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Resource Review
January 1985
Message from the Executive Director
By Paula P. Easley

Vincent Carroll, an editorial writer for Scripps-Howard Newspapers, presented some interesting comments recently in a Wall Street Journal piece entitled "An Extravagant Environmental Agenda." After reading this extract, you may want copies of the entire editorial — a quick note or call to RSC will get it to you.

Mr. Carroll discusses the long developing movement of national environmental groups to the left of the political spectrum. One group, Environmental Action, is charged with moving even further to the left, to the point that it is in a fight for 1984 Dirty Dozen — thoseapparatus "most responsible for the president's personal survival of the environment" — U. N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and a Peter Grace, chairman of the Grace Commission.

Mr. Carroll delves deep into the motives and positions of the Sierra Club, and following are excerpts of what he observed, printed verbatim.

"Consider for example, the club's attitude toward that most fundamental of issues: how and where people live. Basically, the club would make America's cities, higher densities being preferred because they use less land, and, in theory, have resources.

"To assure this, an article in a 1982 issue of Sierra, the club magazine, urged "public intervention in land markets" and recognition that the "price of key building materials can no longer be left solely to the marketplace."

"Such ominous reflections reflect the club's official attitudes. As long ago as 1978, club directors passed a resolution on land use urging a "new balance between the rights of real property owners and those of society as a whole."

"In the club's view, planners ought to have a far greater role in land-use decisions, with federal oversight."

"Typically, Mr. Willigan favors strong medicine: internal controls on migration, for example. "It's not clear that either the immigration or the nuclear arms race.

"In fact, although the report on industrial policy recognizes that future environmental gains are more likely in "a healthy economy than a stagnant one, it also notes approvingly that 68% of those polled in a recent study "think more stress should be put on teaching people to live with basic essentials rather than on reaching a higher standard of living."

"Mr. Willigan does talk at international passports, however. For now, targeted federal grants and subsidies to shaky industries will do.

"Perhaps the clearest evidence of the club's expanding agenda authored this summer in a document titled "American Economic Future: Environmentalists Broaden the Industrial Policy Debate." Signed by representatives of the Sierra Club and five other groups, this report proves that almost nothing is now beyond the movement's province. Among favored policies:

- Creation of an Economic Cooperation Council and an Industrial Adjustment Agency.
- Federal credit allocation for industries "where growth will have environmental or national security benefits.
- A "redefinition" of national security.
- AYouth Conservation Corps and a "major public works program" to rebuild urban water-supply facilities.
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When RDC recently moved into its new headquarters at 807 G Street in Anchorage, the staff faced the tremendous task of organizing the re-resource library, consisting of thousands of documents, reports and plans dating back to the 1980s.

From left to right are volunteer Kris Goodrich, Projects Coordinator Mike Abbott, Conference Coordinator Cindy Jordan, interim Al Mclay, Executive Director Paula Fadely, Research Analyst Larry Hayden and Deputy Director Becky Gay. Public Relations Director Carl Portman took the photo.

**Resource Conference... (continued from Page 3)***

ment the five-year economic diversification goal. "The Bonneville Newman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce of the U.S. Economic Development Administration in Washington, D.C., and William M. Ault, Vice President and Senior Technical Advisor, Chase Manhattan Bank will join Bert Wagnon, Executive Director of the Alaska Industrial Development Authority, in focusing on the means of funding projects and leveraging capital.

Paul Kelly, Vice President of River Diving Company, will discuss the impact of development on rural economies. The conference will include numerous other presentations relating to legislation, spending proposals, the creation of wealth through local training and employment and the community share of state revenues.

To register for the conference, call or write the Office of Continuing Education at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. RDC at 276-0700.

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**Sitka... (continued from Page 3)***

way that gives every Sitkans a chance to be involved in a positive and educational community effort aimed at diversifying and strengthening its regional economy," Gay said.

According to Dick Griffin, President of the Sitka Chamber of Commerce, the steering committee was "amazed at the local response to the project." He added, "people who did not agree on anything in the past are working together avidly to ensure that Sitka presents its civic pride and community effort on economic development at the ROC conference."

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**Electronic Keynote Speakers To Address Economic Diversification, Future Growth***

The head of a major Canadian economic development authority and an internationally-recognized economist will deliver the keynote addresses at the Resource Development Council's 18th Annual International Conference on Alaska's Resources held Tuesday, 13th at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

Alan G. Bleiken, General Manager of the Edmonton Economic Development Authority and Jude Wanniski, founder and president of the Pennsylvania-based firm of Polynomics, Inc, will join 31 other speakers from across Alaska and the nation in discussing Alaska's economic priorities.

The conference will focus on the dilemma of declining state oil revenues, state spending priorities and the need for economic diversification. The two-day event will also report on state development strategies and revenue forecasts, discuss community development planning and present recommendations of other states.

Bleiken's Wednesday address will pertain to diversification of the economy through petroleum revenues. Bleiken has more than 25 years' experience in the field of corporate marketing and business management with the oil industry, telecommunications industry and an Alaska economic development agency. His experience has been at the senior level of industry and government, and on a local to international basis.

Under his direction, the Edmonton Economic Development Authority has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards. These awards were received in competition with both the private and public sectors.

Bleiken is a member of the Industrial Developers Association of Canada, American Economic Development Association, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Alberta Chamber of Resources, Pacific Northwest Development Council, the Canadian-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Edmonton Research and Development Authority.

Thursday's keynote address features Jude Wanniski, a professor of business administration at the University of California, Berkeley. Wanniski was a Fellow of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., where he researched and wrote The Way The World Works: How Economies Fail — and Succeed, which was published one year later. A general theory of the global economy, the book received critical acclaim in the national press and in the business and political communities.

From 1972 to 1978, Wanniski worked as an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and was named Associate Editor in 1976. He joined Dew-Jones and Company in 1965 as the Washington columnist of the National Observer. Earlier he worked for newspapers in Alaska, California and Nevada.

Governor Bill Shiefford will open the conference with a presentation on his administration's strategy for economic development, Mary Nardale, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue and Harold Heine, President of Alaska Inc, will follow with discussions on their five-year revenue forecasts.

A major part of the 1985 conference will be devoted to presentations by Alaska community and borough leaders who will discuss elements of their present economic priorities and contingency plans for adjusting to declining state revenues.

As a model of community effort, Sitka has been most innovative in responding to the conference program, according to Becky Gay, the Council's projects coordinator.

Spearheaded by the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce, an organizational framework to involve the community at large was developed, Gay said. As part of this framework, Gay explained that a coordinating committee consisting of a broad-based group of citizens was formed to invite all segments of the community to participate in the planning process and help identify the city's economic priorities. The effort resulted in widespread input from numerous organizations, agencies and citizens representing diverse economic interests.

In addition, the local chamber of commerce formed a group of regional economic diversification specialists. Stated to rank capital projects are Allan Bleiken, Edmonton Economic Development Authority, Harri- son Wilson, President of the Alaska Economic Development Commission and John G. Anderson, Director, Oregon State Economic Development Department. RDC will also ask the audience to rank, within budget constraints, projects it believes would best

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**Sitka Gathers To Determine Economic Priorities***

Alaska communities from Sitka to Barrow are responding eagerly to an opportunity to present their regional economic priorities at the Resource Development Council's upcoming International Conference on Alaska's Resources.

Entitled Alaska's Economic Priorities: A Five-Year Strategy, the conference will be held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel Febru-

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**Sitka has embarked on this project in... (continued on Page 4)**
Key Navigability Issues Still Unresolved

State and federal officials addressing a December Resource Development Council breakfast acknowledged that several issues remain unresolved in the Alaska rivers and lakes navigability issue.

Tom Hawkins, director of the state division of Lands and Water Management; Mike Pentlik, director of the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska; Helton Agapakis, president of Callais Corporation; and Sam McDowell of the Izzok Wilton League led the discussion on what criteria determine navigability.

State, federal and native officials have been at odds over what parameters distinguish a river or lake’s navigability. If the federal government recognizes Alaska’s navigability criterion, the state would be entitled to select up to 5 million additional acres of its statehood entitlement.

The navigability issue is of great importance to both the public and private sectors since agreement over navigability parameters would determine who would profit from streamlined mineral rights and where public access is guaranteed.

The state owns the beds of all navigable rivers and lakes, guaranteeing public access. The state may issue land under those navigable waters for mineral or petroleum development. The beds of most non-navigable waters can be privately owned with water uses restricted by the owners. In their discussions, Hawkins and Pentlik noted that the gap between federal and state standards had narrowed considerably, but pointed out that their agencies differ on such issues as whether frozen rivers are natural and ordinary and therefore officially navigable. The two agencies also differ on what size boat should be used as a standard, whether trapping constitutes commercial use and whether flat boats can be considered navigable vehicles.

The state contends that frozen water is navigable because it provides a “normal” corridor for watercraft; the federal government contends that frozen water is not navigable. Whether trapping constitutes commercial use and whether flat boats can be considered navigable vehicles are disputed.

Seward Coal Terminal Opens

Coal shipments from Alaska to Korea began in December through the new Seward Alaska Corporation Seward Coal Terminal.

Featuring the Stacker/Reclaimer pictured below, the Seward operation has the capability of placing 3,000 metric tons of coal from the Usibelli Coal Mine in Heavy into storage at the facility.

Coal shipments from Alaska have at least one member employed directly by the petroleum industry or by a company which provides equipment, supplies and services to companies in the oil and gas business. Gross estimated income earned by these companies was $1.7 billion or 29.1 percent of all household income earned statewide.

All three companies will maintain this level of employment in the future. Approximately 90 percent of all state revenues are derived from the oil and gas sector.

Petroleum Industry Good For Alaska Economy

Petroleum industry activity in Alaska has not only provided substantial revenues for state government, it has had a very positive effect on the state private economy as well.

This was the main conclusion of an economic study released this month by Robert B. Richards, Vice Chairman of Alaska Pacific Bancorporation. The survey was commissioned by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

According to the survey, 6,141 persons were permanently employed by the oil and gas companies in Fiscal Year 1983. Wages, salaries, and benefits paid during this period totaled $450 million. The total dollar volume of purchases made by petroleum companies from Alaska firms during the same period was more than $913 million and capital expenditures totaled $1.37 billion dollars.

The figures released for wages, salaries, purchases and capital expenditures by the petroleum companies were in addition to the billions of dollars received by the state and local governments from the petroleum industry through taxes and royalty payments.

The survey showed that over one-fourth of all Alaska households have at least one member employed directly by the petroleum industry or by a company which provides equipment, supplies and services to companies in the oil and gas business. Gross estimated income earned by these 26,400 households in 1984 was expected to top $1.7 billion or 251 percent of all household income earned statewide.

Oil firms which derive a majority of their business from Alaska oil and gas industry, 85 percent of their entire work force were Alaska residents at the time of employment.

Over 78 percent of those surveyed statewide feel that the petroleum industry has had a positive effect on their household. Approximately 85 percent of all state revenues are derived from the oil and gas sector.

NPS Charged With Abuse of Discretion

The Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a Sacramento-based public interest law firm, has charged the National Park Service with an "abuse of discretion" for its handling of a permit application for emergency erosion measures in the Wrangell St. Elias Park and Preserve.

The Foundation intervened on behalf of Hankins and members of her family to seek reversal of a National Park Service (NPS) permit denial. The permit would have allowed the park inholders to protect their business and way of life which has been "all but completely destroyed by floodwaters as a result of National Park Service management," said PLF attorney Robin Rivett.

The Hankins' 16-acre parcel on North Fork Island within the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve consists of century-old buildings, several guest cabins, and a coral in serving as an historical jumping-off point for miners and recreation enthusiasts. The Hankins' site suffered extensive flooding over the past several years after a recent climatic change led to the formation of a glacial lake which has in turn overflowed its boundaries every spring since 1982. The flooding has forced the White River into a new channel, sending deep water over North Fork Island.

In denying the permit, the National Park Service stated the wildfire protection provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and the Wilderness Act. It claims that the Hankins would construct five miles upstream from the island to prevent flooding would alter the scenic qualities of the park. The Hankins had planned to build the dikes from gravel already on the island.

In a letter to G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rivett pointed out that while the NPS has a responsibility to preserve wilderness values, it has ignored other provisions of ANILCA providing for maintenance of emergency provisions and the effective resolution of emergencies within the park. In addition, Rivett said legislative history bears a multiple purpose management philosophy which recognizes, assists, and promotes wilderness recreational activities — the chief service the Hankins North Fork business provides.

"ANILCA authorizes the erosion prevention measures absolutely necessary to save the applicants’ land and livelihod," Rivett wrote Arnett. He said the Park Service's single-purpose management philosophy would require the agency to look on imperiously while existing wilderness recreational activities are destroyed.

Rivett also referred to the Wilderness Act of 1954 which makes allowances for reasonable measures to be taken to combat emergency flood conditions threatening the health and safety of persons in the area.

The struggle began when Dallas Hankins obtained a permit from the NPS to drive an earthmover 100 miles to North Fork Island. He assumed that since the NPS issued a permit to bring the cat tractor to the park, he would be allowed to use it to build the dike. However, park rangers criminally cited Hankins for engaging in erosion prevention activities in the wilderness without a permit.

Hankins immediately requested a permit, but was informed that the U.S. Corps of Engineers would have to issue a Section 604 wetlands permit before work could proceed.

After an on-site inspection of the conditions, the Corps found that an emergency existed on the island, threatening public health and safety, and that the wilderness reclamation site was six miles upstream was the least environmentally intrusive way to avoid further serious threat to lives and property.

Despite an exhaustive environmental assessment by the Corps and its finding that no significant impact would occur, the NPS continued to maintain that with regard to the wilderness area, it has a single purpose management responsibility that absolutely precludes consideration of special use permits for the emergency activities necessary to prevent further destruction at North Fork Island.

The Pacific Legal Foundation is appealing the initial National Park Service decision to Arnett's office.

The Resource Development Council brought the Hankins' plight to the attention of PLF after the inholders approached the Council for assistance.

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