one of the things to keep in mind about Red Dog that's different than mo -- what most Native corporations faced is that when we negotiated with Cominco, we knew what was at Red Dog. We -- Cominco had done the exploration; they drilled; and we a -- basically knew the size of the ore body and how rich the ore was. Most Native corporations are either going to have to spend a substantial amount of money which, to find something like Red Dog, is basically millions of dollars, in exploration on their own; or they will have to find a mining company to come in and do that, and it is going to be much more difficult to negotiate some of the kinds of requirements we have on Red Dog, when the mining industry doesn't know what they've gotten.

I -- on the other hand, I happen to agree, as does NANA, that the development of mines does offer opportunity. We are presently carrying out now, on our own, additional exploration on our lands; and we have actually bought a number of mining claims ourselves in the area that, although we're not actually operating right now, we have the potential to

operate. And, of course -- I mean, Red Dog is at one end of the scale of what a mine is; and it's at the big end.

MR. ERICKSON: Yes.

MR. SHIVELY: And there won't -- you know, to find even one more Red Dog in any of our lifetimes in this state would be difficult and maybe unlikely. But it i -- it doe -- the development of mineral resources does -- I think, does offer some possibilities; and I appreciate your comments on it.

MR. ERICKSON: The process can begin with the exploration. Thinking back to the early days of uranium boom in the Lower 48, we did exploration work on ranchers' ground, many of them where they didn't own the mineral rights; and so you'd go to the rancher, and you'd say:

"Hey, we want to do this exploration work."

And they would like to run us off, because they got no economic benefit out of it, much as your villages do. So we'd sit down with them and say:

"Okay, we want to do it in this area. What can we do -- how can we do it that would be beneficial to you?"

And we did such things as build roads into it that they could not build themselves, because it was on Forest Service ground. We did such things as drill water wells. The -- actually

exploration wells; but we'd blow them out, set 'em up, and clean 'em, so they'd have a water well.

But we worked with the people from the very beginning on how we could make it fit their needs. As the property developed, then you can get into bigger and bigger issues, and bigger and bigger things; but the point is that it had to begin at the beginning. You don't go in there and just run over people, and do the exploration, and ignore the local needs. You certainly can't do that here in Alaska. You can't do that with the Native corporations, and it's just got to begin at the beginning is all I'm saying.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Mr. Erickson, just a comment, and maybe not a question. And I can't testify for other regions; but within our region -- and let me just say I think we are slightly different in that we have twelve and a half million acres of entitlement -- we have a lot of the regional corporate land sufficiently separate from villages' lands; and we don't -- I don't believe, and I hope, we don't have some of the urban -- I'm sorry, the regional village conflicts that you alluded to in your comments. But, obviously, we -- even we have to be sensitive to local needs and desires as we go forward to develop.

And then publicly want to compliment John and the NANA folks on what they've done. As he mentioned himself, they have a unique circumstance there, but they've still done

an outstanding job with job training, and the one nice thing, obviously, about mineral development, someone has to start; and you use that as the base; and you improve, hopefully, as we go forward. So --

MR. ERICKSON: Exactly. And please do not take what I said as any kind of a knocking of NANA Corporation, because what you've done is outstanding. You've taken a giant step forward; and all I'm saying is that now use it to advance the cause in other areas as well. It would be rare if you reached the ultimate point of success the first time you tried something; but it can certainly be used, as was our training program in Juneau. It was a good, successful training program; but it was still just the first step; and it could be improved upon; and the approach was right; the approach of NANA Corporation has been proven right, and that's why you want it as a model to present and work with through the Native Alaska community.

I cannot over-express the -- my relief that the mineral potential for mine development in Alaska -- or in North America is the greatest possible thing that you could have as far as the Native corporations is concerned. One square mile of land put into an underground mine -- or have an underground mine put on it -- will represent more man hours of labor, more work, more economic contribution than any other way that you could ever put on that ground. Even if it was

the State Capitol Building, I think you would probably still be competitive with the economic benefits and the man hours that -- from one square piece -- one square mile of ground.

The -- if you look at the disturbed area of Greens Creek, and of the Red Dog Mine, and Prudhoe Bay, if you took and you build ten Prudhoe Bays, and you build 50 Greens Creek and Red Dog Mine, you'd have an area of 100,000 acres -- ten times the city parks of Anchorage is what you would have. The total disturbance within the state would be minuscule; but it could make an economic base that this state could run on forever.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Any other questions of Mr. -- we are beginning to now get some people who have testified -- want to testify, so, John?

MR. SHIVELY: Yeah, just one more comment. I -- you know, I'm always amused when I talk to people in the development community these days who think that the Native lands are sort of the solution to the economic problems of the state, since when back in the late Sixties and early Seventies, as Morris will recall, when the Natives were fighting for the Settlement Act, it was the people in the mining industry and the Chamber of Commerce who were our biggest enemies. And the fact that they have, in essence, cut off their nose to spite their face by keeping the amount of

Native land down in the state, as opposed to promoting it back in the Sixtles and Seventies, is not lost on some of us.

MR. ERICKSON: I can appreciate that. It's a point well taken; but we're talking about here, as I see it, is ultimately you have Natives developing mineral resources, on Native land, with Native money. That's the ultimate objective.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: And it's -- if I may, it's capital importation, rather than capital exportation.

MR. ERICKSON: Exactly, exactly. And it's people. You're keeping your people -- you're doing something constructive for your people. The -- there -- I know of no other opportunity like that that you've got.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay. Any other questions for Mr. Erickson? If not, we thank you for appearing before us.

MR. ERICKSON: I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

started, we will be rather informal. We have another hearing following this one at 1 o'clock. We would like to break as close to noon as possible. We will be informal as long as we have a few people signed up; but if we get a rather large crowd, as we might, if we do, we would ask that we limit the testimony to ten minutes if we start getting additional

people, to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to testify.

And if we are unable to get you in this morning, there is a spillover hearing that will take place Saturday morning as well. So, we will stay on an informal mode and allow the witnesses that we have as much time as they would like to testify; but if the list gets a bit crowded, we would indulge you, and ask if you would indulge us, if we would limit you to maybe ten minutes. But the next person who signed up that I see is Ron Brower. We'd like to welcome Ron Brower and hear his testimony please.

And one final thing, if you would state your name, the community you're from; and if you happen to have written testimony, we'd appreciate that being submitted. Welcome, Ron Brower.

MR. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I was advised on a short notice here to appear before this panel. My name is Ron Lynch Brower, Sr. I'm currently President for Ukpeagvik Inupiak Corporation, a village corporation in the North Slope; and also I'm the AFN representative for our villages for the Arctic Slope Region.

I understand our subject this morning is in dealing with economics; and I want to present to you our situation as we view it in the Arctic Slope. For the mo -- for quite a number of years, we've had some hardship with regard to

economic opportunity and development, especially at the village level. Even though we have Prudhoe Bay located in our area, one of the biggest difficulties that we have gone through in deal -- doing economic opportunity, has been in the lack of training and the necessary education to provide the necessary skilled force required to do various projects.

I think this has been one of the weakest areas. Even though our villages are located in a fairly good environment there, economic opportunity has been far and few in between, which results, in many instances, that our Native community, or members of our Native community, you know, in many instances are not employed, which is probably a con-problem throughout many of our other regions.

There's a very high contingent of transient personnel, most of who have these jobs that many of our people would like. Unfortunately, as I mentioned, that it's the training and skill level required that normally keeps them - from being employed in the job market.

One of the biggest things we have is a situation where being a -- our communities are subsistence-oriented communities; and when it comes to dealing with the 8-to-5-type jobs, there is a conflict that occurs when we have seasonal hunting activity taking place to meet our nutritional needs for the upcoming year.

We're heavily involved in a cash economy in the very short time that we've had village corporations, and we still have people within our companies that have minimum education. Some of 'em -- some of our board of directors' education does not exceed the fourth grade, but they have a wealth of experience, which they bring to the table. I think, in our case, UIC has been fortunate in being able to pursue various projects and diversifying from -- into other fields of business. UIC's involved in insurance -- fire and casualty homeowners' insurance, which is, I believe, the only type of its kind that's owned by a Native corporation.

Of course, we're involved in construction, and barge transportation, and in other technical services. This has proved to be a profitable direction for our corporation. However, it does not allow -- or has not provided the opportunity for many of our shareholders to be employed. We, of course, employ a lot -- as many shareholders as we ha -- can; and, in many instances over the year, our shareholder hire may be 50, 60 percent. Compared to other entities, we felt that was a fairly good margin.

We do a lot of work in other villages, and we have adjusted some of our management style from dealing with management by goals and objectives to include management by values. This is an important ingredient in doing business with the Native community, which is not exercised by many

other transient companies doing work in villages. And, at this point, our company has continued to grow; and we are heavily involved in training of our shareholders, so that we can develop certified skilled employees for the long term. I think -- in that direction, I think we have been fortunate, in that we have been also profitable enough to be able to do so. Recognizing that many areas are not as economically well off as the Arctic Slope is in many cases, this we have used to our advantage -- to our best advantage, and we'll continue to do so.

However, there's several areas of concern that our people do have. We do lack skilled people in the field of health, in the field of business, and several other fields of labor. And, even though the oil industry has been somewhat supportive of training, many of our people don't work there. They're -- they live in their home environment, and we have -- we are in a clash, in many instances, between the need for the cash economy and the need for our subsistence economy to be balanced, so that we may have a -- at least a healthy year both ways.

At this time, one of the areas that we see a need for development especially is in the area of arctic research. This has a potential for providing many of our rural communities opportunities for not only educating -- getting educated in the field of arctic research; but also being a

participant with the various federal/state governments. Compared to other areas, the United States spends very little in terms of arctic research and hardly employs many of our Native people in that field. So, naturally, we look to other areas to provide economic opportunity, to provide jobs, and make improvements where we can.

One of our objectives has been to develop a partnership between local government, tribal government, and our private sector. In doing so, we have come out with a fairly strong and unified community working together. This has allowed us, both the government, the private sector, and our tribal governments to begin to prosper and work together as a partnership. This, I think, is working quite well; and we anticipate this relationship to continue for a long period of time. And we're doing a number of projects with our local government. Whether it's the state or tribal government, we work -- our objective has been to develop a cooperative relationship, which will address our concerns -- economic, socially, and otherwise.

This year -- this past year, I think we -- one of our successes is that we've been able to implement our homesite program, which included some changes, I think. For the first time, the feds and the state have had to deal with subsistence subdivision, which is a new situation. And both parties really were not prepared to deal with something such

as a subsistence subdivision. This plan allows space for our people to continue their subsistence activity; it allows us to, over time, provide jobs to the local community; and it bolsters up our economic relationship with the local and private industry for a long period of time, I would say.

And I think we'd like to encourage the Commission to look at our communities, and see this -- the type of design that we have developed in the Arctic Slope can be useful for other areas. I hope you will have much success in your current mission, and thank you for the opportunity.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Ron. Questions of Ron? John? Martin?

MR. SHIVELY: I have a -- would you expand just for a minute, Ron, on your orient -- you mentioned management by values. Give us some examples, or how has it worked, and how is it being implemented with your corporation?

MR. BROWER: When we as a com -- when our village corporation is involved in doing a project in a different village, for example, maybe we may be involved in construction of schools in various locations. What we have done is we have taken our management team; we meet with the village rep; we meet with the students in the community; we meet with the elders, the tribal and the city councils; and we meet with various officials, families, within a community; and we spend

a day or two discussing with them what their community values are.

We, as being a transient company coming into their territory, we like to explore what kind of values. We look at the cultural basis of the community, the economics, and the social structure within that community; and we look at the traditional values, and some -- well, most of which we discuss, and then we take those values -- the community values -- the social, moral, and other values, and lay out the ground work if we're going to do a project in a community. We use that as a ground base, and instruct our employees of the type of behavior that they would be expected to conduct themselves in a village situation.

You know, we were at one village, and we were pointing this question out, and so -- in that village, our response -- we had a silence there for awhile, and the response came back:

"Well, we expect in your -- from your workers no alcohol to be brought into our community. When you are done with your project, we don't expect you to leave any babies behind."

So, (laughing) we -- those are just examples of what we experience. There's -- this has been a good exchange between our company and the village.

We also employ as many people from the village as we can, or wherever we are doing a project. We exercise as much local hire as we can -- resident hire in the villages, as we go about doing various projects. And this has been a very fruitful experience for our company.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Well, thank you, Ron. We compliment you on your local-hire initiatives. I think that's true across the state; but we compliment you on implementing it with your village corporation.

As I mentioned, it is true in most of the village and regional corporations, we're outperforming other Alaskan-based companies, other Outside companies that are imported, in training and developing our shareholders; and we're proving that it can be done; and we're proving that we can get the job done efficiently, on time, many times under budget; and that our work force is just as competitive.

And it's always nice to see that being implemented around the state, because, obviously, for us it makes good economic and shareholder sense, and gets the job performed so. . .

MR. BROWER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Any questions of Ron by any of the other Commissioners? John?

MR. SHIVELY: Yeah. Ron, one of the issues -- I know it's come up at Red Dog and some of the other economic

ventures that we're involved in is that in the Native community, a death in the community is much different than the non-Native community, because death isn't -- doesn't always just -- or it doesn't affect just the immediate family, it affects a broader sort of extended family, and even people that aren't necessarily related by blood, because of formal and informal adoptions. How do you deal with funeral leave and things like that in your operations?

When we're -- even in our own BROWER: MR. community, we have experienced a lot of death. We experience that as part of life; and what we do is that when such an event takes place, if we're in a community -- small community, we would allow our employees to be participating in funeral services, etcetera. If the business within the community does come to a stop, then we will stop for a day to accommodate the community in their practice in dealing with funerals. Each community is different. We have a number of religious groups through the state of Alaska, and our experience has been different in each region, because of the faith that is practiced within those communities. We look at the type of religion that is practiced in the community, whether it's Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, etcetera, and expect our company to fall within their practices, 'cause we must deal in -- we have -- we're dealing in a very diversified community of Alaska, and so we have to make adjustment accordingly.

But we do provide leave time for our employees. In some instances, we have stopped the work we're doing completely, because the entire village would be participating in a funeral. So, at that point, we must comply to the community's tradition.

MR. SHIVELY: Thank you, Ron.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Any other questions of Ron? If not, Ron, we again compliment you for your work and appreciate you appearing before us this morning.

MR. BROWER: Thank you for your time.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Ron. The next individual who signed up is Miranda Wright. Miranda?

(Pause.)

We have our -- while Miranda's getting ready, we have -- our Chairman joined us. Mary Jane, you're welcome to join us as well. Okay.

(Pause.)

I was just looking at that.

(Laughter.)

MS. WRIGHT: Good morning. My name is Miranda Wright. I am originally from the village of Nulato. I'm an Athabascan; and I've lived in Fairbanks for over 20 years. My husband and I -- who's also Athabascan -- have been in business throughout these years: construction, land development, sled dog racing, and I've also had a cottage

industry making fur hats, parkas, mittens, and other traditional garments.

And today I'd like to address an area of economic development in the state of Alaska that I feel is overlooked. And I don't know how many of you have been next door to the craft show that's going on, but there are fantastic things in that room; and people just think:

"Oh, another little tourist room."

But this cape that I brought here as a display is an example of the sophistication that our Native artists have developed. They have taken traditional art and have now turned it into contemporary expression; and there are just wonderful things. This cape, I think, the lady figured there are something like 75 flow -- or beads in each flower; it is all hand stitched; it's on home-tanned moose skin that has not been smoked, that's a white background; it's a Native-trapped beaver. I mean, something like this, to me, should be in the Nieman Markus catalogue.

I've seen a lady wearing a beautiful cloisonne pin that was representative of a Yup'ik mask, with the beautiful lines of the mask.

I saw another Inuplaq lady with a hair barrette that was fashioned from the traditional baleen basket; and on top of that was inlaid an ivory-carved piece. It was gorgeous.

Again, traditional art in a contemporary expression. The earrings I'm wearing are Athabascan, smoked moose skin and beads, another expression. I mean, they have taken the -- all the traditional qualities, and it's still wearable art. Our people always had art, and it was always wearable, and it still is today; but it's an area that I feel is totally overlooked. You see things in the tourist shop, and that's it. But this other area of Native expression, I think, needs to be developed. There needs to be some type of an international market developed for our Native people. And that's basically what I'm looking at.

I've looked at the Christmas catalogue of Nieman Markus. Right now, Native American art is really a hot item. The -- if you open Nieman Markus' Christmas catalogue, they're sponsoring funds for the Native American Museum. I think there's potential out there that we need to tap into; but the Native people don't have the expertise; and I think it's an area that the State can certainly help in developing some type of a network -- a marketing network for our people. And that's basically what I wanted to address.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Mary Jane, did you want to testify?

CO-CHAIR FATE: Further, Miranda brought a -- well, excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: You're violating your --

CO-CHAIR FATE: -- only here to --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- own rules, please.

(Laughter.)

CO-CHAIR FATE: -- oh, (laughing), excuse me.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Your name, and your community, and do you have a prepared statement?

(Laughter.)

CO-CHAIR FATE: Well, I only came as a partner with Miranda to moral support; and I'm just to sit here and be quiet. But Miranda did bring up previously, and it's in her notes (laughing), that she thought of some long-term solutions; and one meaningful thing is to have -- start having some promotional guidelines' leadership from the state and federal, in especially marketing, developing our arts and crafts, using more innovative newer ways and materials that are local in the state of Alaska. Why not have -- what do you call it? -- conventions or seminars, and go -- you mentioned international.

MS. WRIGHT: You know, there's a lot of trade shows that are held, but we don't seem to have anything like that in Alaska, or there is no opportunity for the Native people to network with some of these trade shows; and I think this is an area that is a real big concern, at least to me, and I think it practically should to the state also.

CO-CHAIR FATE: And with the tourist -- the increasing tourist development in all the regional, this is an area that we have to start now, because it's going to be -- we're going to be selling foreign objects, huh? --

MS. WRIGHT: That's right.

CO-CHAIR FATE: -- to the visitors; and we want to be proud of our -- and keep the economy here; keep the green dollar here.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Mary Jane.

Questions -- oh, any questions of the ladies? John or. . .

(Pause.)

MS. WRIGHT: Well, we were trying to calculate the number of beads in this cape, and we lost count at about 100,000.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Wow.

MS. WRIGHT: So you can see the dedication, the time, that the artist put into an article like this; and it's sophisticated art. And I think it's --

MR. SHIVELY: And what --

MS. WRIGHT: -- I think the asking price for this cape is three thousand.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: I was over there this morning. We might as well give the artist a plug. That's Dee Sloan from Fairbanks.

MS. WRIGHT: Dee Sloan, yes. (Laughter.) An Athabascan artist from Fort Yukon.

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: If --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Father Sebe -- I'm sorry, John?

MR. SHIVELY: No.

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: Okay. Oh, Miranda, I was just going to ask if you could -- if you would see this as a -- let's say an industry developed maybe region-wide, or how did you see that development taking place? I think that, you know, it's exciting. It's an exciting thing to consider, because I think it's something which -- cottage industry in villages, where people produce the art work for sale to provide some money for themselves; but the organization of it. I was wondering if you had given any thought to that?

MS. WRIGHT: No, I hadn't given much thought to the organization. I think something like that, if the opportunity were to be there for the Native people, they have a way of -- their internal network would pull that together. And -- whether it was going to go on a regional basis, I don't know. Maybe Mary Jane has some suggestions on that.

CO-CHAIR FATE: Well, (laughing) --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: There is -- John, I can't remember the company; but there is an -- in the last catalogue that's being put together that is trying to market some Alaska

Native arts and crafts in a -- on a catalogue basis; and it's a private entrepreneur out of Juneau, who is actually seeking funding right now to develop this catalogue that she would market -- or the individual would market the -- and Alaska and other economies in other states as well. It's just a thought. John?

MR. SHIVELY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if I might comment. We -- I mean, I -- this is excellent. I mean, this -- because, I mean, it fits culturally; it fits to where people live. We, about a year ago, decided that it was the area at NANA that we've ignored, and we put a person in charge of a company we now call Inucraft (ph.), that is responsible for buying out of the local villages, selling in our tour operation at Kotzebue, but also we have a major outlet in Anchorage, and we've just developed a catalogue. And this is all -- I mean, we're experimenting with a lot of things.

We happen to be fortunate, since we some retail outlets, because of our food-service activities on the Slope and in other places; and, at this point, in terms of the catalogue, we're looking at providing it in-state to people we do business with, or -- and some out of state; and then some mailing to tourists that come to Kotzebue, since we know they have some interest in going -- in what's going on north of the Arctic Circle.

But I think that there needs to be better organization of some of this, because the market, if we're going to make it grow, has to go out of the state; and a lot of the tourists just don't buy -- I mean, it would be a rare tourist that would buy this. I mean -- and they tend to buy at the lower end; but not always. I mean, we had one -- in the small gift shop in Kotzebue this summer, we had one \$8,000 day. So, I mean, occasionally you (laughing) --

MS. WRIGHT: Those are far and few --

MR. SHIVELY: -- you just (laughing) --

MS. WRIGHT: -- between though.

MR. SHIVELY: Yeah, they are. But I -- it's -- I think it's an excellent point, and we're -- I'm certainly glad you testified.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Any other questions? If not, thank you, ladies. We do have four people signed up. The next person who has signed up is Audrey Armstrong. I'd like to welcome Audrey.

(Pause -- whispering.)

MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm nervous, but I'm Audrey Armstrong, Koyukon and Athabascan, born in Galena, raised in Nulato, live in Huslia; and, as our people know, it's very hard to say that you're just from one area.

I've been working at the Alaska Native Medical Center now for 19 years; I've been involved in the World

Eskimo Indian Olympics for 28 years at the hospital. My title is Chief of Auxiliary Patients and Director of the Volunteer Program. We have a fantastic gift shop there as everybody probably know; and I want to elaborate a little more on what Miranda said about arts and economic development.

As you already know, we do have a statewide organization; and I think, you know, when we're saying we need to combine and network together in all these different organizations we have throughout the state.

What I wanted to bring up here is IANA is a statewide organization. It deals with visual, literary, contemporary art, performing art; and it is statewide. And I think my real frustration being part of this is every year we have to use part of that money to go back to Juneau to get money again to keep us going, to keep us alive. And I remember 17 years ago, when Mary Jane sat at her table and did all the volunteering of getting out all these surveys to everyone to let them know that:

"Hey, there's the Institute of American Indian Arts that promote American Native Arts."

Why can't we have something like that in Alaska that's run by our own people; that's proud of our -- all our cultural heritage, dealing anywhere from our traditional songs, dances, potlatches, you name it? And this is what we cover.

I think my frustration here is, like I said, the funding part; that when IANA first started, we started off with 100 percent total state-supported organization. Now, we have been able to raise over 50 percent of that income through NEA Advancement, and the state has to match what NEA puts into us; private donations, from corporations, and pr -- from the private sector.

We're always working on fund raising. We feel bad in a r -- in a sense that, as IANA, when we say we're the Institute of Alaska Native Arts, we're not able to go statewide and hit every area. It's real sad that we don't have the funds for the traveling to have our staff or board to go for technical assistance to these areas.

One big area that's really lacking is, like Miranda said, is the marketing aspect, helping an artist develop a portfolio of their work that they're proud of, that they want the public to see.

Through IANA -- and then I'll stop -- through IANA -- we also have -- and talk about going international, we are sponsoring this year, Arts from the Arctic. We are just pulling teeth to get these 80 objects from Alaska that's going to be on an international exhibit. It's going to five different countries. We're going to have an exhibition in Alaska; we'll start in May; then it's going to go to Canada; then it's going to go to the Soviet Union; so we're all

exchanging art with each other; and this is our big market right now. But it's so sad to see that we couldn't even get funded to do this; that we're having to go back into IANA's budget to help us fund this program.

And just the pride of, I think, working with our artists all these years and all our people at the hospital, it's like -- this is my volunteers at the hospital. The tourist season is fantastic. We're able to help people here get groceries. We're able to get their round-trip ticket back to the villages; we're able -- at Christmas time, we're going to do that -- it's going to be our ninth bazaar at Christmas; and two years ago, I did -- I think in four hours we collected \$118,000, and we were able to send checks back to the villagers. And the villagers came back and wrote us fantastic letters and said:

"You have made my Christmas; you have helped my family get things that I didn't have the money to get for them."

So, I think, when it comes to long term, you know, it's just -- some of us that are trying to get this really going, and I think we need more state support, we need more support from the federal government. We have a fantastic program; it's already in place, but help us to keep it alive. And don't make us look like beggars that we have to go back every year and sit on the doorsteps, you know, of Juneau to lobby.

I'm getting to the point where I'm getting used to it. I mean, I've been lobbying for things ever since I started with the World Eskimo Indian Olympics; but after awhile, you kind of, you know (laughing), it gets tired trying to pull teeth, so that's what I have.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay. Any questions? Father?

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: No, I do think it's a good idea to develop this in a way that can not only bring economic value to the people, but also to spread the real value with the people around the world. I see this as, you know, as real contribution to, let's say, appreciation of Alaska Native people. It sounds exciting to me.

Just a brief one, I know that this particular area is difficult, and you've hit probably one of the key issues, because funding for the arts or funding for the humanities in down times is one of the first things that gets cut; and one of the most important things, but one of the hardest things to defend before public bodies and funding agencies. So, it really does require a lot of time, and a lot of dedication, and a lot of hard work to get the few dollars that you do get from the public entities; and we thank you and compliment you for it.

From time to time, we'll try to help; but it's kind of part of keeping the arts alive in Alaska; and we do appreciate what you've done, Audrey. You've done an outstanding job.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you.

MS. ARMSTRONG: I think the -- one more que -- one more thing. When I was talking about that, I think another help that we would need is like some people know of funding agencies or where else to seek; but I think that's where w -- a lot of our people are -- there's a lot of foundations, apparently, out there; but where do you go for these? How do you approach those? So I think the educational aspect is very important. So if there was a way that we could see that -- you know, that someone could help us on this part, you know, the people that already have programs in place, I think that would be very important.

We do have an artist bank. We have an excellent artist bank of Alaska at IANA, and it's on the computer; so we're in contact with artists all the time. The new hospital, for example, I mean, the gift shop has already bought over a hundred traditional Native art pieces, and a lot of it is from our elders that we are losing, that we have their document of what they've made in their art work. And the new facility will be a fantastic expression of Native art; and that's where

a pretty good portion of funding is going to go to the cultural aspect there.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: (Indiscernible.)

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

CO-CHAIR FATE: Just one more point that Audrey brought to me earlier is the service that IANA, the Institute of Alaska Native Artist -- Art provides to the artists; and one thing is putting portfolios together for arts in public places, which has given millions to our Alaska Native artists; and they help. So they do a great service that is really not published; and I just want to thank -- on behalf of the Commission, thank Audrey as President of Institute of Alaska Native Arts; and also with other Arts in Motion that she's been working on for the last years; and also, Miranda, thank you very much on behalf of the Commission.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you. We have Leonard Augustine.

(Pause -- whispering.)

MR. AUGUSTINE: Good morning. I'm Leonard Augustine. I'm from the village of Emmonak. It's located -- it's one of the villages down in the Yukon Delta. I'd like to just read through my notes so that I don't miss anything.

For many years, we have been privileged to live in and own nice homes -- nice HUD homes, which we would normally not be able to afford. These homes in our area have been built in selected villages, as funding becomes available. Because most villages are located in tundras, it took some special and careful planning in the construction of these homes.

Now, the other factor in the construction of these homes is the short construction season. And a problem that resulted in the construction of many of these homes is that that were constructed too fast, and it resulted in poor construction -- with a poor construction job. I guess I'd like to add, just for an example, on very, very windy days, the linoleum on the floor floats, because the wind is sweeping through the home. I believe that the haste was to try to construct as many homes as possible in that short construction season.

Now, in our village of Emmonak, there was a group of people that were trained in construction -- in carpentry. The problem with this -- the problem we had with that -- the formation of that construction company was that there are some requirements that had to be -- that some electricians and plumbers had to be certified; and none of our guys were certified.

If some of these requirements were -- I guess they're referred to as red tapes -- were removed, I guess, so that this formation of our construction company would be allowed to work; you know, participate in building these homes. I believe that it would benefit our people, as far as employment. And, not only that, I believe that these homes would be constructed more carefully and more complete if they were done by our own workers. That's all. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Leonard. Any questions or comments from any of the Commission members?

(Pause.)

If not, we thank you for coming, testifying.

MR. AUGUSTINE: All right. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: The next person who signed up is Ray Barnhardt. Ray?

(Pause.)

MR. BARNHARDT: Good morning. Ray Barnhardt from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. I also serve as a public representative on the Education Task Force for this Commission, and yesterday sat through both the morning hearing on social, cultural, and health issues, and the afternoon sessions on education; and, after listening to much of the testimony and the very often-times emotional expressions of frustration and concern that people were bringing forward to the Commission in areas that -- for those of you who have been

involved in these kinds of task forces, and commissions, and hearings over the years, have heard many times over and over. And it seems to me that we need to really push this time around to dig a little deeper than we typically do in searching for solutions to problems which seem to be perpetual, perennial, recycling of the same issues, with new players and new solutions put forward; but, in the long run, the same problems continue to resurface.

I think there are a number of elements that go into this; reasons why we can't seem to come up with solutions that have long-term results. One of that -- one of those elements is what has been, and continues to be, a factor, not only in Alaska but in other countries where there is significant numbers of Native people, trying to deal with a government structure that is largely non-Native; and that is that there's a major gap between the community level and private-sector kind of initiative and concerns, and the public-sector institutions that regulate, and govern, and administer programs and services that impact those private-sector concerns. So that it's like they're two different worlds co-existing, but having fairly limited contact with one another, except in the regulatory fashion.

And there are a number things I'd like to throw out as suggestions or ideas, based on opportunities that I've had to work with similar situations in other countries where there

are indigenous people struggling to address this same kinds of concerns. And in some ways, moving ahead; in other cases, possibly lagging behind, where we are in Alaska.

And, specifically, there are initiatives that have taken place just within the last decade; and, in some cases, within the last year; and, in one case, right next door in Canada, that's taking place right now with an election coming up here on the October 26 that has to do with a major significant revamping of the Canadian Constitution to include, if you look at it, probably the most forward, far reaching implement aboriginal self-government effort to constitutional level. And it's not the first, nor will it be the last such initiative; but if you look at the processes that have led up to this initiative in Canada, as well as to the establishment of Home Rule in Greenland; the establishment of a Sami (ph.) Parliament in Norway, and I guess it's Sweden, and Finland; the establishment of a major shift of resources and authority in New Zealand to Mowery people under a policy called Devolution, where they eventually did away with the shifted all Mowery Affairs and of Department responsibilities and resources that had been covered by that Ministry to Mowery Trust Boards, in effect, Native non-profit corporation in the Alaskan context.

Similarly, in Canada, the government, last year established a Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs, which

has much the same charge as this Commission has to review and come up with recommendations as a three-year mandate; and they're in their second year now -- recommendations regarding all aspects of aboriginal affairs in Canada, and looking at a complete rewrite of the Indian Act, part of that being wrapped into this constitutional revision that is currently under consideration.

The constitutional revision over there is a product of a tug of war that's been going on between Quebec and the rest of Canada over Quebec's sovereignty -- or Quebec effort to achieve what they call a distinct society.

And the Native people have been able to use that opening to assert their own interests in a way that is now going to be, I think, in terms of indigenous people across the world -- other than possibly Greenland with the Home Rule Government -- is going to be the foremost example of Native self-government. The effect of that is to bring into the Native people, control over public-sector οf institutions, regulatory regimes, government functions and services in ways that have heretofore not even been considered And I think that we can expect, with some assurance, that similar kinds of pressures and considerations are going to drift across the border, probably sooner rather than later.

And what I would suggest is that this Commission convene a meeting, where you invite representatives from these other countries, who have been involved in the establishment of Home Rule in Greenland; the Sami (ph.) -- development of the Sami (ph.) Parliament; the Devolution Policy in Mowery terms. There are similar things going on with aborigines in Australia and the persons involved with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs in Canada; and before final recommendations are made, have a meeting with them, and look at the range of possible institutional alternatives that might be available to address some of the issues that we keep skirting around, or playing around with the edges -- playing around the edges on.

And we'll always -- we'll continue to have these issues before Commissions like this until we have a stable representative set of institutions that can deal with these issues in a way that is much more responsive to Native concerns; and not spending most of the efforts and energy listening yesterday to the pleas, the very articulate expression of frustration and concern that Rachel Craig brought forward, for example, in the area of health and social services.

And having heard those in the -- over the 20 years I've been here, just repeatedly, just year after year, we're never going to resolve those problems until we get beyond the

point of spending all of our time having to explain to someone else why it's a problem; and look for a solution outside the community, outside the hands of the people who are, themselves, res -- experiencing these problems. And that, to me, means going beyond the corporations and even tribal government, and creating eventually something along the lines of what's -- amounts in Canada to a third form of government they're going to be establishing; along with the federal and provincial governments, an aboriginal-government structure that transcends Canada.

And something of a comparable nature, sooner or later, is going to have to be considered in Alaska. And I think when Senator Stevens, a few minutes ago, was -- for the first time that I've heard him at least, expressing the need for some form of sovereignty and tribal authority in rural Alaska, that the doors may be opening in a way that this Commission could explore options that might not have been possible even a year or two ago. So I would encourage you as a starting point for that to make contact with some of these other countries; people -- the Native people in these other places, who are addressing the same issues that this Commission is attempting to address; and have, in some cases, made some headway that we could build on. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Barnhardt. Questions of Mr. Barnhardt?

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: Just one. Do you have the contact people that we might approach? And, if you do, maybe you could leave a list of those people with the recorder.

MR. BARNHARDT: I can do that, and I can provide you some of the documents -- the draft constitutional revisions and things of that nature if there's any interest.

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: Yeah, that would be very helpful, yeah.

MR. BARNHARDT: Sure.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: And this is a great suggestion. John?

MR. SHIVELY: Yeah, just a comment. I was in Vancouver last week; and, of course, since they vote on the constitution, I think, next week, it's the big topic of conversation; and the Vancouver paper -- no, I guess it was the Toronto paper ran a poll and they had sort of -- the constitution is very cons -- controversial; and, at this point, it's anybody's guess whether it's going to be adopted, somewhat because of the Quebec provisions and some changes in the Senate they're making.

But they did poll on the question of what people thought about Native self-government provisions on the constitution; and it was interesting that nationally 56 percent of the people they polled supported that part of the constitution, although the further west you got -- in other

words, the closer to most of the Indians and Eskimos, the less the support was; but it -- Ray's right. It is going to be interesting to -- assuming the constitution is adopted -- to see how all that works.

MR. BARNHARDT: Right. I think you're very right. I was in Canada the year that this all came to a head on a sabbatical leave, working with First Nations group out of British Columbia; and the shift in public attitude that happened just over the period of the nine months that was there was amazing. And it -- I think it's quite clear that the issues associated with aboriginal self-government that are in the mandate are going to go forward even if the constitutional provisions, which are tied in mostly to the Quebec issue, were voted down. I think there is general enough support for that that it will not be able to be turned back even if the rest of the constitutional change isn't implemented. So having something like that going on next door, it seems to me, could be a -- the -- a basis for exploring options here that might not otherwise be considered reasonable.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Barnhardt.

And if you would leave those names, and contacts, and papers,
we'd, I'm sure, be glad to follow up with 'em. Thank you for
your suggestion --

MR. BARNHARDT: Will do.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- and your testimony.

MR. BARNHARDT: Thank you.

(BACKUP TO TESTIMONY OF RAY BARNHARDT ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT #1)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: The next witness that has signed up is Sam Towarak.

(Pause.)

For those who may not know Mr. Towarak, he's a Commission member, as well.

COMMISSIONER TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I was on the phone with -- I would like to introduce with me Roy Oden, who's the President of the Native Village of Koyuk; and we had had some conversations together regarding subsistence; and I thought I'd -- since I didn't see him, and maybe was worried that he wasn't here; and I drug him out of the subsistence hearing upstairs; and that'll be the discussion I want to share with you today.

Roy and I had a long discussion over the phone; and he spoke to me as a Commission member; and we thought we'd relate the issue that we're bringing today at the economic hearing; and then possibly the one this afternoon at the governance.

The issue is one of guiding, trapping, big game hunting, in heavy subsistence areas. It would possibly exclude brown bear hunting; but it would mainly deal with trapping -- the issue of trapping, as well as the issue of

hunting for caribou, and moose, etcetera. Many of the northwest rural regions have plans in place. Examples of those are the Northwest Area Plan, the Coast Zone Management Plan, and some of the permit processes like the BLM. Guide hunting directly conflicts with some of these subsistence and land-use policies of the area; and we need to put some teeth into these particular plans. Solutions are needed to avoid conflicts with these guides, many of whom are genuine in trying to develop a way of life.

What the state needs to do is consciously honor all land use plans. There needs to be some enforcement; and it needs to be visible and not uncomfortable to the residents of the area. I would predict to you that this issue will be escalating. It'll not only be escalating with regard to the land-use policies of all the Native corporations, but it'll be escalating with regard to the federal plans. Also, maybe there is some subject to abuse by big game guides. I can ask maybe Roy if he wanted to elaborate a little bit more into some of the background behind this particular issue. Roy?

MR. ODEN: Yeah, we've -- it seems like we've been fighting tooth and nail with the state governments on some of the policies what they had set forth. Like, for example, Northwest Area Plan, and our Bering Straits Coastal Resource Plan. They put in all these good words on regulating subsistence, management of lands; but then they can go ahead

and break their own rules and regulations concerning subsistence, and big game guiding, and trapping -- subsistence trapping. And that is of great concern to our village, and we've -- I've got into contact with Sam on this issue. And it's -- who knows what'll happen; but my prediction is whatever happens will set a precedent down into the future on every -- on this issue.

(Pause.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Questions of Mr. Oden?
Comments?

MR. SHIVELY: Do you have a specific example?

MR. ODEN: Yeah. Back home, we're -- well, we're going to have a hearing with a hearing officer, and it concerns a big-game guide that's applied for a subsistence trapping cabin. And he went to the local levels of the state government; and because of the policies that are in place, the -- he was denied. But then he went to other governmental agencies, or the Commissioners, or Governor Hickel, and they o -- they took action for another government body, and gave him the right to do this, citing technicalities that they -- well, for subsistence, they made a technicality -- on that land-use plan, they made a technicality on that; and they gave him access or permission.

And that's what we're trying to fight.

MR. SHIVELY: And he lives in Anchorage or someplace?

MR. ODEN: No, he lives in Fairbanks.

MR. SHIVELY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TOWARAK: It'll be a growing problem; I think it's just one of many; and I'm beginning to see some in the northwest -- the NANA area. The Bering Straits area it's -- I think, brown game -- brown bear guiding we're able to live with; but when it -- when you start opening it up to a little abuse, it starts escalating; and I think, more and more, we'll start seeing it either at the confrontational level, in the courts, or at the federal area.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: The -- it's just on state land, or is this. . .

MR. ODEN: It's on federal land. I could be wrong; but part -- well, he had -- originally, he was camping and trapping in a BLM land; and then the BLM in our regional non- -- I mean, our regional corporation, booted him out. And he jumped from here to there, you know, and using old cabins, and I'd know -- he wants to build a cabin where trad -- the way we've always camped and trapped is we just put in a tent, and then we have somebody with us; because, you know, if you're out alone, if you drop in water, or if you get wet, or, you know, get lost, you're with somebody. And he claims that -- well, anyway, it's on state lands (laughing).

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: We're -- just curiously, we're -- we've run into a situation where we've got regions now arguing with each other. We've got some people within our region complaining that an individual from another region is coming in and guiding; and, in this case, we believe that they're using Doyon land, so we'll be discussing this between regions; and then, obviously, with the individual. We have a little more -- we have -- we can take more direct action; becau -- obviously, we can refuse access to him; and if he is trespassing, we can ask that he be removed then. And -- but it just shows you another level that --

COMMISSIONER TOWARAK: In fact, this particular hunter might have been kicked out of Doyon (laughing) land. (Laughter.)

I think that's probably why he showed up. Oh, I think a lot of people are serious about this effort; and we thank you for the time that you've given to us.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you.

MR. ODEN: Yes, thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: That completes the witness list, unless there's others in the audience that would like to testify? That's right. Please come forward.

(Pause.)

Kim, we've asked the witnesses to give their name and their community; and then you're welcome to proceed as you like.

MS. SIMON: Okay. My name is Kim Simon, and I'm from Fairbanks, and my topic is the programs that are available to people like me in the community. I started working about eight months ago; and previous to that, I was receiving public assistance for two years. During that two years, I had every available program accessible to me, whether it be housing assistance, I mean, I lived in a great apartment. I'm a single parent; I'm also a foster parent. When I did foster parenting, it wasn't counted towards my income on AFDC. When I got a job, within a month of getting a job, I found out that I would lose my housing assistance. That meant that my apartment rent would go up \$700 a month, which is ridiculous. I moved into a one-bedroom apartment; which was fine. I said:

"Well, this is okay. I can still do what I want to do. I can work, and be a parent, and try to be a productive member of my community."

Where foster parenting was concerned, that was now -- the money I got for being a foster parent was counted towards my income; which means the only program that I got was day care assistance; and that counted against me. So day care assistance only would pay 50 percent of my day care bill,

which I thought was just terrible. I mean, that was a service that I was providing to -- I mean, I really felt good about it; and -- or -- for them to say:

"Well, sorry, but, you know, that's the way it goes."

I said:

"Well, I see that the government's trying to encourage people to get off Welfare and become self-sufficient; but I don't see that there's any programs " --

I mean, everything was dropped within a month of me getting a job. Everything. I mean, all of a sudden, I was out there and, okay, all you get is transitional child care benefits. You got to just wing it. I thought to myself:

"Well, am I doing this for selfish reasons? Do I want to work so that my -- you know, I could feel good about myself?"

I mean, it seemed like my quality of life was better before.

I'm also a part-time student. I'm going to the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and I see the plight that, you know, the students have up there; and this whole eight months has just been filled with frustration over -- I've been calling. I tried to get on the list for an Indian HUD home; and they said:

"Well, you can fill out all the paperwork and see if you qualify, but could be eight years."

And I was like:

"Well, gees, (laughing), I might not be around in eight years."

And it's just -- I just find that it's really hard to just go on, I mean, and get a job. I mean, I'm one of the lucky ones. I have a good job. I see a lot of -- two of my friends are also going through the same thing. They each have a child, and they're working; and they've lost the programs. I mean, it doesn't seem to be counted by your income, how as before, I mean, life was good. Sure, you were getting -- you knew you were getting your \$800 check at the first of the month; but all you had to pay was \$200 for rent. I mean -- and I see a lot of the women go to bingo and stuff, and I can't afford to do that now. You know, I don't do anything. I mean, I pick at every cent; and it seemed that they encourage people to stay on Welfare; that -- it's not a transitional thing for the Welf -- a Welfare system; it's a way of life for a lot of people. They don't see anything. They don't see beyond that. A lot of people see me now as:

"Gees, Kim's h -- Kim has a job, but she has nothing else, you know. I see her struggling with wondering how she's going to pay her \$550 a month rent and her little dinky apartment; but I have a

two-bedroom apartment; I get to stay home with my kids; I don't have to worry about a day care bill, or, you know, who's going to give me a loan to get a car so that I can get to work."

They don't see that --

REPORTER: Off record.

(Tape changed to Tape #2.)

MS. SIMON: -- you know, and I think that some programs need to be developed, not to just cut you off cold turkey; give you so -- a couple of months, you know, before you -- I mean, because the transition from Welfare to being -- to working it -- that's a struggle right there. And I know I struggled with it. I struggled with it for a year. I worked part time whenever I could for that year, and then I said:

"I got to break away. I have to go, and I have to work full time."

But it's really hard; and I think they need to, you know, look

at those programs that are available to people making that
transition, and develop something. I mean, I hate to s -- use
the word incentive, because it makes -- you know, it makes it
sound like, you know, if you go to work, we'll do, you know,
something for you. But they really -- I think they really
need to take a careful look and try to develop something. I
mean, because the social services -- I mean, they just -every program:

"Sorry, you don't qualify."

You know, I mean, why? Because I get 600 more dollars a month than I did living on Welfare. I mean, that doesn't sound right (laughing).

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Kim. Any comments or questions, before I have a few, from the Commission members?

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: No, not --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: John?

MR. SHIVELY: So what you're talking about is, rather than, you know, the moment that you've got a job and that your economic circumstances have changed and they cut everything off, there's some transition, where maybe you don't get \$200 a month rent; --

MS. SIMON: Yeah.

MR. SHIVELY: -- but instead of going to seven, it goes to --

MS. SIMON: Yeah.

MR. SHIVELY: -- like five or something.

MS. SIMON: Maybe instead of qualifying for those prop -- programs, you move on to a different set, you know; and then maybe after six months, you know, when you proved that you can work, because for the first five months, I -- that was struggling with myself, I mean, it looked better before; but I said:

"No."

You know, I'm doing this for my daughter. I want her to know a better life. I didn't want her to -- I didn't want her to grow up in that mode, you know, that they could be dependent on that. If all else fails, you know, you can -- I wanted her to know that, you know, she can stand on her own two feet and work, and it's going to be rewarding, and not just in your own self, but just as a whole in -- I still feel very strongly about that.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: It really wasn't an upward transition; it was a downward transition.

MS. SIMON: Yeah, that's what it seemed like for awhile. It really did. And now I've kind of put that behind me, in saying:

"Well, Kim, the reason you went to work -- the money wasn't really the important thing, was it? The important thing was that you feel good."

And I'm thinking:

"No, that sounds really selfish, you know."

But it was. I got to stay home with my baby, and, you know, vegetate my life away; but that's not what I want. But I want it to be -- I know they really try to stress that: be self-sufficient. I mean, job training. Realistically, I mean, I'm the fluke in the system; I mean, because what woman that's living on AFDC is going to go out and three months later be,

you know, making what I do. That's a fluke. And I tell you, if I was making eight bucks an hour, I would never survive. I'd be getting less than I would living on AFDC; but I'm doing good, and I -- it's just it's a hard struggle. But I think there's -- there should be a program out there targeted at making it a little easier, 'cause not everybody's this tough. (Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Let me say that Kim is a member of the Doyon Foundation; and she's one of the newest employees there and is doing an outstanding job; and we're very proud of her.

MS. SIMON: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: She's a young lady.

MR. SHIVELY: Sounds to me like you're lucky to have her.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: We are, and we know it. Thank you, Kim.

(Pause.)

Is there anybody else that would care to testify?

MS. MALLOT: (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Toni? Please.

MS. MALLOT: (Indiscernible to transcribe verbatim as away from microphone. In general, asked about the Education Task Force hearing.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: They -- I -- there's not -Toni, they're not scheduled to meet this afternoon. There is
another hearing, kind of composite hearing on Saturday; but if
you're not going to be here. We'd be glad to take your
testimony and get it on the record, or you can testify
Saturday. Whatever you would prefer.

MS. MALLOT: (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: It's Saturday morning --

REPORTER: From 9:00 to 12:00.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: At 9:00?

REPORTER: 9 o'clock.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: At 9 a.m., and that will be before the full Commission; and -- or you're welcome to give your testimony here. Whatever you would prefer.

(Pause.)

MS. MALLOT: Will you be here this afternoon?

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: No, there'll be a Governance
Task Force meeting here this afternoon; and you ca -- I'm sure
they'll -- I can't speak for that group; but I imagine they
would be glad to take your testimony there as well, or
Saturday morning.

MS. MALLOT: Gosh. If I testify now, you'll make sure that --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: If you tes -- now -- testify, Toni, we will -- I will cut that excerpt out, and I'll carry it over personally to the Education Committee.

(Laughter.)

MS. MALLOT: (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

(Pause.)

I should --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Wou --

MS. MALLOT: -- state who I am?

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Would the record show that this should be part of the Education Task Force minutes, please, for Toni Mallot.

MS. MALLOT: My name is Toni Mallot; and I'm currently a teacher in Juneau; and I've been teaching there for three years. And I guess I'm -- I can kind of blame myself for not going out and seeking information; but I was really not informed -- or informative about the Educational Task Force; and so when I found out, well, hey, there's an Educational Task Force, you know, now is the time to kind of get some of my concerns across.

And I have a couple of concerns, and I guess the biggest one that I'm really concerned about is that, over the past five or six years as a board member on the Indian Studies Board, I've seen every year a decrease in federal funding; so

that every year we're having a difficult time meeting all of the pro -- all of the current needs that our program has to fulfill for the students in Juneau; and so, you know, this has been going on for about five years, and so every year our budget has been getting tighter; and we don't have any money to buy new material. You know, we were able to talk the school district out of it; but, you know, that's getting pretty difficult; so I guess the one recommendation that I'd like to make is I'd like to see increases in federal and state program funding to meet the growing educational cul -- educational and cultural needs of all Alaskan children.

And, you know, the federal government has been, I feel, consistently decreasing the amount of funds appropriated for programs such as Indian studies, JOM, and Head Start; and, you know, our -- I feel that our children should have the opportunity to learn and be literate in Native culture, traditions, history, and society, in order to be successful Alaskans; and if you -- if the federal government, and even the state is in -- consistently cutting funds, then their opportunity goes down. So that's one recommendation that I'd like the task force to really put -- to put on their brochure.

And another recommendation is possibly for the task force to look into a program that's offered in Hawaii, and it's called the Office of Cultural and Native Affairs; and it -- I believe they both get federal and state funding; they

look into cultural, historical, educational affairs of Native Hawaiians; and they do such traditional events as the traditional voyage from the South Seas to Hawaii, you know, where they build a replica of the ancient sailing canoe. And so, actually, this office promotes a lot of history and tradition; and I know they get federal, and also the state sponsors that program.

So I would sure like to have, you know, this program -- or this Commission look into that program and see how Alaska could develop a similar program; because there are a number of Hawaiians -- in the state of Alaska, that I think the population -- when you look at it on a per-capita basis, we're very similar.

Those are the only two recommendations I have.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay, Toni. Any question mark from the Commission members?

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: No, I don't have any.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: We will make sure -- the recorder has indicated she'll make sure that those comments get in --

MS. MALLOT: Okay.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- to the Education Task Force minutes and notes; and so they will be part of the record.

MS. MALLOT: Yeah, and, you know, I guess I was a little bit kind of taken aback when I did see the -- just the small number of members that were serving on that Educational Task Force; and I feel that they should increase their numbers, and also increase other Alaska Native educators.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay.

MS. MALLOT: You know, I'm sure they're qualified people on that task force; but I think they ought to look around and see who else --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: There -- yeah, they do have --

MS. MALLOT: -- is available.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Like this Commission, they do have public members as well; and --

MS. MALLOT: Uh-huh (affirmative).

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- I don't know if they listed the public members of the --

MS. MALLOT: Oh, they did.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- Commission. Okay, and you still think it's still --

MS. MALLOT: They on -- three only listed --

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: -- a bit small?

MS. MALLOT: -- three Educational Task Force members.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Three Commission members?

MS. MALLOT: On the Educational Task Force.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: Yeah, I think that's all there are.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: And then you have the public members as well.

MS. MALLOT: And there were --

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: Yeah, there are public --

MS. MALLOT: -- there were three or four --

COMMISSIONER SEBESTA: -- members, too.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Right.

MS. MALLOT: -- public members. You're talking about six or seven for an issue that's very -- I mean, it's a big, heavy-duty issue here in Alaska.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Toni.

MS. MALLOT: Okay, sure. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: It's 11:34. Is there anybody else to testify? Mr. McDowell?

(Pause.)

MR. MCDOWELL: Is this the preferred microphone?

MR. SHIVELY: Doesn't make any difference.

MR. MCDOWELL: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Peter McDowell. I'm the Principal of Strategic Development Services, a management and economic consulting firm based in Juneau.

It's a pleasure to be here and listen to the eloquent testimony of the preceding speakers. I would like to just call your attention to a couple of fundamentals about the Alaskan economy that I believe have more to do with Native economic development than the rest of this state; and these are that several of us, including Commissioner Thompson and I, worked on a commission that started in 1985, and it continues to this day called the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Commission on Strategic Planning for the 1990s.

In the mid-Eighties, we spent two years studying the Alaskan economy and making recommendations for improving it and expanding it. I believe the recommendations are still valid; and I hope that Commissioner Thompson will supply your entire task force and Commission with copies of our final report.

The essence of our report -- and forgive me if I'm getting too far into Economics 101 -- the essence of our report was that the Alaskan economy is best viewed as an -- through the lens of the export base model. And that literally means -- or figuratively means that you should think of the Alaskan economy as an island with a wall around it. And that the only things that are fundamentally important to the economy are those things that we can send out, or export, for which other people will send in money.

And very simply, today we export a handful of tangible things. We export oil; coal; other minerals; timber; fish; furs, to some extent; and liquid nat -- liquified natural gas.

We also export our geo-political location. The primary customers for that are the United States military; the air transport industry; and, to some extent, the marine transport industry. There's a little bit of breaking bulk going on at Unalaska, I understand, in the marine field. But the fact is that we are well located, and it makes it very efficient for transportation companies to stop in Alaska and switch things around to maximize their profits and minimize their costs.

We also export scenic and recreational resource values to a lot of folks, primarily Americans from the Lower 48. These values are sold under the names of tourism; guiding, as was mentioned by one of the previous speakers; and other recreational activities; or just looking.

In our report, we recommended that all of these basic industries continue to be supported, promoted, and expanded to the extent possible. They are the Alaskan economy. Nothing else is important. All other economic activity, including government, retail, you name it, is secondary. And if there is no basic economic activity, there

is no secondary activity; so, without the exports, there's no economy.

We did recommend that some additional exports be looked at. We noted that, in addition to the tangible items I've listed, we already export the intangible export of investment capital. We send out billions of dollars of investment capital to other places, and they send us back interest and dividends. Every -- virtually every corporation in ANCSA has a permanent fund of some kind. That's investment capital that you export to the -- primarily the Lower 48 and the world financial markets; and they send back interest and dividends. The Alaska Permanent Fund is an export of financial investment capital; and they send us back dividends.

In addition, the newest area that we barely export today is intellectual capital; and I would commend to each and every one of you, and all of the other people involved in the Alaskan economy, that the most -- the lowest impact export on our environment that we could possibly have is intellectual capital. It's the toughest one to get to, because you must educate your people and all of our fellow Alaskans. We must become better educated and smarter, or nobody's going to buy it. But let me assure you, we talked about, for example, the export of software development; and we said:

"Why can't we have people sitting in their homes, for that matter. All you need to export computer software is a brain, a telephone, a modem, a personal computer, and a roof over the other four.

And that's it. No other capital is required."

Intellectual capital is the most efficient way to export; and without -- but without the education required to develop it, we'll never get there. We export a little bit now; but there isn't much; and I would strongly suggest that, in your corporations and foundations, that you please look very carefully, encouraging and facilitating the especially of your younger people, to go straight through elementary school, high school, the university, and graduate school; because without all of that, you can't export an ounce of your brain; but with all of that, you can, in fact, sit anywhere you want in the state of Alaska, in the smallest, most remote village is fine, and export your intelligence and your intellect; and people from the rest of the country and the rest of the world will be delighted to send you money for it.

So, let me, again, ask that you review the work of that commission. As I say, Commissioner Thompson is a member, along with Doctor Soboleff, and Mr. Huhndorf from the ANCSA community; and I commend the report to you and ask that you study it; and, if you agree, please make it available to your entire audience. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Thank you, Peter. Any question from the Commission members? We will make sure that that report gets over here as well. I'll make sure of that. If not, thank you for your testimony.

MR. MCDOWELL: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: Is there others wishing to testify?

(Pause.)

A.J., if you can't get a word at home in, this is an opportunity. He has to listen to you here.

(Laughter.)

And it'll be on the record. He does have to listen here.

MR. SHIVELY: Let me assure you, I have to listen at home, too, Morris, as you probably know yourself. I'll bet you do all the listening at home.

(Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON: If there's no further testimony, the -- for those that might be interested, the Governance Task Force will be at 1 o'clock this afternoon. We do thank those that have testified for their testimony and their help with the work that the Commission has to do. We appreciate your interest and being here; and if no one else testifies, we'll close the hearing at 11:42. Thank you.

(Off record at 11:42 a.m.)

END OF PROCEEDINGS

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALASKA)
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I, court reporter for the Third
Judicial District, State of Alaska, hereby certify:
That the foregoing pages numbered $\underline{1}$ through $\underline{71}$ contain a
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