

INDEX

- **Speech for Native Leaders**
Friday, October 21, 1966
- **Statement of the Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel
On H.R. 13142 Alaska Native Claims**
Before the Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs of The House of Representatives
Monday, August 4, 1969
- **Address to the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention**
Anchorage, October 17, 1991
- **Welcoming Address Opening Session**
The Northern Forum
November 6, 1991
- **The Second Northern Forum Conference**
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan -- September, 11, 1995
- **Northern Forum General Assembly**
Yakutsk, Sakha Republic, August 10, 1997
- **I Have A Vision**
Third Northern Regions Conference -- Egan Center, Anchorage
September 20, 1990
- **"The Arctic Age in the 21st Century"**
The Northern Forum -- May 30, 1991
- **International Conference on Women in the Circumpolar North**
The University of Alaska, Fairbanks, June 7, 1994
- **"The Frontier of the Future"**
Commencement Address
Alaska Pacific University -- May 11, 1991

SPEECH FOR NATIVE LEADERS

Walter J. Hickel

Friday, October 21, 1966

First, I'd like to thank you for inviting me to address you today. It is a privilege I deeply appreciate.

And may I also congratulate the Tyonek Indians for making this first and historic assemblage of native leaders possible.

I'm certain that great strides have been taken and that a start has been made towards resolving the multitude of problems that effect all of us Alaskans.

I am not here today to tell you of the plight and the problems of the Native Alaskan because no one knows this better than you do. But I am here to offer you a partnership, a full working one....in my program for progress..

And I would like to detail that for you now.

This past Wednesday in Nome I delivered an address in which I called for a department of native affairs.

I'd like to expand on my remarks in that Nome speech and tell you why I decided that there had to be such a department.

The multitude of problems of the Native Alaskan are not new, nor something that happened only yesterday.

They have been with us since the American flag was raised over Sitka some 99 years ago they date back, ...then, to when Alaska was merely a military department To when we became a territory, and to when we became a state.

Those of us who fought for Statehood had high hopes when we gained admission in 1958 and when our state government began on January 3, 1959.

We were now no longer second class citizens. We had obtained the rights we had so long sought. But I charge that those right were extend to only five out of six Alaskans, and have been denied to the one out of six that are Native Alaskans.

Although I've been aware of many of the native problems during my 26 years in Alaska.

There is no substitute for seeing and hearing about it first hand.

This campaign has taken me to all corners of our state which has been more familiarization course on problems faced by all Alaskans.

But from these travels, from conversations I've had with many Native Alaskans, from what I've seen all over the great land—this, then, caused me to decide that there had to be a central clearing house to handle the problems confronting Native Alaskans.

I like to think of this as operation bootstrap.

Many of you are probably aware of my background in building and construction. Now anyone who has ever built anything knows that you must have good tools and good equipment if you are to succeed.....if you are to compete And if you are going to have a superior finished product.

One does not ask a man to go whale hunting without a harpoon trapping without traps or snares ... Fishing without gear

But I say that this has in effect been asked of the Native Alaskan. You ... As leaders ... Have been constantly thwarted at all levels of government as you sought to bring your people into the mainstream of American life.

I propose only to correct this but I cannot do it by myself... I'll need your help you are the leaders of your villages and your people. The governor to be The leader for all Alaskans needs the cooperation of other Alaskan leaders, such as yourselves.

I proposed the department of native affairs for a number of reasons..., First and foremost is that the Native Alaskan now has no one department of government he can consult on his problems.

True, there is the Bureau of Indian Affairs but I do not ... and will not subscribe to any theory that this is exclusively a problem for the federal government.

I feel that we will never get equal rights for all Alaskans until such time as our state government realizes that there is a problem and then seeks a solution.

Many Native Alaskan organizations are of recent origin.

They will need guidance and legal assistance. .this is why the new department will have a division of legal services..

This division will aid these organizations And their village... In their organizational problems.

This same division would be directed to give utmost priority to the settling of Native Alaskan Land Claims.

I feel that the present administration has put those of you pressing land claims in an unfair position.

The incumbent governor has put a stop to oil exploration and leases on lands you now claim....this is not necessary.

These companies could be allowed to both explore and lease and the monies obtained could be put in escrow until these claims are settled. Your rights and the rights of all Alaskans would be protected. In the meantime we could all share in the economic rewards accruing to Alaska from the oil industry.

In addition, the department of native affairs would also have a division of apprentice placement. It would be the duty of this division to explore all ways and means of teaching your Alaskans skills that would put them in the labor market.

It is no secret that the labor force utilized in the vast majority of our cannery and freezer operations is imported each year from Seattle.

He also see countless other skilled people being brought in from outside to work on construction projects while our own people stand and watch, deprived of the necessary skills to be able to compete in this labor market.

From the beginning I've stressed the necessity for vocational education programs. These must be established and every recourse at our command should be devoted to such a program. We must take full advantage of all federal aid programs.

To make certain this is done there will be an advisory task force established composed of leaders in the building and construction industry Both from industry and organized labor.

They will be charged with coming up with a feasible plan to speed the progress of Native Alaskans into the mainstream.

Speaking of "the mainstream" may I answer the incumbent governor and the press release he issued only yesterday.

His comments came after I first proposed we bring Native Alaskans into the economic mainstream in Nome this past Wednesday. The incumbent governor stated that my plan would “serve only to move Alaska natives from the mainstream of state life and deprive them of full right to citizenship.” I feel that it is interesting that while he “blasted” my idea we see no solution of his being offered.

He stated, “ I want to caution Alaskans to carefully consider this proposal I would agree with that. He then states, “it is fraught with danger and instead of helping our fine people of the village areas it might very well instead set them back years in their efforts to improve their lives.”

I would ask that incumbent this, then it is all right with him, evidently, to allow a staff of attorneys in Washington D.C. to control the destinies of Native Alaskans but it is not right that we have a staff of Alaskan attorneys to aid them in Alaska.

It is fine with the incumbent governor that we have a staff of people in ‘another ivory tower in Washington attempting to find ways and means of training Native Alaskans to qualify for good and decent jobs. Do you think it is wrong that we should try to help solve our own problems.

I say, I think it is not only right, but the duty of the state government to help bring about a reasonable solution to all these problems.

We have experts in Washington D. C. considering problems of health, sanitation, native housing and all other problems confronting. Native Alaskans but they have not come up with an adequate solution. It is obviously wrong if the present administration Who knows the problems first hand..... Say it is enough to let the federal government handle the problems, and this reason only that I have proposed the department of native affairs.

This same incumbent, seeking another term, and it is a third term, finds something wrong in the war on poverty programs, too.

These were designed by two presidents, both democrats, to aid the economically depressed. To give them a boost up the ladder through education and training programs. The main beneficiary of these programs throughout the united states will be racial minorities. If the incumbent governor is right in stating that my department of native affairs is segregation, then he is likewise accusing Presidents Kennedy and Johnson of promoting the same thing with their program of war on poverty.

Let me say that if the theory is valid in one instance, then it is in the others.

The incumbent governor is not only reluctant to wage an Alaskan war on poverty but, as we have seen this past week, has even attempted to block the federal programs.

I charge that this stalling of such programs as proposed by the Alaska state community action program board was a naked attempt to retain the political control obvious in such programs. That he failed in this attempt is to the credit of that board.

May I state in conclusion what I stated at the beginning of the address.

When elected governor I will be the leader of our state government.

I cannot do this job alone, nor can any man—although one seems to have tried it. I will need the help of other leaders, the leaders of the legislature The leaders of the boroughs and cities And I'll need the help of you—the leaders of Native Alaskans, both in the villages and our cities.

I renew my promise that there will be an Alaskan native affairs agency, a clearing house for bringing all Native Alaskans into the mainstream.

I renew my promise that it will be headed by a Native Alaskan. And I tell you, and all Alaskans.. That the department will work for the common good of all Alaskans.

No Alaskan can hold his head high as long as we see other Alaskans deprived of their human dignity and human rights.

I say there is a better way to run this state. I have offered a program for progress and I offer you a full, working partnership in it.

My administration will help all of those who wish to help themselves. Your very presence here indicates that desire. I ask you, in closing, as leaders, to help me lead this state.

Thank you.

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**STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WALTER J. HICKEL**

**ON H.R. 13142
ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 4, 1969**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Inter and Insular Affairs Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on H.R. I-R42 a bill "To provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Alaska natives, and for other purposes."

In previous testimony I have noted that just over 100 years ago the United States acquired from Russia title to the great land we know as Alaska. I have tried to stress that the United States acquired certain moral responsibilities, along with legal responsibilities--regarding the native citizens of what has now become our 49th State.

This responsibility was recognized by the Federal Government in the original Treaty of Purchase in 1867; in the Organic Acts of 1884 and 1900; and again in the Statehood Act of 1959.

But recognition is one thing--action and positive results are another. We are hopeful that this bill is the initial step leading to a positive solution to the question of Alaska native claims.

At the time of my confirmation hearings and before, the question of native land claims was thoroughly discussed. At that time, I made it clear that I considered it the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress to resolve the native land claims question as quickly as possible. This is still my contention. I stressed that legislation should be developed in a manner which will protect the best interests of all the native citizens of Alaska. We believe that this bill represents a major step in that direction.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that I express the opinion of all the native citizens of Alaska when I say that it is vital that all parties to this problem work as rapidly as possible to resolve this issue, and if we are to reach a speedy conclusion it is imperative that all involved should seek concurrence and agreement on satisfactory legislation.

I would now like to mention some of the significant sections of the legislative proposal which has recently been introduced.

Section 2 of the bill contains a declaration of policy by the Congress and sets out the purpose of this Act. It sets out the Congressional intention to solve this problem without creating in Alaska any of the institutions that have become associated with Indians and Indian tribes here in the lower 48 States.

Section 3 of the bill contains definitions of terms used in the Act. Subsection (b) defines the term "native" and gives the Commission, created under the bill, the authority to determine who qualifies as a native and thus who will be eligible for benefits. It is the Department's opinion that the Commission is the proper body to make the determination as to an individual's qualification as a native. The definition of "native" excludes all Tsimshian Indians since they are not aboriginal natives of Alaska. This tribe will continue in their present status, including the continuance of their reservation.

We have defined the corporation as a state-wide corporation organized under the laws of Alaska.

We have defined the term "incorporated native village" in this bill because we believe it is necessary to differentiate between a native village and an incorporated native village when these terms are used in the bill.

Section 4 makes the declaration that this bill shall be regarded as full and final settlement and extinguishment of any and all claims against the United States based upon aboriginal right" title, use, or occupancy of land in Alaska by any of the natives. This section also provides for the payment by the corporation of reasonable attorneys' fees and attorneys' expenses, as determined by the Secretary in pursuing before the Indian Claims Commission pending claims dismissed pursuant to this Act. An additional \$250,000 is paid to the corporation in fiscal year 1971 for the purpose of paying these fees and expenses.

We believe that it is fair to provide for the payment of these fees and expenses because the bill terminates the claims pending before the Indian Claims Commission, ending the opportunity that the various attorneys would have of being- compensated from the award made by the Indian Claims Commission as is the usual practice.

Section 5 of the bill establishes a three-man Federal Commission which is designated as the Alaska Native Commission which will continue in existence until June 30, 1991. The members of the Commission are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate and fall under the same laws and regulations relating to conflict of interest that cover other Federal employees.

The Commission is a rotating Commission with each member appointed for a three-year term. The Commission members are subject to removal from office by the President only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

The section sets out the compensation to be received by the members of the Commission and authorizes necessary travel and transportation expenses.

It also provides that the principal office of the Commission shall be located in Alaska, which is appropriate since its primary responsibilities will be there. The bill contemplates that the Commission will do everything possible to make it convenient for the natives to avail themselves of the services of the Commission and gives the Chairman broad authority as to the setting of hearing locations. This means that often the Commission will travel to the natives to hear their cases and make decisions. This should afford a trust and confidence among the natives in the Commission and its operation. Furthermore, all decisions of the Commission are subject to judicial review which adds an additional protection for the natives.

Subsection (i) outlines the duties of the Commission which are summarized as follows:

- (1) The determination of who qualified as a native;
- (2) The preparation of a roll of natives, as well as the duty to hear the complaints of those denied enrollment;
- (3) The appointment of the incorporators of the Alaska Native Development Corporation., and in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior, to approve the articles of incorporation and amendments thereto before they are filed;
- (4) The determination of the land occupied by an individual or organization and the settlement of disputes where any conflicts concerning occupancy may arise;
- (5) The issuance of rules and regulations for the filing of applications for patent of land and the acceptance of such applications;

(6) The certification to the Secretary of the Interior of those entitled to patent of land;

(7) The issuance of rules and regulations covering what is historic occupancy of subsistence campsites; and

(8) The submission of reports required by this bill to the Congress.

Section 6 of the bill requires the Commission, under rules and regulations it may issue., to prepare a roll listing all natives living on the effective date of the Act. We believe that the Commission- since it has the authority to determine who qualifies as a native, is the proper body to prepare the roll. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to furnish all reasonable assistance in the preparation of such a roll. The section provides for a hearing and for judicial review for any individuals denied enrollment.

Section 7 of the bill establishes the Alaska Native Development Corporation as an Alaskan Corporation, and subjects it to the provisions of the Act until June 30, 1991. As we stated in our report, we have some concern that under present Alaska corporate law it may not be possible to give the corporation the broad powers set forth in the bill. We believe,, however, that this can be worked out satisfactorily with the cooperation of the State of Alaska.

As a means of organizing the corporation, the bill authorizes the Commission to appoint five incorporators, one of whom must be the Chairman of the Commission, who shall take all necessary steps to establish the Corporation, including the filing of the articles of incorporation after approval by the Commission and the Secretary of the Interior. The incorporators will serve as the initial board of directors until the first board is seated. Any amendments to the articles of incorporation must be approved by the Commission and the Secretary of the Interior prior to filing. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to pay the sum of \$1,000,000 to the corporation as paid in capital.

The bill authorizes a nine-man board of directors, five of whom shall be appointed by the President. Four of the Presidential appointments shall be subject to Senate confirmation and the fifth shall be the Chairman of the Commission. The Chairman's service on the board of directions shall be concurrent with his chairmanship of the Commission. The stockholders of the corporation shall elect four members of the board, such election to take place within 180 days after the issuance of the certificate of incorporation. Membership on the board shall be for a four-year -period. We also feel that it is essential to have the natives involved in the operation of the corporation as soon as possible. We recognize that the roll of natives will not be complete within the 180-day period, however, it is important to secure native representation on the board as quickly as possible. On June 30, 1991, the term of all board members appointed by the President including the Chairman of the Commission will expire and thereafter the native will elect all nine board members. We feel it is important, however, for the President to control the appointment of a majority of the members of the board during the time the corporation is subject to the provisions of this Act and is receiving federal funds.

The board of directors are authorized to appoint a president and such other officers as they determine are necessary at rates of compensation established by them. The officers of the corporation are prohibited from engaging in any other business while employed by the corporation. Thus assuming that they will devote their full attention to the affairs of the corporation.

Subsection (e) provides that the corporation shall have one million shares of common stock, without par value, such stock to be divided into such classes of shares as may be authorized by the board. It directs the issuance of ten shares of stock to each enrolled, native and prevents the alienation of the shares until June 30, 1991- The prohibition against alienation will prevent a takeover of the corporation by non-native interests during the twenty years when the corporation is receiving federal funds.

The corporation is given very broad powers to promote the economic development of the natives and native villages to the greatest extent possible. This type of authority is necessary to fully maximize the federal monetary contribution for the benefit of the natives.

Limitations are placed on the amount of the corporation's profits and annual federal contributions that can be paid out as dividends or used for unsecured loans in any one fiscal year.

As a means of providing for a federal auditing procedure the Corporation is subject to audit by the General Accounting Office until June 30, 1991.

Subsection (h) provides for a permanent appropriation by the Secretary of the Interior of \$24,250,000 in fiscal year 1971 and of \$25,000,000 for each of nineteen fiscal years thereafter. The contribution in the first fiscal year is actually \$25,250,000, however, \$1,000,000 is paid to the capital of the corporation upon its incorporation. The additional \$250,000 is to be used by the corporation to pay the attorneys' fees and expenses mentioned previously in connection with claims pending before the Indian Claims Commission.

Since the intent of this legislation is to settle through this legislative process, rather than the judicial process, the aboriginal claims of the natives of Alaska, the Department feels that the natives should be assured of receiving the full amount of the settlement over the twenty year period. The method of permanent appropriation accomplishes this objective.

The sum of \$500 million as a fair and equitable settlement can be arrived at by at least two different methods. First, if \$1 per acre is established as a fair average value for all of the lands in Alaska and the native aboriginal claims are recognized for the entire state, the monetary value is approximately \$375,296,000. This figure should then be reduced by \$12,500,000 which represents the approximately 1,500,000 acres patented to the natives and incorporated native villages under the provisions of the bill. If the sum of \$500 million is discounted by 4 5/8 percent for a period of twenty years, a present value of the monetary settlement would be approximately \$322,000,000. On the other hand if a

discount rate of 7 percent'. the current long-term rate on federal government bonds is used, the present value would be approximately \$267 million. This, therefore, establishes the discounted value of the \$500 million as a fair value on a per acre basis. Second, if the value of the \$500 million is computed on a per capita basis for each Alaska native the amount is \$5,367 per native if a discount rate of 4 5/8 percent is used and \$4,450 per native if a discount rate of 7 percent is used. On the basis of our investigation of the awards made by the Indian Claims Commission on a per capita basis either one of these figures is reasonable.

Section 8 of the bill provides for the withdrawal of public land except land withdrawn or reserved for national defense purposes, subject to all valid existing rights, for the 196 native villages listed in this section and for those natives whose primary place of residence is located outside the areas withdrawn and selected by the villages. The withdrawal is for the township enclosing the listed native villages, and the eight townships that are contiguous to and corner on the township enclosing the native village. Within a period of one year from the effective date of the withdrawal each native village must select, from the eight contiguous and cornering townships, an area equivalent to one township. After the one year period the remaining area in the contiguous and cornering townships is lifted from the withdrawal and the remaining area, i.e., the township enclosing the native village and the area selected equivalent to one additional township will continue to be withdrawn until either patent to a native village or June 30, 1991, whichever occurs first. The withdrawal for the native whose primary place of residence is outside the areas withdrawn and selected by the native villages is for one section and will remain withdrawn until June 30, 1991, unless sooner terminated by the Secretary.

The Section gives the Federal agencies now managing the withdrawn land the authority to continue such management until disposition of the land is made. The section also provides that the minerals located under and patented under the provisions of this Act shall remain withdrawn until the withdrawal is terminated either by the Secretary of the Interior or by the Congress.

Section 9 directs the Secretary of the Interior to survey the townships withdrawn and areas selected for conveyance to incorporated native villages under the provisions of the legislation. It also sets limitations on the survey authority.

Section 10 provides for conveyance of approximately 12.5 million acres of land to the natives and incorporated native villages. The first conveyances are for lands within the townships withdrawn and areas selected by native villages which are occupied by individuals as a primary place of residence or a primary place of business or occupied by organizations. The patent is for the surface and the locatable minerals, and is granted without consideration to natives and non-profit organizations, and after payment of fair market value to non-natives and other organizations. The individuals and organizations have a period of ten years within which to apply for the patents.

The second conveyances are for a patent without consideration for the surface and locatable minerals of up to 46,080 acres of withdrawn land to those villages listed in

section 8 of the legislation that have incorporated prior to June 30, 1991. There are 196 listed villages and thus the conveyance under this provision could be for a maximum of 9,031,680 acres. We have recommended that the land available for patenting to villages be increased from the one township recommended in other legislative proposal up to the equivalent two townships, except in the case of the Tlingit-Haida villages. The Department does not believe that one township is sufficient for native use as subsistence lands. We should recognize that many Alaska natives still depend upon the land for subsistence to a large degree and will continue to do so into the future. This being true, we believe that each village that qualifies for the patenting of land will need sufficient land to protect the subsistence resources of its citizens. The subsection granting conveyances to the incorporated Tlingit-Haida villages provides for up to only one township per village or an area of only 23,040 acres, however, this tribe has previously been awarded a court of claims judgment.

Subsection (d) provides for the patenting of the surface of tracts, ranging in size from five to sixty acres, from any public land in Alaska except land in the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and National as well as land withdrawal or reserved for national defenses purposes to those individuals or incorporated native villages who for a period of more than three years prior to the effective date of this legislation used such land for subsistence campsites. These campsites may be located within or outside of withdrawn areas. These areas could total approximately a million acres.

Subsection (e) provides for the patenting of the surface of tracts of up to 2,560 acres to each bonafide reindeer husbandryman whether it be an individual or organization. Each husbandryman could receive several tracts if he shows that they are part of his operation, such as a summer meadow, a winter plot, etc. There are very few known reindeer husbandrymen and this land area will be small in terms of total acreage, probably less than 100,000 acres. The lands available for patenting are subject to the same exceptions as those imposed on the subsistence campsite patents.

Subsections (f), (g), and (h) provide for the patenting of tracts of up to 160 acres to individual natives nineteen years of age or older who qualify under the various sections. Subsection (f) provides for a patent to the native of the land he is occupying as his primary place of residence if this is outside an area withdrawn for a native village but within an area withdrawn for his benefit. Subsection (g) and (h) provide for a patent in areas classified by the Secretary of the Interior for that purpose, to the surface of land to a native who lives either in a withdrawn area however because of geography it is not possible to withdraw the equivalent of two townships surrounding the area in which he lives or who lives outside of any withdrawn area. Since this bill revokes the The Allotment Act as it applies to Alaska natives the Department feels that, all Alaska natives should be granted land in the settlement of their aboriginal claims. The maximum acreage patented under these three subsections should not exceed 4.8 million acres.

The section further provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall provide adequate protection to those granted parents by this legislation when he grants prospecting permits or leases for mining, or drilling under the land patented. The permittee or lessee must

furnish a bond, satisfactory to the Secretary, that would indemnify the surface patentee for any damages caused by his activity.

Section 11 provides that all minerals included under the mineral leasing laws located in all public lands in Alaska shall, after the effective date of the Act, be disposed of by the Secretary only by competitive bidding. This language follows that recommended by the President's Field Committee and has the strong support of the Administration.

Section 12 contains a separate land settlement of the claims of Tlingit-Haida Indians. Since this tribe has already received a court of claims award of approximately \$7.5 million this section provides that the tribe retain such award however the ten Tlingit-Haida villages will have withdrawn for their benefit only the township in which the village is located.

We have recommended this solution in order to give the Tlingit-Haida villages a land base for future expansion however at the same time recognizing that the judgment of the Court of Claims was for settlement of the Tlingit-Haida claims against land set aside for the Tongass National Forest.

In line with the extinguishment of all claims pending before the Indian Claims Commission, this section extinguishes the Tlingit-Haida claim to the 2-6 million acres of unappropriated land in Southeast Alaska.

Section 13 of the bill extinguishes the eligibility of all natives covered by this legislation to qualify for allotments under the provisions of the General Allotment Act and the Forest Service Allotment Act. It further repeals the Alaska Native Allotment Act.

Section 14 revokes the reservations and reserves set aside for the Alaska natives, except for the Metlakatla Reservation since the Tsimshian Indians are not included under the Act.

Section 15 requires that the Secretary of the Interior and the Alaska Native Commission submit annual reports to Congress until June 30, 1991 and the filing of a final report thereafter.

Section 16 authorizes the appropriation of those funds, needed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commission to carry out the provisions of this legislation. This, of course, is in addition to the appropriation for the \$500 million to be paid to the corporation.

Section 17, the publication section, and section 18, the section containing the saving clause are standard.

This completes my prepared statement. I have with me this morning, members of my staff who are knowledgeable regarding this legislation and we will be happy to answer your questions.

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Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Governor, State of Alaska
Address to the
Alaska Federation of Natives Convention
in Anchorage, October 17, 1991

Thank you President Kitka and thank you to the AFN board and delegates for inviting me to attend this convention and speak here today.

Congratulations are in order for the great successes of the last twenty years since the passage of the Claims Act.

The people of Alaska from our cities to our small communities -- have mastered the complexities of corporate law, the skills of business management, and learned to deal with slow-moving federal bureaucrats who seemed in no hurry to transfer land title even when it was desperately needed for the survival of the new corporations.

In recent times, we have faced those who would take away from us what we fought for and won in Congress -- both in the Statehood Compact and the Claims Act.

These groups don't want us Alaskans to hunt, to trap, to cut a tree or catch a fish.

And when a resource is found, they want to reduce our royalties.

But we are a resource state, and we cannot exist without royalties. There is no way that we can tax ourselves enough to fund needed state services.

We must stand strong for what is rightfully ours. We will go to court, if necessary, to protect it.

We have won some of these battles, and yet there are major challenges ahead.

Our government systems at all levels are more and more complicated and out of touch.

Our educational system is struggling and in many cases not living up to our hopes for our children.

The speed of change, the erosion of a sense of community, the lack of work in rural areas has left some of our people with a legacy of frustration and despair, resulting in alcoholism and suicide.

And yet, for every problem, I believe a positive initiative can and must come forward.

The elders and young people have shown the way with a courageous and powerful sobriety movement.

These problems know no racial or cultural boundaries. They affect every family in Alaska -- rural and urban.

The message from rural communities is a message of hope -- we can stop drugs and alcohol addiction. We will.

That message is a strong beacon of light for Alaskans everywhere.

We have also seen a remarkable success story in some of our rural schools. I'm especially impressed by the accomplishments at Mount Edgecumbe.

Many of you in this room spent your high school years there. Friendships made at Mount Edgecumbe in the 1950s eventually led to a united effort in the early days of the Land Claims fight.

Now, President George Bush and national leaders everywhere, are concerned about education. They are talking about giving students and parents a choice.

That is exactly what Mount Edgecumbe has done given our youth a choice - and it has been a great success.

Recently I have been talking with the superintendent at Mount Edgecumbe about establishing a second school just like it.

And I am interested in how the secrets of success at Mount Edgecumbe can be shared with school districts everywhere.

Last August, my staff told me that I had to take a vacation.

I finally agreed, on one condition. I wanted to spend my time visiting communities in rural Alaska. As a result, Ermalee and I toured eight communities from Selawik to Nunivak Island.

In each village, we were warmly welcomed, and we had a chance to discuss ideas for the future of Alaska.

Those I met with know I am committed to economic development, and they asked me about it.

Many know that my interest is not just the bottom line -- in terms of economics. My interest is in what starting a business or having a job does for a person inside -- for their independence -- their sense of pride and confidence.

The people of Shishmaref showed me their tannery. They are proud of it, and so am I.

The people of Nunivak showed me their reindeer processing plant. They are proud of it, and so am I.

The people of Kotzebue gave me a tour of Red Dog -- all Alaska is proud of that project.

In Nome, people asked about jobs and how to counter those who would shut down their hopes of developing their mineral resources.

And by the way, the food shared with us was wonderful ... especially the A-Goo-Tuck (Eskimo ice cream).

This trip illustrated for me once again that we must pull together. Whether as a Native corporation or the state as a whole -- we own our resources in common. We must care enough to make sure that they are used for the benefit of all.

As we travelled, we also discussed how fish and game resources are essential both to feed families as well as to continue the traditions of culture.

I told them, and I repeat it here today, that I am committed to protecting subsistence uses and users.

I am committed to protecting the cultures and traditions of the Native people of Alaska.

Subsistence has been with us for a long time. It has been with you forever.

I am committed to finding a solution to the conflict and division over this issue.

This is an issue where either we all win, or we all lose. Over the past months we developed a subsistence proposal in good faith.

When it was released, there was an outcry. If some of the things I've read about this draft were true, none of us would want to be associated with it.

From the very first, I have said that this subsistence is not the Ten Commandments. Every word, every phrase, and every concept is open to change.

Much more important than what the draft says right now, is what it can be.

In the villages, people told me, "Subsistence is simple. It is what we do, it is who we are, it is what we cannot do without."

While the importance of subsistence is simple, creating a system that is fair to all may be complex.

In any case, we are going to find a way that works.

I am reconvening my Subsistence Advisory Council, and I have formally asked AFN to participate.

AFN has said they will come to the table in the spirit I am at the table ... with an open heart and an open mind.

While your concerns are being heard, I also need and look forward to your suggestions of how to find an answer that conforms to your wishes, the Constitution, and ANILCA.

Some people are afraid that the protection of subsistence in ANILCA will be removed.

But I can assure you today that there will be no amendment of ANILCA without the approval and assistance of all Alaskans working together, especially the Alaska Native community.

For the record, I know you recognize that I did not create this problem. I inherited it.

But rather than avoid it, or leave it to the federal government or the courts, I have committed myself personally to find an answer.

Because, make no mistake, what we are dealing with today will determine whether or not our children will inherit a peaceful Alaska tomorrow.

That's why we must approach this task as friends, with open hearts.

All I ask is that you work with me to find a better way and make a good faith effort to make it work.

If we do, I believe we will bring all reasonable Alaskans together again.

We don't want to legislate your lifestyle. Let's simplify the complexities, and let's return to a single management system -- the only sane approach for Alaska's future.

And now, a further word about Alaska's future.

We are fortunate that we share one of the richest, most beautiful corners of the world.

Our dedication must be to the total environment -- people, people's needs and nature.

To have a healthy environment we must fight and win our battles to open the Coastal Plain of ANWR, to move our commonly owned natural gas to market and our coal to the Pacific.

We must continue our commitment to be a model for sound development. But we cannot agree with so-called environmentalists who are interested only in nature ... who would forget about people and their needs.

A man who is cold, hungry and unemployed is in an ugly environment.

That's why we are putting our time and energy into the Rural Economic Development initiative, the goal of which is to create 1,000 jobs in our villages.

This is not lip-service.

Today I am announcing an even stronger commitment to address the needs of rural Alaska over the next three years.

This will include a larger commitment from the FY 93 general fund and in addition we will earmark existing money to be focused on rural Alaska's problems.

This money will come in the form of loans from existing agencies such as AIDEA (the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority) and the Alaska Energy Authority.

Our goal is to strengthen local governments and local economies. These are not welfare funds. They are job-creating funds. The goal is to empower communities, families and individuals to tackle effectively the challenges they face.

Already, through the Alaska Energy Authority we have launched a multitude of programs to try to break the back of the high cost of electricity in our rural areas.

We have also launched a major initiative to bring our Alaska fisheries home . . . both to protect our resource and to create more on-shore processing for coastal communities.

I see an Alaska in twenty years where a person living in a village can go out and hunt and fish to help feed his family, and maintain his cultural ties, but where, to improve his quality of life, he can also have a job and a dependable income.

I see an Alaska with energy efficient homes, safe water, electrical and sewer systems that work throughout the year.

I see an Alaska where there are schools in which quality education is the standard.

I see an Alaska where our grandchildren live and work together -- Eskimo, Indian, Aleut, white, black, Asian -- embracing the joys that living in this beautiful land can bring.

Think about the situations we see on TV every day -- the Communist nations in a shambles -- the Middle East always on the brink of war - famine in Africa America's cities torn apart.

Yes, we in Alaska have a lot to be grateful for.

Let's -pool our energy, our vision, our positive feelings.

Let's draw on the cultures of all of us -- let's celebrate them and learn from each other.

Let's work together to be a model for other parts of the world and in so doing we can create an environment in which our children can grow up strong, proud and happy.

Thank you.

###

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
OPENING SESSION
THE NORTHERN FORUM
NOVEMBER 6, 1991**

WELCOME EVERYONE.

THIS IS THE SEASON FOR HISTORIC CONFERENCES.

LAST WEEK, LEADERS FROM THE ARAB NATIONS AND ISRAEL MET WITH THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE USSR AND THE USA IN THE FIRST EVER FACE-TO-FACE MIDDLE PEACE CONFERENCE.

AND TODAY, ON A SMALLER SCALE, BUT OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE NORTH, WE MEET HERE.

THE GOALS AT MADRID WERE AMBITIOUS.
AND SO ARE OURS. WE EXPECT DURING THIS MEETING --
FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY TO ESTABLISH THE NORTHERN
FORUM AND TO DESIGNATE ANCHORAGE AS THE SITE OF THE
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

WE WILL CONSIDER EIGHT EXCITING PROJECT PROPOSALS AND
DECIDE WHICH ONES TO PURSUE:

PROJECTS SUCH AS A NORTHERN SEA ROUTE,

MONITORING AIR AND SEA POLLUTION,

DEVELOPING EAST-WEST AIR ROUTES,
AND CAPITAL FORMATION AND INVESTMENT IN THE NORTH.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE EACH OF YOU FOR
ATTENDING HERE TODAY -- AND YOUR GOVERNMENTS -- FOR
DEDICATING YOUR TALENTS AND RESOURCES TO THIS VITAL
EFFORT.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS THE BEST
GOVERNMENT.

WELL, HERE WE ARE, MEETING NOT AS NATION TO NATION,
BUT AS REGION TO REGION, STATE TO STATE, PEOPLE TO
PEOPLE.

AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN SOME OF OUR
FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS -- INCLUDING OUR OWN IN THE
UNITED STATES -- ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THE ARCTIC

-- BOTH IN TERMS OF MILES AND IN TERMS OF MENTALITY.

THAT IS A REAL HANDICAP AS WE STAND AT THE DAWN OF A
NEW ARCTIC AGE.

AN EXAMPLE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. JUST LAST WEEK WAS A
VOTE IN THE U.S. SENATE TO PROHIBIT DEBATE ON A
NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY WHICH INCLUDED A VITAL
ARCTIC SECTION AN ISSUE I DISCUSSED WHEN WE MET
TOGETHER LAST MAY.

SOME OF THOSE SENATORS FEAR THE PRODUCTION OF THE
VAST ENERGY RESERVES WE HAVE IN THE NORTH.

BUT THAT WASN'T A VOTE OF MALICE. IT WAS A VOTE OF
IGNORANCE.

THE PEOPLE OF THE TEMPERATE ZONE FEAR THE COLD.
THEY ADMIRE OUR RUGGED BEAUTY, OUR WILDERNESS, AND
OUR WILDLIFE.

BUT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE CIVILIZATION FLOURISH HERE.

THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT -- OF BOTH PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE.

THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO FREE OUR PEOPLE'S MINDS AND HEARTS TO DO GREAT THINGS.

THOSE OF US IN THE NORTH UNDERSTAND THAT OUR CONCERN MUST BE FOR THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT -- AND THAT MEANS PEOPLE, PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND NATURE.

THOSE ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO WOULD ONLY HAVE US ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF NATURE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

WE WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THAT THOUGHT IN MIND DURING OUR DELIBERATIONS.

THE CHALLENGE IS NOT TO STOP DOING THINGS. THE CHALLENGE IS TO START DOING THEM RIGHT.

AND THAT IS THE ROLE OF THE NORTH.

TOGETHER, LET'S THINK BIG ENOUGH FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.

LET'S NOT JUST FOCUS ON OUR PROBLEMS.

LET'S FOCUS ON CREATIVITY.

LET'S FOCUS ON ORIGINAL THINKING.

LET'S FOCUS ON CREATING A PATTERN, A MODEL FOR WISE DEVELOPMENT IN COLD REGIONS EVERYWHERE.

LET'S FOCUS ON A SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM

-- AND THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE KEY TO SURVIVAL IN THE NORTH.

IT IS SAID THAT FEW NEW IDEAS COME FROM THE CENTER.

THEY ARE BORN ON THE OUTER EDGE, ON THE FRONTIER.

WE ARE NOT LOCKED INTO THE STATUS QUO. WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO LOOK WITH OUR EYES'WIDE OPEN.

AND AS WE LOOK FROM OUT OF THE NORTH AT THE REST OF THE **GLOBE**, WE SEE THAT IT IS REALLY A COLLECTIVE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE SO PRIVATELY.

ALL GREAT RIVERS FLOW INTO COMMON **OCEANS**. WE ALL BREATHE THE SAME AIR.

IF OUR FRIENDS IN RUSSIA AND THE OTHER SOVIET REPUBLICS MAKE A SMOOTH AND RAPID SHIFT TO A MARKET ECONOMY, IT WILL HELP US ALL.

IF OUR FRIENDS IN TOKYO AND SEOUL FIND CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES TO HELP THEM CLEAN UP SMOGGY SKIES, IT WILL HELP US ALL.

IF OUR FRIENDS IN CHINA CONQUER THE CHALLENGES OF FEEDING OVER A BILLION PEOPLE WHILE KEEPING THE GOOD EARTH HEALTHY, IT WILL HELP US ALL.

IF THE UNITED STATES DEVELOPS TECHNOLOGY, AS WE HAVE BEGUN AT THE NORTH SLOPE, TO MAKE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, IT WILL HELP US ALL.

AND I BELIEVE WE WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL THESE THINGS.

THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS WILL BE WHETHER WE ARE GOVERNED BY FEAR OF MANKIND OR BY FAITH IN MANKIND.

TODAY AS WE BEGIN THE NORTHERN FORUM -- WHICH I PREDICT WILL BE SEEN IN THE FUTURE AS AN "ARCTIC U.N."

WE HAVE A WORLD OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK ON.

LET'S TACKLE THEM TOGETHER.

IF WE DO, THE NORTHERN REGIONS WILL PROVE TO BE PART OF, THE ANSWER THE WORLD SEEKS.

OUR DESTINY IS NOTHING LESS.

I THANK YOU.

#

**Address by Walter J. Hickel
The Second Northern Forum Conference
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
September, 11, 1995**

Thank you to our hosts--Governor Hori, the government of Hokkaido ... and its very friendly people.

Chairman Eriksen, Vice Chairman Nikolayev, and other distinguished board members -- it is a pleasure to be here with you today.

It is great to be back in Hokkaido -- one of my favorite islands in the world -
--

---and one of the prettiest places Mother Nature paints her colors -- winter ... summer ... spring.... and fall.

Chitose, where we landed, is a sister city to my home, Anchorage.

We thank Hokkaido and this Center for doing more than hosting this meeting.

We thank them for keeping the dream of a northern union like the Northern Forum alive.

By working together, we have begun to accomplish important goals, and to speak as one voice for the North.

As important, we know each other better ... and the world has recognized it.

Let me give you two examples since we last met.

Following our meeting in Rovaniemi, I went to New York to address a meeting at the United Nations.

Butros Butros-Ghali, the Secretary-General of that organization, invited me to his office.

He spoke of the Northern Forum as one of those organizations which--by bringing regions together-- enables problem solving and mutual development.

"This is the direction the United Nations is going," the Secretary-General said to me.

His point is mine: our nations can try to work together as nations, but they won't be effective unless the regions trust one another and work together first.

Our region to region approach is effective and continues to strengthen.

Nowhere was that point more obvious than with another event last fall.

The world learned through the newspapers of a large oil spill in one of our member regions, in Komi.

My national government -- and the other national governments of the Arctic that were concerned -- wanted to know what was happening.

Our national government was unable to obtain detailed information.

I received a call from our State Department ... our Vice President ... even our intelligence agencies.

The national governments turned to the Northern Forum, which is based on Governor-to-Governor relationships.

Responding to requests for assistance from Governor Komorosky of Nanets and President Spiridonov of Komi, The Northern Forum organized a team of spill experts to fly to Usinsk.

The mission was pulled together in less than 48 hours.

We had immediate custom clearance because of the assistance of the Kamchatka Governor.

And President Nikolayev of Sakha provided The Northern Forum with a Russian Navigator.

That is the Northern Forum in action.

A member of our northern family was in trouble, and there was overwhelming support from all the members of Forum.

Our team got better information than the United Nations did, because we started out knowing each other and we had mutual trust.

We promised we would work to bring help for the clean-up.

A result of our effort was the role we played in obtaining the World Bank commitment of \$ 100 million to help clean up and replace the damaged, leaky pipeline.

That's the Northern Forum in action.

That's a good case of national governments looking to regional governments to help solve a problem.

As we look at the agenda of this organization in the years to come, we need to remember our roots.

We gather to help each other -- to build a community in the North -- to apply knowledge, instead of mythology, to solving Northern problems ... and seizing our opportunities.

For the North to be strong, we need strong ties.

We need infrastructure, and we can't do it alone.

We need to protect our resources, and we can't do it alone.

We need to grow our economies, and we can't do it alone.

As your Secretary General, I've agreed to serve as a spokesman for the North to help these things happen.

I have devoted the last thirty years of my life to northern issues.

It is my goal to continue to build and strengthen the Northern Forum.

And, I believe one of the most important things I can do for the organization is to focus my energy on building The Institute of the North.

It is my vision that this facility will be the premiere "think and do" institute in the world for northern issues.

And it could provide a home for The Northern Forum.

In the coming days, I would like your input to help make this project become a reality.

Let me make some other suggestions for the important work of the years ahead.

In the area of organization building, we need to address the role of regional governments in the formation of the Arctic Council.

It is flattering, perhaps, that the eight nations of the Arctic have agreed to meet in an Arctic Council.

But I predict this -- the Arctic Council will get nothing done until they understand the value of having the Northern Forum at the table.

It is easy for national governments to belittle regional governments as "subjects," as one diplomat put it at an Arctic Council formational meeting.

But we can't allow national governments to ignore the needs of all of the residents in the Arctic by giving just some of the residents a seat at the table.

Much is said in the concept of the Arctic Council about sustainable development.

But I've yet to hear from that group of diplomats any of the creative ideas this Forum is working on -- from opening the Northern Sea Route to establishing east-west air routes.

If the Arctic Council is truly for sustainable development, it would support our agenda.

More would be done to support Northern tourism.

More would be done to support Northern needs in health and sanitation.

More would be done to support natural resource development, in a safe manner, on lands national governments own.

And more would be done to delegate power to the people who live in the North.

The role of the Northern Forum in this exercise should be to make sure that true Northern needs -- not mythical needs -- are addressed.

As the Northern Forum members continue their work together, I think we need to strengthen the ability of the Secretariat to support a response to disasters -- natural and man-made.

If there are lessons from the Usinsk oil spill, the Sakhalin earthquake, and the emergency response drill held last year for a nuclear disaster in the Arctic, it is that we have a strong need for cooperation.

'This is one area where national efforts and resources need strong integration with local efforts and resources.

In the area of infrastructure, we have so much to do to expand air routes, the Northern sea route, land routes, and improved telecommunication among us.

There is quiet talk in Alaska of a fiber optic cable to link our north with Finland, across the Arctic Ocean.

I will represent the Northern Forum soon in London, at a meeting regarding a tunnel across the Bering Strait.

Here too, the Northern Forum is doing its homework.

On the Northern Sea Route, for example, it's important to look at the coastal trade each of our regions have in place already.

As a final thought, I want to talk, about continuity in this organization ... and its role in helping to build leadership in the North.

The Northern forum will succeed if it is useful to its members.

To the best it can, this organization should be practical rather than political.

And when a Governor changes within a region, we all need to help keep up support for the Northern Forum.

In my state, we've recently changed Governors from one political party to another.

I'm glad to report that Governor Knowles-- represented here by two members of his cabinet -- is supportive.

I want to thank not only him, but some of the other Governors in this room, including Governor Cowper, Governor Ericksen, President Nicolayev and Governor Horl for working with our new Governor to be certain he heard the benefits not just from me.

I'm proud to say that my first meeting on the Northern Forum as Governor was receiving a delegation from Hokkaido.

I'd been involved at the Third Northern Regions Conference hosted by Governor Cowper, but Hokkaido gave me a helpful reminder as we got started with my administration.

There's something that happens in these meetings that doesn't happen at any other gathering of Governors I've been involved with.

We help each other grow as leaders. We have young governors and old ones, leaders who have served in national positions and leaders who are bound in that direction.

WE gather here as peers. And we can help each other as individuals to lead our regions into greater success as ethical, progressive democracies.

We all deal with the challenges of government ownership of resources, and the need to stimulate market-based enterprise.

Let me conclude by saying thank you for the honor of continuing to serve this organization and its goals. I look forward to the progress to come.

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**Remarks by Walter J. Hickel
Northern Forum General Assembly
Yakutsk, Sakha Republic,
August 10, 1997**

President Nikolayev, fellow governors, honored guests of the Northern Forum:

My presentation today, as your Secretary-General and as founder of the Institute of the North, is preface to remarks you will hear tomorrow about the Institute of the North and a long-term home for the Northern Forum.

Today, I want to talk about common ownership of our lands and resources, and the challenge faced by regions and nations the world over.

Whether our recent history is communism or democratic, free-market capitalism, the fact is much or most of the land and resources in our regions is commonly owned. And it will stay that way.

We work, now in democratic systems, to develop and conserve our common resources.

We ask private enterprise to work with us.

We make decisions, as owners, to put some lands aside for conservation.

And we make decisions, as owners, to invest the wealth we gain from our natural resources to support the needs of our people.

In Alaska, we say this unique situation makes us the "owner state."

The system we set up is unique among the 50 states of the United States.

The state government owns 103 million acres of land, and our native corporations own 44 million acres. The State of Alaska receives 90 percent of the revenues from the remaining federal lands.

In many regions of the Northern Forum, these terms might be seen as generous. I said 40 years ago, it is not a question of generosity, it is a question of necessity.

If you want the people of the North to stand on their own and contribute to the world economy, without subsidy, give them the means.

I understand these issues between federal and the regional governments are still undefined in many other regions of the Northern Forum.

In some of your regions, the central government controls almost everything -
- and the entire budget is dependent on allocations from the center.

However these issues are resolved in any particular region, the issues of common ownership will remain. The challenge is still to manage for the benefit of the total.

If we take a map of the world and color in the lands that are commonly owned, I think we would find that most of the globe is covered. The oceans are certainly in this category. Antarctica, an entire continent, is another. Most of the landmass of Asia, most of Africa, most of the Arctic also fits in this category.

In the United States, traditionally thought of as a capitalist country, we have over 600 million acres in collective ownership just by the federal government.

I believe one of the things we can do together as members of the Northern Forum is to fully understand the issues of the "owner state."

Traditional western democracies are not accustomed to the challenges of common ownership. In Alaska, when I talk about it, most people think I'm a socialist.

But that colored map of the globe shows I'm a realist.

Whatever the status of our lands -- to get something started in the North, the owner has to make a decision. And a government is usually the owner.

This means that government has two roles -- that of the owner whose job is to get things started, and as a regulator whose job is to make sure it is done right.

Now I hope the Northern Forum can devote more of our attention to the challenge of the owner state. This is the reason I've made a major personal contribution to the establishment of the Institute of the North, and why I'm

asking each of you to assist us in developing an international educational program to support the work of the Northern Forum.

Recently, the top man for American aid to Russia and the former Soviet Union, visited with us. We were told that the top American priority for Russia was to help get the energy sector --oil and gas-- going in a strong way.

Almost all the American aid to this country has been focused on "entrepreneurship," or getting business started.

We have to make the case to aid the regions, and organizing resource ownership, if we really want to succeed.

They should know that in the American Arctic, the most successful oil production has occurred on lands owned and managed by the regional government of Alaska. This is no accident. Too often, the central government loses its focus and attention.

If you want a strong oil and gas sector, make sure the benefits of oil and gas development are shared with the people who live in the region.

If you want land to be managed responsibly, make sure it is managed with knowledge.

That's why we need the Institute of the North. Our main effort, which President North will explain tomorrow, will be to launch a Northern Forum Fellowship Program.

In that program, leaders and people of promise from Northern Forum regions will be invited to work on a master's degree over an 18 month period of time.

Some of the academic work will be done in Alaska, at Alaska Pacific University, and the Secretariat of the Northern Forum. Some of the work will be done at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University, one of the world's most prestigious places to study. Most of the work will be done on the job, in the student's home region of the Northern Forum, and in understanding how our regional and central governments operate.

The program will specialize in the reality, the richness and the responsibility of the North.

The reality we see is this: Our land is commonly owned.

The richness we see is this: We are rich in the wonders of nature as well as the resources people need around the world -- energy, food, fiber, minerals.

The responsibility we see is this: We must be fair and equitable and honest in the interface between the government and the market. We cannot give the resources away. We cannot allow the resources to be bottled up. We cannot realize the benefits of what we own without investing in infrastructure

In studying the reality, the richness, the responsibility facing us in the North, Northern Forum Fellows will contribute to our common work to serve the total.

We want to be a part of serving the total in this order: people, people's needs, and nature.

For all those reasons, I will be asking this Forum and its members to commit, with us, to a long term research and educational program, co-sited with the Northern Forum Secretariat, called the Institute of the North.

We will work together with knowledge to serve the total.

Let me conclude with a discussion of those words, "to benefit the total," which define our responsibility as leaders in the North.

In the last few months, the world was treated to the spectacle of the fall of a leader in Africa, Mobutu Sese Seko, from the very rich region of Zaire.

Like our region, his nation --now renamed the Congo-- has resources the world wants and needs. Those resources were basically in common ownership.

As that African government fell, it became clearer than ever that it failed because it failed to incorporate democracy and to inoculate itself against corruption.

Hundreds of millions of dollars of diamonds and copper were mined, every year for the past generation. It is fairly clear that the resource wealth was not managed for the benefit of the total -- it was for the benefit of the few. I don't believe this spectacle will replicate itself among our members. But I do believe we must insist on openness and democracy in our dealings with natural resource and land decisions, or we will never get as far as we could go.

And Ladies and Gentlemen, as I look around this room and think about all the needs and opportunity and potential of the Arctic, I'd have to say -- we certainly have far to go!

Thank you very much.

#

I Have A Vision

**Third Northern Regions Conference -- Egan Center, Anchorage
Thursday, September 20, 1990**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for the opportunity of speaking here today.

I'm honored to follow a panel of experts who have -- in their careers -- provided some of the best academic understanding of life in the North as any three people alive.

George Rogers is the dean of scholarship in Alaska. At the time of statehood he compiled an economic plan which set us off in the right direction.

Terence Armstrong, for those of us who think the Soviet Union's front door belongs in Asia, has been our interpreter.

And Graham Rowley, I want to thank you also for your work in bringing the top of the world together.

Around this circle called the Arctic, we live on a frontier.

Frontiers have always existed, because our view has always been limited. We need only realize that the universe is infinite. We approach an infinite universe with confidence, but a finite world with fear. Fear stifles vision. Confidence spawns it.

I've always questioned those who profess fear of the unknown. The extremists who favor stagnation in production, stagnation in population, stagnation in development. They say we go too far, too fast. I disagree. How can we go too far, too fast, in settling the universe, when where we're going is infinite?

Fear is the most powerful motivator. But to peddle fear one does not need courage. To peddle fear one need not be creative.

In 1961 John F. Kennedy said we were going to the moon. He had no fear of the unknown -- only hope for a national dream. There was a vision. We went to the moon.

Vision is a state of mind, a willingness to look beyond computer printouts, to look beyond what is known today. To dare to dream, that's vision.

Computer reports come out daily which forecast doom for the human race. The weakness of a computer is that it can only compute on the basis of what is known.

The true accomplishments of mankind have come when we reach out for the unknown....

Let me give you a scene: St. Peter's Church in London. It's a story, told by Somerset Maugham, of a young vicar discovering that the janitor was illiterate.

The vicar fired him.

Jobless, the man invested his meager savings in a tiny tobacco shop where he would eventually prosper, buy another, and then still another, until he had a chain of tobacco stores which were worth quite a bit of money.

One day he was in a fancy private club with his banker, and his banker friend observed, 'You've done quite well for an illiterate man. I wonder where you would be today if you could read and write.' 'Well,' replied the man, 'I'd still be the janitor in St. Peter's Church in Neville Square.'

The janitor had no education, had no restrictions. He did it because he didn't know he couldn't. He created it with vision.

When we create, we explore the frontiers of the mind and the soul, for we must first acknowledge and open our inner frontiers before we can approach the outer frontiers.

Charles De Gaulle once said, 'We may well go to the moon, but that's not very far. The greatest distance we have to cover still lies within us.'

I have a vision of a world that cares more about all of her people than about the special interest of a few. Of a world of peace and life... void of starvation. I see a world of progress. A world of prosperity.

Envision the day of the total...

An earth understood by all to be a truly collective world, yet one in which we live so privately. Where the responsibility to care for those things we own in common is shared by all. The oceans, the rivers, the air and space. A lonely sunset. A migrating flock of geese. Where men everywhere recognize and question those who fuel the fires of war for profit, while others starve.

And a world which embraces human life as the most precious thing on earth. Not oil. Not trees. Not national boundaries. Life.

When we understand this most basic truth, all things will change.

Politicians will govern from conviction and truth. Not just for a select few but for all people. Government service will again become a labor of love, not of power -- but of people.

Motivation won't come from fear but from conviction and morals. Truth will be the norm.

When we have men of uncompromised principles we have government. A government that does not pander to the fear of losing office, but to the hope of helping a civilization. To the hope of improving the lives of the humans they serve.

The unexamined life is not worth living.

Here, today. Question a call to parochial patriotism, without a call for global patriotism.

Question a nation, which cares only for those problems within its own borders.

This is no solution, for earth does not recognize the transparent borders of mans' nations. Nor does pollution. Pollution knows no boundaries. Every river eventually empties into the oceans ' and the oceans don't know whether they lap at the shores of a socialist nation or a capitalist nation.

Envision an environmental movement sweeping across every nation of the globe. A movement that embraces energy not as the problem but as the solution. A movement that embraces the human being, not as the problem, but as the key to the solution.

I have no time for those who say they are dedicated to the environment but disregard the needs of people.

The question is not what kind of a world do we want for elephants or reindeer, --or pandas, or Sequoias, or tundra, but what kind-of-a world do we want for our children.

Dr. Paul Brandwein put it well when he said, 'A world which does not conserve its children, does not conserve its elephants. It does not conserve its environment nor its resources nor its knowledge nor its values. It is neither competent nor compassionate. Its ends are neither human nor humane.'

People say the energy industry is 'Public Enemy No. 1' but I say energy is the great hope of mankind, and the hope of the environment.

Show me any area in the world where there is a shortage of energy, and I'll show you basic poverty.

Show me basic poverty and I'll show you an ugly environment. A man who is cold, hungry and unemployed is in an ugly environment regardless of his natural surroundings.

Harnessing energy has helped us take that step away from the slavery of hunger, lack of shelter, disease and ignorance. It is a step toward freedom in its most basic sense.

Enemy No. 1, the energy industry is in reality the answer.

But I envision an energy industry that embraces the fundamental reason to protect our most important resource.

The reason is man. And through man, his natural environment. Clean air, clean water. An industry that embraces the cost of environmental protection as a normal expense of business.... willingly. An industry accountable to the people and to the responsibility of production. Of innovation.

We in this room, and our children must live in this world. Nature happens to all of us alike. Like national economic decline; like social disintegration; like war, the environment affects us all.

I understand there is fear of change, and uncertainty. But there is more uncertainty in a world without change.

Policies that fail to recognize the true cost of oil dependence reach beyond the illogical; policies that fail to search for alternatives reach towards the immoral.

We will never run out of energy, the only thing we might run out of is imagination.

Oil companies are resented because of their economic power and their seeming disregard in the past for nature. But this hatefulness is coming to haunt us. -To punish-is not the answer.

Certain people want to drive a Cadillac but not produce energy. These people, in nations such as my own, want to export pollution. They want other nations to do the drilling, pumping, refining and transporting of oil so that their own water and land be untouched by man.

This is no answer. In fact it is a new form of imperialism under the guise of the holy cause of the environment. In reality they are saying, 'Let other people's children choke on smog and play in polluted streams. Let other nations' wildlife be destroyed. But we must protect our own.'

People equate the use of nature with the destruction of the environment, when in reality man cannot exist without using nature. The secret for man's life on earth is for man to be compatible with nature. We must not abuse it, but we must use it.

Bitter voices have been raised, on the one side pleading, 'Give us work, give us energy for our homes,' on the other side shouting, 'Stop the rape of our environment, protect our wildlife and our wilderness.' Somewhere in between is a still... small voice that says, 'if we work together we can do it right.' And we can.

Take a good look at a schoolroom globe. Look down at the Arctic. Ten million square miles, extending roughly from the 60th parallel up and across the North Pole. This is the Northern Region. Within it lie most of Alaska, almost half of Canada, all of Greenland and Iceland, parts of Scandinavia, an incredible sweep of Northern Russia and Siberia, plus part of the continental shelves and islands. . . .

An area as large as Western Europe, India, China, and the continental United States combined.

The area is practically unpeopled, and all but unknown. It cannot compete with the temperate climate of the tropic and sub-tropic as living space for man. It can compete as a producer.

That is why the Northern Region is a perfect location for a storehouse of wealth. And what a storehouse, for everything from mineral resources to the rarer resources of natural beauty and wildlife -- perhaps the most precious of all in the long run.

I envision a great future for the North. A future of production, a future of hope. And a future of care for man, and of man ... for the environment.

I see the North as a shining example to the rest of the world, of how it should be done.

Unlike the temperate zone, the North is cold country. In a warm country you can live-in a hut and basically-survive. - But a cold country has to move, be-active and be vital. There has to be reason for being.

Many people don't understand what it takes to live in a cold country. They have never had to make their way or fight the battle to keep men working. Some have never had to make a living.

I see this as a common bond of the Northern Regions. A bond of friendship, of understanding and cooperation.

I see mental exchange, economic exchange and people. And I see a bridge. A bridge of hope which will span the hemispheres of East and West, and serve as a political and economic link to peace for all time.

This bridge will enable all peoples of the world to travel from the tip of South

Africa to the tip of South America.... Overland. When the waters between Siberia and Alaska are bridged; nothing will separate East from West.

I see this bridge, this cooperative undertaking as a contribution to a decline in the arms race, to an increase in human understanding and to a need for peace.

No one person or country owns the oceans. We all do.

I see great ocean going cargo ships steaming through those oceans, through the Northern Passage. European goods bound for Asia and west coast goods bound for Europe plowing through the ice at the top of the world.

Northern seamen crewing the great ships. Northern icebreakers clearing the way.

In the last generation, we pioneered this bridge with air travel. , Look down at the classroom globe again, and see the world's air routes. Hundreds of flights daily from Asia to Europe. Asia to America. Europe to Asia and the West coast of America to Europe. All pass over the North...

Below is the calm of an Arctic sunset, the awesome power of a calving glacier, the silence of the vast emptiness of the great North.

In an article published in Reader's Digest in June 1973, I wrote, 'Now focus in on Alaska. Note that the shortest air route from New York to Tokyo, or to Peking, is not through Honolulu but through Alaska. Note too, how the Pacific coasts of North America and Asia stretch south like legs of a wishbone and how Alaska sits there strategically, atop the entire Pacific Basin.'

But, for the full potential of this northern bridge, the Berlin wall -- and the Ice Curtain of the Bering Strait -- had to fall.

With freedom, from the top of-the world comes Russia's enormous fleet of commercial air carriers.

Now consider the links between the bridge, the commercial airlift and the great ocean going cargo ships. The North will become a hub of global commercial cargo activity.

Think with me for a moment about mans living space, the tropics and subtropics of the South. In California, although a rich man may surround

himself with a multi-million dollar mansion, he cannot flush his own toilet more than once a day. He can't water his lawn, or shower twice a day. We in the North can. Our vast reserves of crystal clear water can stagger the imagination.

The day will come when the great rivers and glaciers of the north will supply the cities of the South with water to shower and shave.

Twenty years ago, as I stood on the windswept plains of the Arctic ocean, I had a vision. In any direction, as far as the eye could see, there was nothing. But I knew the Arctic was alive. I could feel her pulse.

I remember a young geologist named Harry Jamison who was with me. I said, 'Harry, drill, there's 40 billion barrels of oil up here.' And we drilled. To date we've found about half. Don't quit.

... And that's only Alaska... and only oil. We haven't even begun to produce nature's most perfect fuel -- gas.

Truly the Arctic is a storehouse of wealth. A storehouse of energy. The 21st century, the world of tomorrow, will be a world of unlimited energy.

There is no fear in the quantity of reserves waiting for mankind. The only concern is in the control of those resources. Will they be distributed to meet the needs of all men everywhere, or will they be hoarded for the benefit of a small elite.

Whether we have peace or war may well depend on how this balance of power will be used. Like the Middle East nations, with their vast reserves, the Arctic, likewise will be called upon to take an ever increasing role in world affairs.

The eyes of the world are turning North. We must start using our Arctic resources, those of natural beauty and those that meet man's other needs. And we must take the first steps, whatever our governments and peoples judge them to be, toward cooperative international development of the whole polar region.

I have dreamed of the North as a bridge to peace. Between environmentalists and developers. Between East and West. Between Christian and non-Christians. Between governments.

I have dreamed of the day when the world would change her attitude toward the Arctic,-toward the Northern Regions.

It begins to look as though history, economics and world politics are with me and as though the day has begun.

Thank you.

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**ADDRESS BY
THE HONORABLE WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR
TO THE NORTHERN FORUM
MAY 30, 1991**

"THE ARCTIC AGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

On behalf of the people of Alaska, I welcome you -- the leaders of the Arctic Nations -- to this Northern Forum.

I commend you for dedicating your time and resources to meeting to discuss the great issues of the North.

It is said that very few ideas come from the center of civilization. Instead, new ideas are born on the outer edge, on the frontier.

And I predict that this Northern Forum will become known as the place where we of the North discuss the unthought of, the impossible, the way out, the bold and the daring.

Your ideas may help change the direction of the world.

During this particular session, we hope to formalize an ongoing organization that will put some of these ideas into action.

Anchorage thinks of itself as the "Geneva of the northern hemisphere" and we would certainly welcome the opportunity to host your permanent secretariat.

Last September at the Northern Regions Conference I spoke to you as a private citizen. It is a pleasure to welcome you back as Governor.

At that time I predicted that in the next century the environmental movement will embrace energy, not as the problem, not as "Enemy No. 1," but as the solution to many of the world's ills.

Since that time, we've had a war in the Persian Gulf -dramatizing, once again, the direct and inescapable connection between energy and war, energy and peace.

The same connection exists between energy and poverty.

I said last September, "Show me any area in the world where there is a shortage of energy, and I'll show you basic poverty. Show me basic poverty, and I'll show you an ugly environment.

"A man who is cold, hungry and unemployed is in an ugly environment regardless of his natural surroundings."

As we all know, the Arctic is rich with energy and many other minerals.

I subscribe to the wonderful Siberian legend that after God had toured the world spreading riches throughout the continents, he became tired when he reached Siberia and emptied his bag in the North.

This is more real than imagined. We share vast natural treasures in our respective regions.

For that reason, I am totally convinced that the 21st Century will become the Age of the Arctic.

Within ten years the great geological structures that extend across the top of the Soviet Union, Alaska and Canada will become the new Middle East of oil and gas.

And this is only right.

Because the press of population worldwide needs the earth's temperate zone for man's living.

As history marches on, the world's resources will mainly come from the oceans, space, and the Arctic.

And for those of us who live in and love this great North Country, we can rejoice that these riches are being discovered at a time when mankind has become sensitive to the environment.

The challenge before us is a challenge to our ingenuity.

Arctic development must take place in such a way that the rest of the world points to us as a model of human enlightenment and technological advance.

The key to our success will be whether we are governed by fear of mankind or by faith in mankind.

When something is new or unknown, people fear it.

Many years ago when I was a boy on a farm in Kansas, electricity was introduced for the first time.

Some of the local residents were terrified. They predicted that these wires to every home could be used to destroy our farm houses and our cities.

"Who is going to control the switch?" they wanted to know.

That same kind of fear is now being expressed about Arctic development.

At this very moment the United States Congress is deciding whether or not to open for oil and gas development a small portion of the Arctic Coastal Plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Opponents raise fears as extreme as those who were afraid of electricity.

They say this is a pristine area. When in reality there have been centuries of human activity on the Coastal Plain.

They say it is unique, when in reality it is an extension of the Prudhoe Bay ecosystem.

These critics ... who claim we will damage the Coastal Plain --- haven't examined our accomplishments 60 miles to the west.

At Prudhoe Bay, we have done it right. We know how to work in the Arctic where heat is your enemy and cold is your friend.

What's more, we care about the land and the wildlife.

Our opponents say we will destroy the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and the herd that lives and calves at Prudhoe Bay has multiplied in size three times since oil production began.

In my view, we have done a whole lot better in the Arctic than they've done in New York, Los Angeles or Mexico City.

But you have to see it for yourself, and I hope that all of you will visit our North Slope facilities and get a chance in the near future.

Those of us in this room who live in the North understand the challenges of making a society-successful in a cold country.

We understand the struggle to keep men and women working.

And perhaps most of all, we understand and appreciate the beauty and the grandeur of this part of the world.

Last weekend I was sailing with my son, Bob, in Prince William Sound. And we were impressed again by how the North Country is so surprising because it is beyond man's imagination.

As we looked from Knight Island we could see the Chugach Mountain Range and its sweep across the horizon from left to right to the City of Cordova -- an expanse of some 300 miles of awe-inspiring mountain peaks and glaciers.

The Alaskan people will not support the development of our resources if we believed that it would destroy this country.

We support development because -- living at the top of the world as we do -- we have the benefit of a global view of the environmental challenge.

The key to a healthy worldwide environment is not to lock up our resource-rich areas to make them off-limits to man. The key is to make all development and environment compatible for both man and nature.

As we look from "out of the north" at the rest of the globe, we see that it is really a collective world in which we live so privately.

All great rivers flow into common oceans. We all breathe the same air. An accident at Chernobyl or Prince William Sound or burning oil wells in Kuwait may effect us all.

Hunger in the Third World is our responsibility. So is the rebuilding of the economy in the post-Communist nations.

I was interested to learn last week that in order to avoid shutting down the entire industrial plant in the eastern part of Germany, that newly combined nation has had to repeal the environmental section of its constitution. They've put those provisions on hold for five years.

In other words, people must eat, men and women must work, and industries must operate, and all of this requires resources.

The challenge is not to stop doing things. The challenge is to start doing them right.

And that is the role of the North.

Together, let's think big enough for the entire world.

I am pleased to see that the Northern Forum is eager to work on truly large issues such as the opening of the Northern Sea Route to international shipping -- monitoring of global pollution and joint research on changes in climate.

Perhaps you would also put your minds to some of the projects on my agenda such as:

- 1) A proposed water pipeline to take the abundance of fresh water from Alaska to the dry states of California and its neighbors.
- 2) A North Pacific port to help supply the Northern Sea - -route and the great sea - cargo - exchange, taking place in the North Pacific.
- 3) A natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to move vast and pure energy resources to our neighboring nations on the Pacific Rim.

In conclusion, the Arctic is not as difficult as it is different. Our challenge is to appreciate that difference geological, climatical, ecological, and geographical.

Our common challenge is to help the rest of the world to stop being afraid of the Arctic.

Fortunately, the eyes of the world are turning North.

We must use our Arctic resources, both those of natural beauty and those that meet man's other needs.

Many of us in this room have dreamed of the day when the rest of the world would change their attitude towards the Arctic.

It begins to look as though history, economics, and world politics are with us.

The day of the Arctic has come.
Thank you very much.

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**International Conference on Women in the Circumpolar North
Comments by the Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Tuesday, June 7, 1994
The University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

I would like to welcome you to Alaska this evening in two capacities.

As Governor of Alaska.

And as Chairman of The Northern Forum which is happy to host this reception.

As Governor of Alaska, I urge you to take time to appreciate Alaska.

Most of our visitors look at our mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers, and say WOW.

We hope you will also take time to get to know our people ... and our cultural heritage.

If you do, you will also say WOW.

And please take time to understand what makes Alaska tick.

Some people are so impressed with Alaska's beauty, they ignore Alaska's economy.

Without progress, civilization's fail. And Alaska won't fail.

My belief is that our job is to care about the TOTAL environment.

People, people's needs, and nature.

Only those governments that address the entire equation are truly doing their jobs.

I also welcome you as the Chairman of The Northern Forum.

This organization of regional Arctic governments was founded two and half years ago.

It's hard to believe it was just November 1991 when 14 governors of northern regions signed the foundation documents.

Now we are 24 strong...including the governors of 10 Russian regions.

Our goal is to unify the Arctic people through addressing our common problems and opportunities.

To strengthen our ability to communicate with each other.

To start looking and thinking "around" instead of "up and down."

And to take our story to the world.

Two weeks ago, we completed the first-ever Circumpolar Expedition...

79 government leaders, media and adventurers, circled the polar regions in a chartered jet, touching down in all 8 Arctic nations, 15 Arctic cities, all 24 time zones, in just 7 days.

It is the first of many charters among our countries.

Eventually leading to regular, scheduled air connections.

This expedition was led by Alaska's First Lady...

... my wife, Ermalee, who was born and raised in Alaska.

She took my place when legislative business kept me in our Capital city of Juneau.

The Northern Forum has been recognized by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization...

...but one with a difference.

Because of the hundreds of NGOs, we are the only one made up of government leaders.

I have said for years that the Arctic is not as difficult as it is different.

And one of the differences is that REGIONAL leadership is essential in the Arctic.

With perhaps the exception of Scandinavia, where there is continuity between a country's Arctic and its national government...

...throughout the rest of the North, we have been ignored here and forgotten by our federal governments...

... not out of malice but from lack of knowledge...

...and, therefore, we have been exploited.

The Northern Forum addresses this exploitation through unity and exchange of ideas.

We work through Priority Projects---such as the Circumpolar air routes I mentioned.

At our last general assembly in Tromsø, Norway, we added several new projects.

One of which we call simply, "Women in the North."

And this evening, I want to commend each one of you and the organizers of this conference...

... for participating in another first.

The first-ever gathering of the women of the Circumpolar North.

I look forward to learning the results of your work.

Frankly, I think your conclusions will have universal importance.

Because women everywhere looking for the qualities already vested in the women of the North.

They are looking for ways to play a more effective role in policy making and leadership.

Yes, northern women are already in the lead.

Not only are two of the eight heads of state of the Arctic nations women...

... women play leadership roles throughout the north.

Here in Alaska, our State House of Representatives is led by four women ... two leading the majority ... and two the minority.

My Chief of Staff, Nancy Usera, is an outstanding leader, having already held two other cabinet posts.

More women are serving on Alaska's 120 boards and commissions than ever before in history.

Alaska has the highest per capita percentage of women owned businesses.

In many cases there was a nurse in an Alaska town or village years before a doctor or a hospital.

And when the first doctor arrived, frequently it was a woman.

Women in our remote communities have always been strong and resourceful.

They are the glue that has held fast our Northern families, communities and cultures.

In many of our regions, the men had to leave the household for days, even weeks on end.

They went to sea---they fished---they hunted.

The women raised the children, took care of the old, and nurtured our heritage.

People who can cope with living in our harsh climate...and in isolation ...without instant access to basics.

...understand strength and self-reliance, and

... appreciate the personal freedoms that living in the North provides.

Here we create new traditions...as well as honor our past.

Here we are creating a model of how to make the Arctic ecosystem we share and the resource-based economy we depend on ...

... compatible.

The Arctic will never compete with the rest of the world for people.

But the Arctic is rich in the resources people need.

And the north "Country is truly a collective world. This truth was learned early in the history of northern cultures."

You waste nothing.

You share to survive.

You care for the total.

In the North, government cannot be the enemy. It must be a friend.

And, so that I don't talk too long about a subject that I care deeply about, I have brought with me copies of a talk I gave to the 5th World Wilderness Congress in Tromso last year.

In conclusion, let me simply say...

... I hope the women of the North find a home in the Northern Forum.

And I hope you will feel at home while you are visiting Alaska.

Thank you and God bless.

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"THE FRONTIER OF THE FUTURE"

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
MAY 11, 1991**

**THE HONORABLE WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR**

President Trotter, distinguished guests,--faculty, family,--friends and most important, the graduates gathered here today.

It is a special satisfaction for me to participate in today's celebration.

Having been here at the birth of this University and having watched its demise and resurrection -- it gives me great pleasure to see the caliber of students and the standards of excellence that have become its trademarks.

Both as Governor of our State -- and as an individual -- I commend all of you who are receiving degrees today for your determination to stick with your dreams, your hard work, and, most of all, your extraordinary opportunity.

In some ways, I wish I were in my early 20's and could start all over again in the Alaska of today. Because the country of Alaska hasn't started.

In terms of history, the headlines of our time -- from the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay to the Exxon Valdez disaster - are but footnotes. The real story hasn't yet been told, because it hasn't yet been lived.

As you set out on your careers, which are probably as varied as your backgrounds, do so with a sense of excitement -----find anticipation.

Don't just get a job. Don't just serve time. Don't just line up for the next paycheck. Don't just hold on until retirement.

Look up. See the extraordinary horizons that God has given us as Alaskans.

Dream big dreams and take the risk to make them happen.

As you have invited me to be part of this important day in your lives, let me include you in on some of my visions for Alaska which might strengthen or reinforce your own.

Because if you decide to stay in our state and dedicate your lives to Alaska, I believe you will find yourselves on the frontier of the future of the world.

Let me give you some examples.

PUBLIC SERVICE

If your chosen career is public service, you will truly have a fascinating assignment, because Alaska's government—is unique.

I call it the "owner-state." Because the citizens of Alaska, unlike in the rest of America, own most of the lands and the resources.

Those of us in state government have an extraordinary obligation as stewards of that natural wealth. It is up to us to make it possible for the private sector, with its incentive system, to operate successfully. We can't just sit back and regulate, as they do in other states. We must initiate. We must advocate.

Why is this important beyond Alaska? Because the reality of an "owner-state" also applies in the international arena.

As a world community we also have common ownership for the air, for the great rivers that flow from one state or nation to another, for the oceans, for outer space.

No one will ever homestead the oceans. No private corporation will own the moon. It is up to us as a human-race to decide how we will use and care for those things we own in common.

That combination of balance and boldness will be pioneered here in Alaska. Many of you may become experts in this arena, and, if so, your talents will be in demand around the world.

A CAREER IN BUSINESS

If your area is business, you will discover that to be successful in Alaska you must learn to work with the peoples of China, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

Those of you who have been learning those languages at ...APU will have a ticket to the front of the line.

Although Alaska's political ties are with America and we can thank God for that -- our economic ties are with Asia.

Check the record. We have never shipped a shovel full of coal to the South 48. We cannot compete with Wyoming or Montana. But we do export our coal to Korea.

We have never sold a shipload of logs to the South 48, but for 30 years we've exported them to Asia.

We can't deliver our natural gas to the South 48 and compete, but for 20 years we've shipped liquefied natural gas to Japan.

And now Korea and Taiwan are seriously interested in our abundant North Slope supplies.

Yes, if you go into business in Alaska, the world will be your marketplace.

A CAREER IN HEALTH

For those of you with careers in health, you are greatly needed. You are stepping into an Alaska that is searching for answers. How do we break the cycle of addiction, both in our rural communities and urban.

It is not good enough to treat the damaged lives and ravaged bodies of those hooked on alcohol or drugs.

We must find a way to address the causes of addiction.

That starts with self-esteem, a sense of purpose, a love of family, a commitment to community. Those of you who pioneer answers in this area will also be in great demand worldwide, because the problems are universal.

A CAREER IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Those of you interested in the environment have an extraordinary opportunity to help Alaska become a model, especially for other resource states and nations.

Next year, there will be a global conference on the environment in Brazil. At least 100 heads of state plan to attend.

It is interesting to note that the title of that conference was recently changed to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The name change was at the insistence of the Third World.

And the Third World nations are right, because we cannot create a healthy environment for our children if we just concentrate on one side of the equation. We must care about the environment and development and make them compatible.

We must find how to meet the needs of the tens of millions struggling to survive in Africa, the tens of millions digging their way out of the ruins of Communism, the tens of millions in Mexico City and other great metropolitan areas who are choking on air pollution.

Alaska, with our great beauty, our abundant wildlife and our generations of educated young people, can and must show the world how to balance these needs. That is a purpose worthy of us all.

VISIONARIES

Those of you who are visionaries have the opportunity to build projects that can help the economy and can literally be an alternative to war.

I have noticed that wars are often an excuse for economic activity. So, why war?

Why not a water pipeline to California.-- a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to tidewater -- a rail line into the vast Interior of Alaska with its great mineral riches -- a Global Energy Grid, crossing the Bering Strait, as envisioned by Buckminster Fuller, to provide the unused electricity in the industrial world to the underdeveloped, struggling nations?

A CAREER IN EDUCATION

Those of you in education have the chance to dedicate your lives to improve the quality of our schools, from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

We must not accept the failure of our school system in many of our villages. We must not let our youth sit in dull, uninspired classrooms.

We must help our universities become "Institutes of the North"- magnets for creative thinkers from around the world as we move into the Age of the Arctic, which is just now beginning.

We must educate America that the Arctic and sub-Arctic are a completely different world from the temperate zone in which the rest of the nation lives.

Our schools should have no peer when it come to knowledge of the North -- its geography, its climate, its cultures, its contributions to the world.

NATIVE ALASKANS

Those of you of Alaska Native heritage are starting your, careers at an inviting moment in the history of the Native cultures. You can and must bring an environment of hope to our villages and our urban Native people.

Your opportunity is to recognize and honor the past as well guide your people as they move forward into the future.

I recently visited Mount Edgecumbe school in Sitka and was deeply moved by the way the students and faculty are drawing on the best of both cultures - the caring and the community values from Alaska's past and the computer technology of the world's future.

THE HUMANITIES

Finally, to those of you in the humanities, I urge you to take a world view of what's happening in Alaska and to help others understand it.

America's great strength has been its ability to retain the past of our many cultures with a blending of a New World. Nowhere is that more real than on the Frontier.

We are a mongrel nation, a mixture of wave after wave of immigrants with those who came before.

It is this mixture that is Alaska's strength and should be celebrated.

It is interesting to note that the other great mongrel nation on earth is our neighbor to the west -- the Soviet Union -- another reason for us to be a bridge between East and West.

So, in conclusion, I would like to congratulate you again and to admit that I'm a little jealous. You have both the youth and the education to be part of these visions and of many more not mentioned here today.

Dream big dreams. With big dreams you can do big things and little things. With little dreams, you can only do little things. Then hold onto your dreams. Because as you do, Alaska will play a shaping role in the world **of** tomorrow.

Thank you.

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