

**Note: Listed below is a collection of radio program texts given by Governor Walter J. Hickel during 1993-1994. Topics in this series include:**

- **the owner state concept**
- **goals of an owner state**
- **economic strategy**
- **CDQ's in Norton Sound**
- **education reform**
- **lifting the oil export ban**
- **personal locator beacon**
- **North Pacific fishery**
- **statute of limitations**
- **Operation Hope**
- **Afognak State Park**
- **proposed OPA regulations**
- **senior citizens programs**
- **federal lawsuit to protect state's rights**

**Who Owns Alaska?  
by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
"The Owner State"  
April 9, 1994**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel" with you again for our weekly radio visit.

You know, in Alaska, the "owner state" is not just a philosophical term. It's a fact of life.

When Alaska's Statehood Act passed in 1958, Congress granted us a unique system of public ownership and leadership. Just like the other 49 states, we have a free market, capital intensive economy, and a similar political system.

But, unlike other states, Alaska owns 103 million acres of land. And our Statehood Act requires that the state forever retain ownership of the subsurface resources, in these public lands...the oil, the coal, and the minerals.

The law specifically dictates that if Alaska were to attempt to sell or give the subsurface resources away, the land would revert back to the federal government.

In other words, we are locked into the status of an “owner state.” And we must therefore act like an owner.

When government owns land and resources, it must address both the obligation of protecting them, and the even more difficult challenge of wisely putting those resources to work to create a healthy economy.

It is this second obligation that makes our Alaska situation distinct from the rest of the nation.

So here, unlike the South 48, government cannot just regulate. It must also advocate.

Government must say “yes” before a private individual or a corporation can enter the land to find and develop a resource.

For this reason, when Alaska people elect their public officials, they must understand the role these individuals must play.

The legislature must enact laws that recognize the obligations of the Owner State. They also must encourage and support the state agencies, in their efforts to say “yes” to resource development projects that make sense... and are environmentally sound.

In 1966, we truly acted like the owner we are. As Alaska’s second governor, I put the pieces together to go to the North Slope. When the oil industry was discouraged and ready to call it quits, we encouraged them to drill one more well. It was the discovery well. If we hadn’t taken those actions, the largest oilfield in the history of North America may never have been found or developed.

Without Prudhoe Bay, Alaska would have no Permanent Fund. Nor would we have our basic infrastructure of schools, roads, utilities, and other amenities our oil wealth has provided.

A more recent example of the Owner State in action has been our aggressive efforts to collect back taxes from the oil producers. In just three years, we have collected 1.7 billion dollars. And there are billions more to be settled by negotiation or litigation.

If Prudhoe Bay had been found in another state, such as Kansas or Oklahoma, it would have been owned privately by perhaps 300 to 400 farmers. They would have hired attorneys and accountants to audit the companies activities to make sure that they received their fair share of royalties.

Here, state government has to do those audits. State government must challenge those who fail to pay enough....and that takes dedicated experts working for the Alaska people.

So we have a two-sided role. First, we must encourage the resource industries to come to Alaska and invest their time and money. Secondly, we must insist they do it right.

The governor of Alaska must act as if he were the foreman of the ranch. A foreman doesn't own the ranch. He runs it for the benefit of the owners.

The State of Alaska owns this 103 million acre ranch. And the reason we do is because when we were a territory, Congress paid the bills for government here. When we became a state, they wanted to make sure Alaska had enough revenue to operate.

I consider myself as governor to be the foreman of this ranch. I'm assigned to take care of the state to see that our economy remains healthy, adequate revenues are received....and the beauty of Alaska is looked after and enhanced.

This is Wally Hickel, signing off until next week, on this same radio station.

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**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**"Goals for an Owner State"**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel here for our weekly radio visit.

As soon as the legislature adjourned in mid-May, my administration set out to refine our targets. We prepared a STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN. I call it GOALS FOR AN OWNER STATE.

This week's program and next, I would like to focus on these goals. They include SELF-DETERMINATION, ECONOMIC STABILITY, and OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS.

They are vital for Alaska. And we need your support.

To date, I am pleased with our success record. In three and a half years, we have achieved many of our goals.

From resolving the state's complex litigation with on ... to unraveling back tax disputes to the tune of \$ 1.8 billion.

We have reduced state government by 1300 positions, and cut agency budgets by 23 percent (32 percent if you adjust for inflation);

... We have reformed the capital budget process through our matching grant program:

...selected the remaining 23 million acres of the state's land entitlement .. and signed the Mental Health Trust legislation just a few weeks ago.

I won't go into the rest of the list. The issue today is not what's been done. But what's ahead.

First in our goals for the future is SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALASKA.

We must continue the fight for our rights as a state. No other state has such a clear COMPACT WITH CONGRESS as Alaska. And yet, no state faces such an onslaught from the federal government.

It started long before the Clinton administration. But they are taking it to new heights. We have filed suit. And Alaskans support these lawsuits.

For instance, early this session, both the House and Senate passed a resolution STRONGLY SUPPORTING our \$29 billion lawsuit that demands the federal government honor the Statehood Compact.

This resolution passed 36 to 3 in the House, and 17 to 2 in the Senate.

Our team of attorney continues to advance these suits. And we fight on to lift the Oil Export Ban ... as we have since the day we took office.

The recent support expressed by U.S. maritime unions and President Clinton are major victories. We are now working with our Congressional Delegation to win the support of Congress.

SELF-DETERMINATION also means:

-- opposing unfunded federal mandates --- laws and regulations that Washington, DC forces on us without the money to implement them.

-- keeping the North Slope producers at the table with the large buyers of natural gas in Southeast Asia---until a pipeline is built from the Slope. I tell you, the market is there.

-- and continuing to encourage other sustainable resource industries --- such as fisheries, timber, and mining.

Yes, these industries ARE sustainable --- if they are done right.

And, we must preserve and protect Alaska's uniqueness. This means we must be alert to, take issue with, and battle the federal regulatory process...

... on issues such as wetlands, PACFISH, and rules and regulations that over-lay and over-kill.

There is no way that Alaska's wetlands can be confused with Louisiana's or Nevada's.

Nor should our forests be mistaken for the species, drainage patterns, or logging practices in the Pacific Northwest.

Recognizing ALASKA'S UNIQUENESS we must continue to expand our international trade opportunities.

Our exports first topped \$2 billion in 1989, and they have stayed above that mark. Last year they were \$2.6 billion.

We are just beginning to learn that Russia is both a competitor AND a hungry market.

And we must not give up on finding a subsistence plan that ALL Alaskans can support as fair and responsible.

So those issues are what we call SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALASKA.

Next week I will discuss two more goals for Alaska: ECONOMIC STABILITY and OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS.

Until then, this is Wally Hickel signing off.

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**Who Owns Alaska?  
"Goals of an Owner-State II"  
by: Governor Walter J. Hickel**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit.

Last week, I talked about goals for an Owner State, which included self-determination.

Today, I would like to share with you two more goals for an Owner State: **ECONOMIC STABILITY** and **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS**.

First, **ECONOMIC STABILITY** starts with government.

During the last four legislative cycles we have redesigned the budget process. And we had some exciting victories.

First we've overhauled the way capital projects are selected using **CAPITAL MATCHING GRANTS** to involve local communities to participate in the decision-making.

The result has been a steady decline in pork barrel politics.

Secondly, in the operating budget we have reduced state Government by 1,300 positions percent 32 percent if you adjust for inflation.

But for long-term planning, we must include strategies to pursue resource revenues especially those on state-owned land.

That pursuit will take place within today's framework of keen and committed environmental awareness.

And let's not forget which is so easy to do-that **ECONOMIC STABILITY** includes enhancing our infrastructure: our roads, our schools, and our public buildings.

There is much to be done.

And, in order to have economic stability, we must also continue our campaign to develop **LOW-COST AND EFFICIENT ENERGY**, especially for remote areas.

Energy is the key. A decent quality of life and the jobs that come from economic development depend on the availability and price of energy.

We must have a skilled workforce --- and opportunities to use those skills. That is part of Alaska 2000 our educational reform program.

And it is why our private sector, the healthiest source of job creation, must be encouraged.

You'll be interested to know that since 1987, private sector jobs in Alaska have increased by 23 percent and have diversified. EVERY category except pulp mills has grown.

The third section of our goals for an owner-state is what we call OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS.

Some of these are new --- never heard of before this Administration --- such as Community Development Quotas.

These CDQs have brought new jobs and prosperity into 55 western Alaskan villages.

Alaskans are finally laying claim to our own fishery resources.

And to expand OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS We must improve access to our other natural resources--especially oil and gas.

We were successful in passing legislation this session to encourage oil and gas exploration and to simplify the regulatory process.

More regulatory reform has to be done and we have a good team working on it in direct daily contact with my office.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE means helping the private sector create new jobs and new opportunities.

We will continue to press for a high standard of living.

This means affordable and safe housing, safe water and sewer.

We have poured over \$100 million --- more than the last two administrations combined --- into safe water systems --- serious health issues and it remains one of my top priorities.

And a high standard of living means a PUBLIC SECTOR WE ARE PROUD OF ... one that improves its services to Alaskans --- elevates its image with Alaskans --- and generates pride in its ranks.

That's where I need the help of ALL of you.

The Owner State cannot function if the people hate or resent government.

These issues will set the agenda and pace, not only for this generation of Alaskans but the next.

This is Wally Hickel, signing off until next week.

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**Who Owns Alaska?  
By Governor Walter J. Hickel  
January 1, 1993**

**An Economic Strategy for Alaska**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel here for our weekly radio visit. Today, I would like to talk about our current revenue picture.

We have at least five ways to address our current revenue shortfall—cut spending, levy taxes, tap the earning from the Permanent Fund, used the \$2.3 billion dollars in our reserves, and develop oil and gas on state lands.

We have already used the first approach—spending cuts. In just three years, this administration has reduced the agency operations

part of the budget 22 percent in real dollars (that means buying power).

And we've accomplished this while Alaska's population has grown. The people clearly wanted us to be more efficient. And we've done it. In real dollars, we are now spending the same amount per capita than we did in 1979—before budgets went sky high.

And to put things in perspective. I know there's a lot of talk about the state wages, this year we spent more money on the Permanent Fund Dividends--\$550 million—than we spend on state employees salaries and benefits (\$535 million).

In fact, if we laid off everyone, all state employees—in the legislative, judicial and executive branches—we would save less than 25 percent of the operating budget. And since I took office in 1990, there are 1,000 fewer authorized positions.

That is not to say that additional budget cuts are impossible. But other areas of reductions will have to be made in the area of FORMULA PROGRAMS. These pass-throughs account for 48 percent of the operating budget. As long as these programs remain written in law, and our population grows, the cost of government will grow. That's a given.

Last session we faced the challenge of cutting these programs, most of which are very popular. We sponsored successful legislation to phase out the Longevity Bonus. And we authorized legislation to eliminate the automatic COLA on welfare payments. This also became law.

But in my view, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT is the best source of revenues and jobs in Alaska—it is the best and healthiest way to

fill the fiscal gap. Resource development generates 90 percent of our state revenues today. And it has for a long time. It CAN continue to do so. It should continue to do so.

But some Alaskans do not want to meet our needs through resource development. Or they do not agree that it is possible. We hope to change their minds.

A state income tax is being discussed by those who do not believe in resource development. A state income tax would be the fairest tax. Unlike a sales tax, only those who are earning an income have to pay. And it forces our seasonal workforce to pay their share—the Outside fishermen, loggers, tourism employees, and oil workers who earn their living in Alaska but contribute little to the cost of government services.

Capping the Permanent Fund Dividends is another option that the non-believers in resource development must address. It is certainly preferred to abolishing the dividend or raiding the principal of the fund. If the dividend is capped at \$750, the gap can be partially filled--\$194 million the first year, \$223 million the second year, and it keeps growing from there. But I believe that the resource strategy is the right strategy.

While our fight continues with the federal government over the promised royalties from oil and gas on federal lands in Alaska, we are encouraging exploration of state lands.

Recently Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Harry Noah announced that 556,000 acres of state land, which had been closed to mineral entry, will be re-opened. And we have more of this to do.

Fortunately, the environment of Alaska isn't being damaged. Alaska can prosper with wise utilization of only one percent of our state. The key is to find the right one.

We must encourage oil and gas exploration in promising areas. That's why we have proposed a bill that will stimulate exploration companies to inventory the oil and gas resources on our vast sedimentary lands, through large block licensing and exploration credits. We have been careful to ensure that this program will be available to small companies as well as large.

We are encouraging the oil producers to get behind the construction of a pipeline to transport North Slope gas to tidewater. The Japanese natural gas market will double and may even triple in the next few years. China is coming on strong. And other smaller Asian nations. Natural gas is an ideal energy source—nearly pollution free.

Finally, we need help in the most important area—attitude. With a positive attitude, and working together, Alaskans can accomplish anything.

This is Wally Hickel, and I'll talk to you again next week on this same radio station.

**Who Owns Alaska?  
CDO's Work in Norton Sound**

Hello. This is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit.

I recently took a tour of about a dozen rural villages in western Alaska, where I was warmly met by friends, new and old. This was my fourth summer of rural trips, and every one has been a great opportunity to meet the villagers and listen to their concerns.

Today, I wanted to discuss briefly an unplanned stop we made along the way. The weather was bad in Koyuk, so we diverted the plane to Nome.

We used the down time to catch up on what's happening in Nome.

In a word, it was incredible.

Down at the harbor, we saw what the community development quota program--the CDQs--are doing for this part of Norton Sound.

A lot of Alaskans, especially those who live in urban areas, the Interior, and Southeast haven't got the faintest idea what a CDQ is.

It is a share in the fishery harvest allocated to the villages that border the Bering Sea. Out there, everyone knows their CDQS, and they realize this program will be the cornerstone of their economies.

And the ripple effects the CDQs are producing are really astounding.

For example, all around Norton Sound, the CDQ groups are plowing their income back into bigger boats, because up till now they've just used skiffs. To harvest the fish under their CDQS they will need something bigger.

So far, they've bought six new aluminum boats in the 30 foot range.

These boats were made in the Puget Sound area. But a big part of the CDQ program is to invest the revenues it generates back into the communities, especially in education and training. So, the CDQ holders in Alaska said to themselves, "Why don't we learn to make the boats ourselves?"

They worked out a deal to have the seventh boat built at the AVTEC Center in Seward. Several villagers worked at AVTEC on the project. It was my privilege to be there for its launching on July 15.

Meanwhile, back in Nome, we saw two more ripple effects of the CDQS. First, in order to better service a growing fleet of small fishing boats, the city of Nome installed some basic docking facilities and extended fuel lines. Other CDQ communities will be doing these kinds of projects as well.

The second thing we saw in Nome was crabs. Lots of crabs. While crabs are not part of the CDQ allocation, the exclusive harvest zone for this fishery works in much the same way. And it's having the same kind of good effect on the villages.

In Nome, a fisherman came racing up the ladder from his boat with crabs in hand. He urgently wanted to talk to me. His comment was straightforward and to the point: If it wasn't for this program, he'd be sitting idle.

He said he was a long-liner from Kodiak, and without the CDQ program, he'd be unemployed right now. But instead, he was working in Nome, knee-deep in crabs, and knee-deep in full-time employment. He wore dirty work clothes, but he also wore a smile.

As a token of his appreciation, he thrust the crabs into my arms.

The CDQ program has produced nearly 40 million dollars in gross revenue over the past two seasons of its existence. That money has gone into the villages that are a part of it and has been spent on education, wages, and investment in economic enterprise.

The program has also had an extraordinary effect on many of the individual villagers who are working in it.

It's a zero-tolerance program. In other words, someone who's working on a slime-line on a floating processor that's harvesting under a CDO has to be totally drug and alcohol-free.

Yes, the CDQ program has brought jobs to Western Alaskans. About a thousand new jobs to the region. And it's going to bring more.

CDQs have returned the investment back to the community. Right now studies are under way to see if another boat can be built at the Seward AVTEC Center. I hope they make a regular habit of building CDQ vessels!

And again, more Alaskan jobs.. fishery jobs.....manufacturing jobs..... jobs through education both in, and outside the CDQ region.

What CDQs really mean is hope. Hope for Alaska's future!

That's what state government should do for the people. Provide opportunities for Alaskans to help themselves. And with just one idea, the Community Development Quota program, all this good has come.

As I've said all along, the best social program is a job. And now, CDQ employed workers are repeating it back to me. That's proof the program works. It's a real winner!

This is Wally Hickel. Thanks for listening. I'll be back again next week, with another "Who Owns Alaska" commentary.

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**Who Owns Alaska?  
by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
Education Reform  
January 22, 1994**

Hello. This is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit.

Last week, when I gave the State of the State address, I outlined a simple theme:

**ALASKA FIRST!**

I have worked hard every day of my adult life—as a builder, and businessman, as Secretary and as Governor—as a neighbor, husband, a father and a grandfather...

.....on behalf of a single, lifelong mission—to do my best for this country called Alaska.

And when the tough decisions have to be made this legislative session, with the leadership of the House and Senate, we will ask one simple question: Are we putting Alaska first?

In the State of the State, I outlined four of my top priorities for this session:

...confronting the epidemic of violence ...caring for our seniors.....standing up to the federal government....and reforming education.

I believe these issues truly put Alaska and Alaskans first.

Next week I will talk on my legislative package for caring for our seniors, but today, I'd like to talk to you about school reform.

In June of 1991, I asked my newly appointed Commissioner of Education, Jerry Covey to develop a plan to improve Alaska's schools.

The plan that has been developed is called Alaska 2000. It deeply involves citizens, not just educators in restructuring the school system.

In January of last year, I appointed four Alaskans to chair the major Alaska 2000 committees.

The four were Mary Jane Fate of Fairbanks, Oral Freeman of Ketchikan, Edward Rasmuson of Anchorage, and Noreen Thompson of Kodiak.

They truly put Alaska First.

The bottom line is that our kids deserve schools that are second to none. Our goal is simple—to graduate world-class students.

To improve student performance, world class standards are being drafted for English, math, science and all major studies.

And higher standards for the way colleges prepare our teachers will be ready this spring.

The rest of the reforms are before the legislature.

The Alaska 2000 legislation would lengthen the school year so that the students and the state get our money's worth.

.....it would involve the most powerful education support system even invented ....the parents.

..with charter schools, local advisory boards, and tenure review committees.

However, education reform will not be easy—especially in an election year. But, the Alaska people didn't send us here to shy away from these hard decisions.

There are those who will try to protect the status quo, and they may threaten to campaign against those who are for reform.

I don't know whether my name will be on the ballot, but if it is, my answer will be this:

“If I must choose between our kid's education, and my re-election, I'm going with the kids.”

In education reform, or other important issues to the state—let us be sure that our children and our grandchildren will say that we did everything that could be done. And we put Alaska first.

This is Wally Hickel signing off until next week on this same radio station.

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**Who Owns Alaska**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**for publication on or after June 17, 1994**

### **Export Ban Should Be Lifted**

Hi, this is Wally Hickel, with you again for another "Who Owns Alaska" commentary.

You know the oil export ban has been getting a lot more attention lately and I'm glad to see it. I hope it gets all the public scrutiny it needs to make Congress repeal it.

The export ban has kept us from exporting Alaska North Slope crude for as long as we've produced it. The ban is the worst kind of oppression by the federal government on any state.

Do you suppose it would be fair if Congress passed a law that said Kansas could only sell its wheat to Nebraska and Missouri? You'd have a revolution!

The ban may have been the result of good intentions back when the Arab oil embargo was hurting American consumer 20 years ago.

But you'd be hard-pressed to find any Alaskan who think it's a good idea today.

There is great news about the ban and efforts to get it repealed. We expect the issue to be debated in Congress this month... and maybe they will vote to eliminate the ban from the Export Administration Act.

The major opponents of the lifting the ban/the Maritime Unions have worked out a compromise with BP the biggest producer of ANS crude.

The unions have agreed to no longer fight lifting the ban if the exported oil is carried on American-flag tankers.

This is okay. It's a step in the right direction. And it will accomplish much of our aim while still protecting the Jones Act fleet.

The Jones Act as most Alaskans are painfully aware, requires goods shipped between American ports to be carried on American-made, American-owned, and American-manned ships.

Alaskans have shouldered the burden of paying for any benefits the Jones Act has provided to America since it was enacted and especially over the past 20 years of development at Prudhoe Bay.

But the advantages of lifting the ban even using American tankers have become too obvious to ignore.

Here are some of those advantages:

Lifting the ban would create thousands of jobs in oil exploration and development, as well as maritime jobs. Most of these jobs would be in Alaska.

Lifting the ban would increase wellhead prices in Alaska, because the cost of transportation to Japan is less than to California or to the Gulf Coast. A higher wellhead price means more revenue to the state – in excess of 300 million dollars.

Another clear benefit is in balancing America's trade with Japan. While the nation overall is a net importer from Japan, Alaska is a leader in exporting to Japan. They buy more than 2 billion dollars worth of our fish, timber, natural gas, and other products every year.

Alaska's long relationship with Japan and Korea is a classic case proving that if we offer to sell them what they want they'll buy it.

The fact is they want to buy our crude oil. The source is close, the reserves are there, and our political climate is stable.

Last year we filed suit against the export ban, for all the above reasons. And we asked for about 2-and-a-half billion dollars in damages because that's how much we estimate we've lost in revenues because of the ban.

We still expect to win this suit which we will continue to pursue even if Congress has the good sense to repeal the export ban.

We cannot stand idly by as a state and allow the federal government to trample our rights. And the export ban has been the most flagrant trampling of those rights for the past 20 years.

I'll be glad when it's gone.

This is Wally Hickel, saying goodbye until next week.

###

## **Who Owns Alaska**

### **June 24, 1997**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel, with you again for another "Who Owns Alaska" commentary.

I would like to describe what it takes to be Governor of Alaska in the 1990's. It takes courage, a thick skin, a strong stomach, a sense of humor, and it takes, above all, the strength to put Alaska First.

If you want to be governor just to HAVE a job instead of to DO a job you will soon be overwhelmed. And if you are a special interest we will lose all that we have fought for --through the Statehood battle and since.

Putting ALASKA FIRST I had to take on the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations who have made a national cause out of locking up our state. Even to the extent of lying about Alaska in their fund-raising efforts.

Now Alaskans are environmentalists. I am an environmentalist --- with a strong record in this state, this nation and internationally.

But I had to challenge these groups publicly to help the Alaskan people understand what was going on.

Alaska cannot live on eco-tourism alone!

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This state needs a few key transportation links, such as a simple highway, through that glorious country to Cordova. And no governor who puts Alaska first should give up on that wonderful project.

Needless to say our campaign to open ANWR is not appreciated by the environmental groups.

These people pretend to be for balance. But they fight us at every step, trying to stop us from developing ANY of our Alaskan resources...

... oil, gas, fish, gold, coal, or timber.

Alaska's governor must be free of commitment to the collective bargaining units within state government.

Now I have never been anti-union. As a matter of fact I am endorsing a Project Labor Agreement for the Healy Clean Coal Project.

But union leaders must not dictate state policy.

As your governor, I took a stand.

In our negotiations with all 11 collective bargaining units --state salaries and benefits have been controlled.

In less than four years we have cut 1,300 positions out of state government.

Without inflation agency operating budgets have been slashed 23 percent.

With inflation, it's 32 percent.

The Governor of Alaska must stand up to the U.S. Congress and the federal administration. And this is non-negotiable.

He or she must insist that the feds live up to their word. Whoever sits in that chair must follow through on the suit I filed for \$29 billion on the sanctity of the Statehood Compact.

We must fight the blatant discrimination that forbids us to export our North Slope oil.

We insist on management of our own fish and game.

We must resist unfunded federal mandates.

And our governor must NOT be owned by any industry... .. the Seattle fishing industry, the gaming industry or the oil industry.

I have been known in Alaska as a friend of oil. But I have never been owned by any industry.

Our elected leaders, especially our governors, must be free to follow their consciences.

Remember that all industries--like environmental organizations--fly their own flags --- not the Alaska flag.

Their voters are their stockholders or their members. That doesn't make them bad. But it shows their allegiance.

And we must not be confused about their loyalties.

If you take tough stands, after four years, you may not end up with a single special interest in your corner..

But you'll have earned the respect of the majority of Alaskans. And future generations will thank you.

THAT is why you are elected. And that is satisfaction enough.

This is Wally Hickel, signing off until next week on this same radio station.

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**Who Owns Alaska**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**April 1, 1994**  
**Personal Locator Beacon Program**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel back with you to talk about another important issue for Alaskans.

For years I've called this state a country and there's many reasons why. For one thing Alaska is as big as ten of the other states combined.

How big is that? Years ago, Alaska had different time zones, before they were combined into one, to make life easier.

Today's topic Personal safety in the wilderness, and search and rescue, affects anyone who travels on Alaska's 586 thousand square miles of land, including all the roads.

Hunters, fishermen, campers, tourists, boaters, and most Alaskans travel this diverse and beautiful-state. They see its scenic wonders, and rugged wilderness.

That's why safety is so important in this vast country. Travelers need to journey with caution, and. keep in touch with friends, relatives, or business associates.

But even then the simplest mistake or mechanical failure can be life-threatening.

Alaska's Department of Public Safety is aware of the dangers. That's why they've begun a new program with my support. It will shortly go into effect.

The department will soon test a new rescue system which uses personal transmitters, satellites, and a system of national and state resources to track radio distress signals sent by the person in distress. It's called the Personal Locator Beacon program, or PLB.

Here's how it works. An individual wears a small radio transmitter as part of his or her personal safety gear. If the person gets into trouble he activates - the transmitter, which broadcasts on a special emergency frequency.

Then PLB tracking goes into action to locate the signal using low earth orbit satellites and new emergency tracking center in Anchorage.

This new signal tracking system will mean much faster rescue for the person in trouble. PLB used for several years by the North Slope Borough has proven its ability to save lives and that's the bottom line.

Alaska will be the first state government approved to test this new system- and at no cost to the state. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA will pay it for.

But make no mistake the program isn't free. NOAA is spending 600 million dollars to develop this high-tech rescue system, nation-wide.

Installation is already underway. The new emergency operations center in the new National Guard Armory near Anchorage is about half-finished. It will cost about 6 million dollars. The satellite system is already in place.

Here's why Alaska is receiving this help from the federal government.

First, the Department of Public Safety impressed NOAA with our application for PLB. Ours was the fastest approval ever for a NOAA test. One key to rapid approval according to NOAA was Alaska's excellent reputation in handling emergencies.

Second, NOAA wants the test to work. In return for the technology we'll have to provide superior PLB test data for NOAA to analyze. No problem.

It's a real win-win situation. And the biggest winners are Alaskan travelers who might have an emergency.

I've often said I find no malice in Washington D.C just a lack of understanding about Alaska. This time it seems the federal government understands.

This is Wally Hickel. I'll be back again next week on this same station for another Who Owns Alaska.

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**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**April 16, 1994**

**The Rape of the North Pacific**

Hello this is Wally Hickel with you to talk about another issue important to Alaskans.

You know last year when I spoke to the global forum at the U.N. conference in Rio and later at the World Wilderness Conference in Norway I talked about our fisheries in the North Pacific.

I told the international audience that in my view, our worst environmental disaster was not the Exxon Valdez oil spill. It was--and is-- the rape of the North Pacific fisheries.

The bycatch that goes overboard in the fisheries just off our coast is simply not acceptable. Each season, an estimated 300 million pounds of edible fish is thrown back into the sea.

These are mostly undersized catch or out-of season species caught when the fleet is after something else. Most of them are dead when they're thrown back.

It is my hope we can work to stop this waste before it's too late.

Recent news reports from around the world have shown us/what a dismal future we will have if we don't take immediate action.

In the North Atlantic, the great fisheries that have fed the world for hundreds of years are all used up. All fished out. Fishermen all along the Atlantic seaboard sit idly on their boats wondering how they'll make a living.

And in France virtually the entire fleet is tied up. They, too, have no fish to catch.

These once proud, hardworking fishermen are victims of the same problem. They've over-fished their fish stocks.

That is where we are headed if we continue to let human nature take its course in our fisheries.

Here's a classic way to illustrate the problem. It's called the tragedy of the commons.

It basically says that when a resource is held in common, it is in everyone's personal selfish interest to use as much of it as possible. Each fisherman is saying, "If I don't catch the last fish someone else will."

In other words if a village has a common pasture, it benefits every villager to run as many goats on the pasture as possible. Each villager's personal wealth increases.

But after awhile, the pasture is overgrazed. The goats have nowhere to feed and starve to death. The villagers, in turn, suffer.

Our North Pacific fisheries--like all ocean fisheries--are a commonly-held resource. They are managed by international treaties and multi-state bodies like the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

In the past, these fisheries have often been traded away or simply ignored by the federal government. Alaska has more coastline than all the rest of the country, yet the Navy has its North Pacific headquarters in Hawaii.

The nations of the Pacific Rim will continue to intensify their fishing activities in the coming months and years. Every fishing vessel that enters the fishery is like another goat grazing on the village pasture.

We as a nation will have to pay closer attention to these ocean resources and guard them jealously.

Yes, the seas provide a bountiful harvest for our use. But only if we care enough not to over-harvest them.

This is Wally Hickel, saying thanks for listening, and I'll be back again next week for another WHO OWNS ALASKA commentary.

###

**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**"Statute of Limitations"**

**May 7, 1994**

Hello. This is Wally Hickel here for our weekly radio visit.

As you know the legislature is about to adjourn. But before they adjourn, I must make certain they finish all their work. And I need your help.

Some of the oil companies operating in Alaska, wants to use a legal loophole to avoid paying BILLIONS of dollars of taxis that they owe the State.

Yes BILLIONS of dollars In fact, nearly \$3 BILLION.

We can plug that loophole if you --- and I --- work together to get the State House of Representatives to act.

We only have a few days left in this session.

Ask your state representatives to insist that Senate Bill 377 be brought up and voted on in the House.

Senate Bill 377 passed the State Senate by a large margin April 22. They stood for what's right for Alaska. They put ALASKA FIRST.

Many Senators showed real courage in voting for this bill.

And I say courage because you can imagine the pressure on your elected representatives WHEN \$3 BILLION IS ON THE TABLE.

Now that pressure has shifted to the State House.

Unfortunately the leaders of the House appear to be overly impressed with oil company arguments

They have tried to bury this bill --- keeping it from coming to the floor for a vote.

It's a breakdown in democracy when two or three people can prevent a vote on an issue of this magnitude.

It's a breakdown in democracy when two or three people can pour down the drain nearly \$3 BILLION.

Some critics say we are changing the rules on the oil industry in the middle of the game.

That's not true This bill does NOT change the tax structure one bit.

It simply clarifies our long-standing practice of stopping the clock while an oil company appeals disputed tax cases.

Some oil spokesmen say this action will drive these companies from the state.

I don't believe that for a minute.

This very session we have passed several bills designed to encourage gas exploration and production in Alaska.

We have been good partners. We have benefited. And these companies benefited, too.

If the state House adjourns without acting on this bill I will call a Special Session May 25 to bring the Legislature back to address this issue.

Legislature back to address this issue.

If this happens in the two weeks between the regular and special session I urge you to talk to your legislators personally.

Challenge them to put Alaska first. They cannot say they are for sound fiscal policies --- and throw away \$3 billion.

It doesn't make sense.

At this time I want to salute those oil companies that have paid what's due.

As Governor I cannot in good conscience let \$3 billion owed to state remain uncollected.

As an Alaskan citizen you too must speak up.

Please call your state representative today.

This is Wally Hickel, signing off until next week on this same radio station.

# # #

**Statement by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
Regarding the Statute of Limitations - May 11, 1994**

Good afternoon, and welcome to Juneau.

I have called the legislature into special session to address a number of issues left unfinished last night.

While all of these issues are important the one that most concerns me. And the reason I called this press conference—is the statute of limitations bill.

Is something seriously wrong with the legislative process?

I had to ask this question last night when two members of the House majority came to my office at 11:00 pm on the 121<sup>st</sup> day of the session and tried to convince me they haven't had enough time to understand this bill.

The bill was introduced on April 7, 1993.

Is one year enough time to understand a piece of legislation of this magnitude?

A companion bill was introduced in the House on February 28, 1994.

The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 1994.

It is true changes have been offered to this legislation -- changes that were made at the request of the Speaker- and were not considered controversial.

So I think the record will clearly show the Legislature has had more than ample time to get to understand this bill and what we are proposing to do to save this \$3 billion.

However, we recognize the need for education.

We can understand why legislators may have trouble grasping the details of an issue like this one.

But while the small, details may be difficult the underlying principle is simple. Should the oil companies that haven't paid be let off the hook?

We made a good faith effort to provide the education needed.

Our door was open and remains open Our legislative liaisons and attorneys have been accessible. We've repeatedly offered to brief the majority caucus.

I personally telephoned the chairman of the House Oil and Gas Committee twice to get the legislation scheduled.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we invited the members of the House Majority to this conference room to be briefed by the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Revenue and their staffs.

What was the response we got to this request? We were told the Speaker instructed her members not to attend.

I was pleased that four members of the majority had the courage to take advantage of our offer - Representatives James, Moses, Hudson, and Williams - and I thank them for having an open and receptive attitude.

We will continue our effort to provide the background on this bill and the amendments that have been offered to it. The Attorney General has held one briefing this morning and will hold another this afternoon.

Our door is open to any member of the legislature who feels he or she needs to know more about this issue.

I remain hopeful that this process will bear fruit.

I know the Alaskan people wanted to see the Legislature finish its business in a timely fashion and adjourn by their constitutional deadline.

I didn't want to have to hold them over or bring them back.

But how can the members of the House Majority rationalize saying no to a 3 billion dollar assessment?

I made it clear how badly Alaska needs this bill.

And I believed that by being patient and working with the members of the Legislature that we would make this goal.

However, I would not want anyone to mistake patience for weakness.

The fact is that the controversial part of this bill is not in the amendments that have been offered along the way.

The controversial part was introduced on April 7, 1993. So are we wrong to question the sincerity of a legislator who says he doesn't understand it more than a year later?

The Senate understood it and passed it by a wide margin.

They should be given that chance.

The house leadership has made a major issue of fiscal responsibility.

Is it fiscally responsible to let a 3 billion dollar question remain unanswered?

You know, it's rare when the Senate Majority, Minority, the House Minority, and the Administration all agree on a single issue. I believe we have truly put Alaska First in addressing this issue.

The question remains is who is the House Majority putting first?

###

**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**By Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**Statute of Limitations**  
**April 23, 1994**

Today I would like to talk to you about a bill we've introduced regarding the statute of limitations on tax dispute oil companies. There seems to be a lot of confusion on this issue and I would like to clarify my position.

First it is incorrect to say that the Hickel Administration wants to raise taxes on the oil industry.

To suggest that we want to enact new taxes or even raise existing taxes on the oil industry is not true.

My administration is pushing for this legislation to make sure the oil companies pay the taxes they already owe and have owed for years.

Some recent editorials have labeled this bill as a "suicidal tax policy" that would subject the oil company taxpayers to "open-ended retroactive tax liabilities.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The oil companies were liable for the taxes that were on the books at the time they took our oil.

We appreciate the partnership this state has had with the oil industry over the years. It has been very beneficial to Alaskans. However, we have honored our part of the bargain and we expect the oil companies to honor their part.

One writer from Anchorage recently stated that the defining issue of the 1994 gubernatorial campaign will likely be the ability of the state to responsibly manage its resources.

This has been the defining issue my entire political life. Alaska is an owner state and has to responsibly manage those resources. And as governor and foreman of the ranch, I have to bring industry in for development reasons-- and also collect what is due the owners.

It is precisely because previous administrations through a lack of understanding neglected to follow through on their owner state obligations that we now find ourselves in this debate.

The dispute is not whether the money is owed by the oil companies.

At issue with SB 185 is whether the oil companies should be allowed to drag out negotiations over disputed tax assessment past the statute of limitations. The companies say that if the state hasn't collected in the required time they shouldn't have to pay.

At the base of this whole problem is simply that we have not been acting enough like owner of the resource.

If Prudhoe Bay were owned privately, the owners would hire enough auditors and lawyers to make sure their royalties were paid. The State of Alaska, because of this "cut the government" attitude did not hire enough people necessary to keep an eye on our taxes and royalties.

Consequently it has taken literally years for this state to audit and assess underpaid taxes. This is unacceptable. And it is also unacceptable to allow the oil companies to take advantage of the situation and blow off billions of dollars in back taxes.

This administration has aggressively pursued these back taxes. In the past three years, we have collected more than 1.7 billion dollars. And we intend to stay at it.

A suicidal tax policy. No way. SB 185 would be better described as life support.

This is Wally Hickel signing off until next week.

###

**Who Owns Alaska?  
By Governor Walter J. Hickel  
For Publication on or after Feb. 12, 1994**

**Operation Hope is Working**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel here for our regular weekly radio show.

I'd like to bring you up-to-date on a Department of Corrections project which was approved by the Legislature last session and is quite a success.

It is rightly named Operation Hope.

I had the privilege of discussing Operation Hope at a teleconference in mid-January which included more than 400 Alaskans at eleven corrections facilities around the state.

Joining us on the teleconference were among others Senator Georgianna Lincoln, chairperson of the Bush Caucuses; Greg Notstine; head of the Alaska Federation of Natives Sobriety Movement; and Jerry Ward, Rural Affairs Coordinator for the Department of Corrections.

One of the main goals of Operation Hope is to help resolve the problem of the high number of Alaska Natives in prison. Nearly one-third of our inmate population is Alaska native. This is out of balance, when compared to Alaska's general population.

Almost all of these inmates are in jail because of an alcohol or drug related crime.

Operation Hope is a pilot program outside the normal thought and practice. It is designed to take these young people off the fast track to a dead end, revolving door existence in and out of jail.

We're working to help those who are willing to make a commitment to work for that second chance. These young people must be willing to accept responsibility for their own lives. They must begin to care about themselves, their families, their communities, and their culture.

Operation Hope which has renewed the dairy farms at Point Mackenzie, teaches these young people basic life skills. They have the opportunity to learn such skills as carpentry, equipment repair, or welding.

A herd of reindeer rescued from Hagemeister Island provides the inmates the opportunity to learn to care for animals.

But perhaps the most creative aspect of Operation Hope is the emphasis on traditional Native values of community and family. These young people are encouraged to explore their heritage and culture.

Traditions such as the talking circle and the potlatch ceremony are used to develop a positive self-image and a sense of community. A return to the basic values is crucial for re-entry into the community.

In return for their participation in Operation Hope we ask these young people to become teachers and counselors. Nobody knows better than these young offenders the harsh realities and lessons of alcoholism. Lessons that they've learned the hard way.

We ask for them to assist us in breaking the cycle of substance abuse and crime, which leads to prison. Future generations need to hear their lessons.

Another goal of this program is to carry the message of sobriety wherever they go. We want them to talk about the positive effects of sobriety with friends and family in their villages and in their homes. Sobriety is crucial. Without sobriety, you cannot develop a sense of culture or maintain a quality of life.

Operation Hope is still in the developing stages, but there will be continued growth and progress of this very special project.

Operation Hope is a program that sells itself. We ask why it wasn't done sooner, but once it was proposed, the Legislature acted right away and I

expect it will have a positive impact on our rural communities, as well as the rest of Alaska.

This is Wally Hickel. Thanks for listening, and we'll be back again next week on this same radio station.

###

**Who Owns Alaska**  
**By Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**For Publication on or after March 1994**  
**New Laws to Help Women, Children**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel, here to talk about crimes against Alaska's women and children.

In early March, I had the privilege of visiting the AWAIC women's shelter in Anchorage. They're doing a great job and so are the other women's shelters across the state in helping abused women and children find the help they need in times of crisis.

The reasons I stopped by was to show our support for their efforts by unveiling four new bills I have introduced and am asking the Legislature to enact. These bills will help fight domestic violence and protect Alaska's women and children who all too often find themselves vulnerable and victimized.

I'd like to explain each of these simple proposals.

First, we want to change the court systems rules of evidence so that rape victims are not put on trial by the accused rapist.

How does that happen? More and more rapists are raising a defense that the victim consented to have sex.

The problem is that under our current system, prosecutors are prohibited from introducing evidence of the defendant's past history of sexual assaults. The rules of evidence don't allow it.

So juries have no idea they are dealing with a serial rapist or a chronic offender. Too often they buy into the argument that the woman wanted to have sex.

Such crime victims often suffer emotional trauma in our criminal justice system. Sometimes it can be as traumatic as the crime itself.

Our second bill would allow the police to make warrantless arrest of certain kinds of defendants when they violate the conditions of their release.

In other words, a person accused of stalking, or sexual assault or domestic violence often attempts to continue these violent activities while out on bail.

Under current law, the police have to go to court and obtain a warrant before they can arrest these people. Our bill would allow peace officers to take immediate action to protect the public.

Our third bill is another one aimed at protecting the victims of stalkers and other violent criminals. It would simply make the information contained on Alaska automobile registrations, titles, and other documents confidential.

In the past this DMV information has been used by criminals to obtain the residence addresses of their victims.

The fourth bill we have introduced increases the period of probation for felony sex offenders. Currently, it's set at 5 years and we're proposing to raise it to 10 years.

This will add another layer of protection for children and other sexual assault victims by allowing courts to impose a longer period of probation on these criminals when they believe it is necessary.

AS I said, each of these bills makes a fairly simple change in state law. Yet, while they are simple, they would do a lot to extend the protection of the state to crime victims.

These bills are now working their way through the legislative process in Juneau and I hope they land on my desk so I can sign them into law soon.

Speaking of which, I have had the pleasure of signing into law two anti-crime bills already this session.

One requires sex offenders to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS and the other is the anti-conspiracy law, which Alaska was the last of the 50 states to adopt.

It looks to me like this session could prove to be a highwater mark in passage of practical down-to-earth anti-crime legislation.

Our legislators are on the right track and doing excellent work on these bills. But they need to hear from you. I hope you will contact them right away to encourage them to follow through on our anti-crime initiative.

This is Wally Hickel. Thanks for listening. I'll be back next week with another "Who Owns Alaska" commentary.

###

**Who Owns Alaska?  
by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
For publication on or after February 19, 1994**

**Afognak Island State Park will serve Alaskans**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel, back again for our weekly radio visit.

In early February introduced a bill into the Legislature that will create Afognak Island Park.

If the Legislature agrees with this bill -- and I think they will -- we will establish a new state park in the northeast corner of Afognak Island an area which include Seal Bay and Tonki Cape.

There is widespread and nearly unanimous support for the creation of this park and the protection of the tidelands and forested uplands that will go into it.

Here we will set aside nearly 42,000 acres on this remote island to be used by Alaskans -for those activities that have traditionally taken place there.

These activities include sport and subsistence hunting and fishing personal use fishing, trapping commercial fishing and other activities. The area has high scenic values and excellent wildlife viewing.

I have always believed parks are to be used by people. And our proposal to create Afognak Island State Park takes people into account.

At the same time we've concluded that the timber in this area should not be cut. The habitat here is important for many of the species of birds and sea mammals that were injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

After considerable study the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council determined that this land on Afognak should be purchased with funds from the \$1 BILLION SETTLEMENT we reached in 1991.

Many of the species hurt by the spill call Afognak home at least part of the time. Ducks and other birds, black oyster catchers, river otters, sea otters, and harbor seals are among them.

In addition, the upland holds salmon spawning streams and bald eagle nests. The tidelands are home to a wide range of sea creatures.

The trustee council agreed to purchase this land last November from the Seal Bay Timber Company a logging company owned by several Native corporations.

The trustees used an innovative way of handling the title to the property, to ensure that the Alaska Legislature had adequate time to act in making it a park.

The trustees have given title to the land to the Nature Conservancy, a private conservation organization which will hold the title for one year. If the Legislature passes a law creating a state park for the land, title will be conveyed to the State.

However if the Legislature does not act, title to the land will pass to the federal government in November<sup>4</sup> or inclusion in a federal conservation unit. That would most likely be the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

I know there are some who would look upon the creation of another park with some misgivings. After all, if you don't count Native lands, Alaska is still almost entirely government owned. The conversion of these private lands back into government lands is a step backwards, some would say.

That may be but the lands belonging to the Natives to do with as they thought best. They were planning to log them. And many Alaskans would agree that would make economic sense.

However, the trustees believe the highest value of those lands is to protect the habitat of the wildlife injured by the oil spill. Making that determination is a part of the job the trustees are charged with.

As an aside, I am also gratified to see the trustees giving serious consideration to the proposal to fund a world class marine research Institute in Seward. I believe there is no other project or proposal similar to this that can do so much for the sealife from the spill area.

Think back to the spring of 1989 when the Exxon Valdez hit the reef and spilled its 11 million gallons of crude. Think what a job we could have done if we had had in place a facility like the one proposed for Seward.

Where we could have taken the injured and dying birds and sea mammals to save their lives.

Not only would such a facility provide an emergency room if we ever have another spill, it will also serve as an ongoing year round research institute.

In my view, the trustee council is doing a good job. Its members recognize that a certain mix of projects – for restoration, for clean-up, for assessment, and for enhancement – has to come into play here.

I am hopeful the Legislature will do its job by taking quick action to establish Afognak Island State park, thereby ratifying the work done by the trustees.

This is Wally Hickel, signing off until next week when I'll join you again on this same radio station.

###

**Who Owns Tasks?  
by Governor Walter J. Hickel  
For publication on or after January 8, 1994**

**OPA 90 Regulations Would Devastate Alaska**

This is Wally Hickel here for our weekly radio show.

You know, the impacts of the Exxon Valdez spill are still being felt by Alaskans. And if the Clinton Administration has its way, we're all about to feel the impact in a very real and economically disastrous way.

In the wake of the Exxon Valdez, the U.S Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, commonly referred to as OPA 90. Now, four years later, the Minerals Management Service is proposing regulations based on that law.

The intent of Congress in passing OPA 90 as not unreasonable. It wanted to make sure the production and transportation of oil off shore and in the navigable waters of the U.S is done in a financially responsible manner.

If a spill takes place they want somebody on tap to pay for cleaning up the mess. So they raised the insurance requirement to 150 million dollars.

Now if you're Exxon or BP, showing proof of 150 million dollars worth of financial responsibility may not be too much of a problem.

Unfortunately the regulations the MMS has proposed reach much deeper than just the big oil companies. They would have a devastating impact on all of Alaska especially our rural villages.

Here's why. The MMS regulations define what Congress meant by such terms as "navigable waters", "offshore facilities" and "responsible party."

Under their definitions any facility using oil products in a Wetland area – and a very high percentage of Alaska is Wetland – would have to show 150 million dollars of financial responsibility.

Never mind the fact that the insurance industry simply could not underwrite such a massive requirement.

The impacts on Alaskan commerce would be devastating.

The proposed regulations would affect the distribution of heating oil bulk storage fuel, gas stations, outfitter-guide operations, eco-tourism operators, floatplane companies and the trucking industry to name but a few.

Commercial fishermen would no longer be able to fuel their boats at refueling docks operated by small companies.

In other words if your business or occupation falls into one of the categories I just listed you would be required to post a 150 million dollars worth of insurance. Or you could stop using petroleum products.

The affect on rural Alaskans would be to throw them back to a pre-oil nineteenth century lifestyle. Their schools would have to close, diesel power generation would stop and rural residents would be forced into poverty.

There is no way the 600 residents of Chevak could support the cost of at least a billion dollars worth of insurance to keep the tank farms going. Everything that operates on fuel in the village would have to cease.

This example may seem absurd, but it's a possible result of the implementation of the new regulations.

We in Alaska have a better way.

We, too had our legislative reaction to the Exxon Valdez spill. But the financial responsibility requirements enacted by the Alaska Legislature are much more reasonable and in line with the risk individual fuel users pose to the environment.

In addition, we've taken the approach that spills should be prevented. So, we put much more emphasis and effort on spill prevention and response.

The MMS has asked for public comments on their proposed regulations. I expect they will get an earful, not just from Alaskans, but from all across America.

For our part, we're giving the regulations a big thumbs down" because they would make life in Alaska virtually impossible.

This is Wally Hickel, hoping you'll join me again next week on this same radio station.

###

**Who Owns- Alaska?**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**Airing on January 8, 1994**  
**Alaska Citizens' Crime Summit**

Hello, This is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit. Today, I would like to talk about the over-abundance of crime in Alaska.

A couple of weeks ago I attended Alaska's first Citizens' Crime Summit in Anchorage. We gathered to share ideas and successes-and to help frame the battle plan for the right against violent crime.

Like so many of you and like many in the Legislature, my Administration has made this battle a top priority.

Our most basic civil right is quite simply, the right to be free from fear.

And when we ask what kind of society the Alaska people deserve—and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children—its clear that our goal must be a state in which law abiding citizens not only are safe—but also feel safe.

You know, Ermalee and I have lived most of our lives in Alaska. We raised our children here. Seeing the snow on the ground this winter I thought of some of the wonders Alaska offers.

There's a quality of life that no place outside can match.

Yet in some ways, it isn't the State it used to be. Today, Alaska's families are threatened by a wave or record-breaking violence. Drive by shootings. Open air drug markets, a cab driver shot by would be gang members.

The numbers are horrifying. Forty-four Alaskans murdered in 1992. Fourteen were age 24 or younger. Two were under age nine. The victims seem to get younger every year. And so do the killers.

Today the fear of crime strikes too many Alaska families. Parents fear for their kids in school and on the way home. They fear for their teenage sons. And they fear for their own parents.

Alaskans are outraged.

Too many times, in too many cases, too many criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against victims of crime.

We must hold people accountable for their actions.

My Administration has sought improved opportunity through education, jobs, home ownership, and programs aimed at keeping families healthy and together.

Our response to this epidemic has to be across the board, with drug education, treatment, and prevention.

But Alaska also needs the basic tools of law enforcement.

We're talking about forfeiture laws like my House Bill 188 to hit drug dealers where it hurts --in the pocketbook.

We must fight back against what they call “Young Guns.” Some of Alaska’s most horrifying crimes have been committed by men just under 18.

Adult crimes demand adult laws. Alaska needs a juvenile waiver law-now.

Forty-nine states fight drugs with conspiracy laws. Alaska is the only one that doesn’t. We must fight back against those who poison our kids. Alaska needs a drug conspiracy law—now.

Reforms such as these have been argued over for years. But the Alaska people are not asking for more debate. Today they are demanding action--action to stop violent crime.

And so last month I announced a bold new effort to target Alaska’s Most Wanted.

I have directed my Cabinet to take the lead in producing a comprehensive new anti-crime initiative--Alaska's blueprint in the war on crime.

It will be statewide in scope, it will be launched this month, and it will aim to do two things: To protect Alaska’s women from sexual and domestic violence. And to protect Alaska’s kids from alcohol, drug, and gun-related violence.

But I promise you this: We're not giving up on this crime bill. We're not going to let it be ignored. And we're not going to send Alaska's troopers and police out there with one hand tied behind their backs.

Law and order is a long-term investment—and investment in Alaska's future—and investment in Alaska's children.

The time is too late. The resources are too scarce. The stakes are too high. For your kids, for mine, for Alaska's kids: The time for action is NOW.

This is Wally Hickel, and I'll talk to you again next week on this same radio station.

###

**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**by Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**Taking Care of Our Senior Citizens**

Hello, this is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit.

You know, I our pioneers in Alaska have always put Alaska first.

So, in my state of the state, I asked the legislature to work with me to help and protect our seniors, our true pioneers, who have helped build this great country called Alaska.

First, I told the legislature that it was time we took another look at residency requirements in Alaska.

Recently, the court ruled that anyone over 65 with just one year in state can qualify to enter our Pioneer Homes.

Over the past decade ,a precedent has been set that destroyed the Longevity Bonus program. It makes our Permanent Fund Dividends a magnet for an invasion from Outside. And if we don't do something, it will ruin our Pioneer Homes.

I've heard all the arguments. But "I'm not convinced. Alaska is truly unique. The courts must understand this. We must try again. So, I have asked the Department of Law to look once more at a preference system for Alaska's residents that can withstand constitutional challenge.

A second component of my package, caring for our seniors is aimed at bringing state services to Alaska's senior citizens more effectively.

Part of how we do that is by making the delivery of the service as streamlined and efficient as possible. We will attempt to absorb budget cuts by using our employees more effectively, then perhaps the programs themselves won't have to be cut as much.

One of the ways we propose to do this in our legislative package is by consolidating some of the agencies at the frontline of delivering senior services.

We've signed an Administrative Order that would combine the Older Alaskans Commission with the Division of Pioneer Benefits into a new Division of Senior Services.

In our senior package, the Older Alaskan Commission will be renamed The Alaska Commission on Aging. Those bills also improve the working relationship between the Commission on Aging and the Governor's Advisory board for Pioneers' Homes.

The objective of these new initiatives is to create a "one-stop-shopping" agency, where seniors can come to obtain the full-range of services the state has to offer.

Another component of our senior package is a second bill which has a two-fold purpose to help protect senior citizens, who are often vulnerable to others who would take advantage of or abuse them.

First it would move the state's responsibility to protect vulnerable adults from the Department of Health and Social Services to the new Division of Senior Services in the Department of Administration.

The second thing it would do is to more clearly define just what constitutes abuse of the elderly as well as the need to report such abuse. The bill covers all types of abuse, including abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

Our third bill sets up a new level of care, called assisted living, which is becoming more in demand throughout the nation. It allows the state to provide services in the home or in home-like settings as an alternative to 24-hour nursing care.

In my view, the assisted living bill will allow people to grow old in their most comfortable and familiar setting—for as long as they are able.

Often, older people don't want to have to go to a nursing home, and they shouldn't have to if we can provide a little bit of help to enable them to stay where they are. In the long run, this should actually cost the state less, too.

With our senior package-and also taking another look at residency requirements-I truly believe we are being ore responsive to the needs of today's Alaskan seniors. And we are truly putting Alaska First!

I hope that if you agree with the proposals put forth in our senior package you will contact your legislators and encourage them to support their passage.

This is Wally Hickel signing off until next week on this same radio station.

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**Who Owns Alaska?**  
**By Governor Walter J. Hickel**  
**January 15, 1994**

### **The Federal Government's Bait-and-Switch Scam**

Hello. This is Wally Hickel, here for our weekly radio visit. Today I would like to talk about the logic behind our lawsuits against the federal government.

Our most talked-about court action since taking office is our \$29 billion lawsuit against the federal government, seeking compensation for violations of our Statehood Act.

To the majority of Alaskans I talk to, this lawsuit is very serious. Here's a way to illustrate our problem:

Lots of folks in Alaska still rely on mail order to buy the things they need—clothing, tools, even their food. One thing they insist on, though, is getting what they paid for. In other words, when they order a pair of heavy-weight virgin wool pants, they are not going to settle for polyester.

The way we look at it—when you boil the issue down to its basic components—the violations of our statehood compact are nothing more than a bait-and-switch scam on a grand scale.

The statehood compact is a contract between the people of Alaska, and the people of the United States, through their representatives in Congress.

The grant of Statehood by congress, and the acceptance of that grant by the people of Alaska, was a hard-fought battle.

I got involved in this battle in the early 1950s as a young man. At that time, Alaskans had sought statehood 16 times.

Each time Congress said no. They said Alaska couldn't afford to tax our small population to pay for the roads, courts, police protection, fish and game management, and schools we would need as a state. When Alaska was a territory whose amenities were paid for by the federal government.

Alaskans persisted though, and in the mid-1950s Congress hit upon a plan that would allow the new state to pay its own way. It relied on three components to support the new state government: a large base of state-owned land; permanent ownership by the state of the minerals underlying that state land; and a 90 percent interest in the royalties, rents, and bonuses from mineral resources on federal lands that were not reserved or withdrawn at the time of statehood.

The first two components have served Alaskans well. Every Alaskan who receives a permanent fund dividend should know by now that this money results from petroleum production on state lands.

But the third part, the so-called 90-10 provision, is where the bait-and-switch comes in.

The federal government owns nearly two-thirds of Alaska. Much of that land has high mineral potential, if not identified deposits. At the time of statehood, the vast majority of that land was open to exploration and production. It was vacant and unappropriated

But what has happened since statehood in 1959? Each new Congress has taken more and more of the federal land out of the “vacant and unappropriated” category and set it aside for restricted uses, such as national parkland, preserves and refuges.

Obviously, if no mineral production can take place on these lands, there will be no royalties, rents, or bonuses accruing from them. And 90 percent of nothing is nothing!

In a bait-and-switch the buyer is induced to buy one thing, but is delivered something different.

This particular bait-and-switch scam has played out over the period of the past 35 years. So it is not always recognized for the scam that it is. Many people, even in Alaska, don't yet grasp the significance of what's happening.

Perhaps the most brazen instance, and most frustrating for Alaskans, was when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA, was passed by Congress and signed by President Carter in December, 1980. It appropriated more than 100 million acres of federal land into restricted categories.

The impact of the scam over the years is real. Suppose ANILCA had been passed and signed into law in 1960, one year after statehood, instead of 1980. Do you suppose anyone could deny the federal government had gone back on its promise that they had "baited" us with the 90-10 promise, and then to switched" by restricting the use of the land?

In our lawsuit, the State of Alaska, is simply asserting its rights under the Statehood Compact. If the U.S., for the beneficial interests of all its citizens, refuses to allow development on mineral-rich lands it owns, then like any other "taking" it must compensate Alaska for its loss.

One of the fundamental elements of a contract is that both parties are bound by its terms. In the past the courts have decided that a statehood compact is a **contract** and cannot be changed by only one party to that contract.

In other words, Our Statehood Act cannot be changed by Congress without our consent. I believe this lawsuit must be prosecuted--and Alaska will win.

This is Wally Hickel, and I'll talk to you again next week on this same radio station.

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