UPSET NORTH

The Interior/North Alaska Newsletter, Media Project bomb-blasted a lot of people in its October 27, 1980 edition. In case you haven't seen it, this letter is published in Fairbanks "for the non-profit Alaska Research Group in cooperation with the University of Alaska Friends of the Alaska Research Group." Richard M. Fineberg is solely responsible for its contents.

Fineberg seems to be annoyed as hell with: The Moral Majority, Libertarians in general (Dick Randolp and Ken Fanning in particular), with the Resource Development Council, Ron Arnold who he must to to the "phrasemaker" here to "...tell us all about an alleged evil Greenie conspiracy" and with politicians who "fall all over themselves to assure the public they are not environmentalists."

If he was unhappy prior to November 4, wonder how he feels now.

A few questions haunt us at this time, such as: "Is this the Media Project up for legislative funding with state money? Who are University of Alaska Friends of the Alaska Research Group?" And "Richard A. Metzger's staff had researched the original issue of court settlement. Hookano was characterized by his boss, Ronald A. Zumbren, President of PLF, as the "brightest land use attorney in Alaska this season before Commonwealth North. RDC, in a counter-proposal, stated the price of royalty oil to in-state processors should not exceed the average wellhead value of already committed royalty oil during the 30 days previous to a sale. After in-state needs are met on a long term basis, the Council testified, then the state could consider bids from out of state buyers, and would be justified in accepting the highest bid."
It turned out they planned to attack private utility companies. Judge Grady originally okayed the out of court settlement.

He was asked to reconsider the matter by Capital Legal Foundation, of Washington, D.C. The Foundation is a business-oriented public interest law firm. It was acting on behalf of U.S. Senators Edward Zorinsky, D-Neb; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; and Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.

In reversing his order, Judge Grady stated he originally did not realize that the money would not go to needy people. Instead, the CSA lawyers and the poverty lawyers were to channel the funds to consumer advocacy groups. It has been reported that Grady’s decision dealt a severe financial blow to dozens of advocacy groups across the nation who were counting on federal funds to finance their anti-utility actions.

The funds were the unspent portion of a $200 million appropriation made by Congress to aid poverty level people. The private activist lawyers sued the Community Services Administration (Si- mon vs. Oliver) to keep the CSA from returning the leftover $18 million to the federal treasury. After the suit was filed, it was charged the government lawyers and the activists entered into an out of court settlement, giving all but $2,000 of the funds to the lawyers, advocacy groups and federal agencies (including CSA) for “public service work.”

Herbert E. Meyer, author of THE WAR AGAINST PROGRESS was preaching primarily to the choir when he spoke to the banquet meeting of the Associated General Contractors in Anchorage November 7.

The choir responded with a standing ovation after interrupting with applause during his speech, the sort of thing that sparks a warm glow in the heart of a professional lecturer.

Meyer’s speech, of course, followed the philosophical line of his book. An interruption for applause came when he identified the bureaucrat as one who lives with the haunting fear that someone out there is going to do something useful, without a permit.

Basically his message is that there is a war, but it can be won by those who believe in progress. He identified the problem, spelled out how to fight the war and concluded on a note of optimism. He calls progress “an expansion of opportunity.” “Opening new doors. But the alternative to going forward is not standing still, it is falling back.”

Rebecca Leet of the Wilderness Society is quoted a post-election news story: “This election was not won or lost over environmental issues, the people voted on the economy. Our issues were not reje
tated.”

Ron Arnold said leaders in the environmental movement are smart. Rebecca bears him out: She is anxious to put to rest any notion that there is some- how a connection or any kind of relationship between environmental issues and the state of the economy.

Nice try, but it appears the great mass of people have thought about it and may have now reached the conclusion that it is not possible to separate the state of the economy, inflation and unemployment from environmental issues which slow down and often stop development and growth and which use government bureaucracy for all it’s worth in promulgating more and more rules and regulations which invariably add to costs and discourage free enterprise investments.

Other environmentalists have sounded the same protest as Rebecca, but it just doesn’t wash. Environmental issues and the state of the economy are inexorably interconnected today, tomorrow, and always.
“No Oilport” and the president is Norms Turner. Lorraine Ross went to see a slide show about a trip to Valdez by some Port Angeles city officials. From all she’d heard, she apparently expected to see a disaster. Instead... well, let her say it in her own words:

“I have just come from viewing the slide presentation from the official visit to Valdez, Alaska, and I am furious! We have been duped by the No Oilport organization and The Daily News! As I watched slide after slide of beautiful scenery mixed with industrial development, I kept looking for the oil coating over all, for the evidence of explosion, for the tanker fire, for some or any of the terrible consequences that supposedly go hand in hand with an oil port. There were none — only the report of happy local citizens and more money from oil than they knew what to do with.

She continues: “At the close of tonight’s meeting I asked “where is the oil that is supposed to be pouring all over everything?” and one of the local “no” experts said, “I never said there was oil all over everywhere. I am just trying to protect our quality of life!”

Whose quality of life? When people are going hungry in our country, and I am meeting them daily, where is the quality of life? When mills and the logging are shut down and fishing and hunting are for survival, not sport, where is the quality of life? When one small business after another is closing its doors and the owners don’t even have an unemployment check to look forward to, where is the quality of life?

Did you know that Valdez has turned back local taxes because they have too much money — that it flows in faster than they can figure projects upon which to spend it?”

“Hell hath no fury . . .

She said it well.

Early in the article comes one of those statements you have to understand to appreciate: “... we must slow the acceleration in energy use or we stand to lose a greater degree of organization and stability then we gain.” (ED: NOTE: Yes, and don’t miss it if you can.)

The SC recommends rapid phasing out of all subsidies to energy industries, that EPA air-quality standards must be met, and that the whole energy problem is in conservation.

The real thrust of the Sierra Club energy policy comes on page six under the heading of energy facility siting. It’s a long list of novices which concludes there just ain’t hardly no place you can put an energy facility. Sorry about that.

Ron Arnold is quoted in his assessment of basic environmentalism: “Accept all problems and reject all solution.”

At the position was carefully worded so that there would be no confusion indicating RDC opposed the capital improvement projects on the ballot, for that was not the case. In fact, RDC President, Tom Fink, made it clear that he felt we should have more such projects, but that the state should pay cash.

There was the question of arbitration, the differences between interest earned from bond investment and interest paid by the state. It was felt by some that the state could earn even more money by investing its surplus cash and floating lower interest bonds. This kind of arbitration, however, could very well be suspect in the eyes of the IRS and the bonds could end up not being tax exempt if IRS determined the state was simply engaging in a profit venture rather than using its profits to repay bond loans.

In speaking to the annual convention of the AGC at the Sheraton Hotel November 7, Lt. Governor Terry Miller indicated he now agrees with RDC and feels the state should not bond, but should pay cash.

There are those who like to talk about preserving for future generations. To them we say, let us leave a future generation debt-free with a lot of capital improvements paid for. At the same time we can remove some of the temptation from legislators to spend all the bacon from the pork barrel they can lay hands on, some of which will be in the form of services which increase operating costs of government.

Besides, who knows where adventure-based education may decide to go next.

Chuck Cushman, President of the National Holders Association spoke to the annual convention of the Alaska Miners Association in Anchorage last month. Cushman says “Alaskans are all holders.”

Continued next page.
"I have the feeling he'll regret that statement."
—Dan Rather, CBS news, referring to Carter's remark during the Reagan debate that he had dis-
cussed an important national issue with Amy in the
Oval Room.

DEVELOPMENT
AND
ECO-
FREAKINESS
Arthur E. Hippler

Part of the objection to continued economic development is the belief that opposition growth to a fear that somehow inevitably degrades the environment, a near religious fervor rarely clearly identified. It is a pre-Christian anxiety about disturbing the harmony of nature, a kind of pantheism, the belief that divinity resides in all objects, which is more akin to paganism than to the abstract mechanisms, the belief in one God.

Specifically, in a psychological sense, it is more advanced to focus one's emotional religious needs on the parent, as it is in monotheism, than to retain diffuse ego islands and diffusely projected part-parents, as in pantheism. But apart from this psychoanalytic issue, the fact remains that the culture of the East Coast is a recognition of a human domination over nature. Thus, for the first time in history, man has truly been freed, even beyond that freedom which the Greeks had achieved, to use his mind to create science and to accept responsibility for his actions. For the post- pagan, it was not the Fates which doomed him, but his own free will, not the Fates which destined him to achieve but his own efforts. He had finally achieved human indi-
viduation. The irrationalists who abhor technology, science and man's stewardship of nature do so pri-
marily from a relatively immature level of diffuse anxiety about their capacity to act, but they need to dress this unconscious anxiety in a rationale. Re-
ned (high energy) to ordered (low energy) condi-
tion. That is, all energy systems are in the process of moving from disorder to order, or from a state of chaos to a state of order. But this is only true if there are no external energy sources introduced. The earth is an open energy system, receiving energy from the sun. There is serious question whether even the universe is a closed system.

The whole thing is incredible. Even assuming some dramatic decline of energy from the sun in the next billion year, what can that possibly have to do with today? Who knows what incredible feats of energy capture and use man's imagination can or will attain even in 200 years, let alone two hundred million.

No, it's the same old idle game, by the same old idiots. It is not a realistic understanding of man's capacities to which the cartoon image of a man and the nightmare fantasies of his infantile and unres-
olved anxieties that drive them to fear all man does, and to exact painful punishment over life. Unfor-

lately, more unfortunate people don't know enough science to challenge this infantile hype.

( Copyright 1985 by Arthur E. Hippler.)

Judge James J. Hanson ordered the State De-
partment of Occupational Safety and Health, the
state arm of OSHA, to reimburse Jesse Wade of Wade's Oil Field Services, Inc. in Kenai for

BEERAHOL?
Business Notebook notes that Olympia Brew-

ing Company says it will build a $9.5 million plant to convert fermentable wastes from the beer-

making process into ethanol for use in gasohol

production.

Right now spent grains are fed to livestock, but

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should not be tolerated.

Wade says, "Dosh agents don't usually give

notice, they just show up and it takes about two

hours to go through the inspection. It's not a bad

thing, and sometimes they help us out, but if people

don't stand up to exercise these rights, they will lose

the heritage of having them."

GUEST
EDITORIAL

Dear Editor:

Human achievement enjoys little integrity in
the light of today's regulative enthusiasm. And in
large part, those who pass on behalf of exces-
sive regulation are not only lying but are hiding
behind personal fears and insecurities.

This is manifested in the requirement for pub-
ic appearances sponsored by special interest groups.
Often these deceptions take the form of clever pre-
sentations of woe case scenarios based on probabi-
listic data and disguised as having integrity through
association with university educators or popular per-
sonalities. These deceptions are then utilized to sup-
port the creation of ill defined or misdirected legis-
lation and its attendant regulation. This studied ig-


Nov. 4.

While campaigning, our new U. S. Senator-
elect, Frank Murkowski, talked about using royalty
oil in the state to benefit all the people. Sell it at
COSt within Alaska.

This is not a new concept; it has been proposed
by politicians in state and some research has been
done as to how such a plan could be implemented.

Murkowski points out that in Alberta, Canada
"they have a situation where fuels are made avail-
able for use in the province at cost." Proposals
state the permanent fund. Private motorists who
would certainly benefit, intrastate truckers and,
yes, air-

snow machine users, loggers and fishermen, to
name a few. Our experience with outboard motors
tells us these critics get yerdyag, not mileage, and
would be prime beneficiaries of this kind of roy-
alty fuel use in Alaska . . . and there are certainly
plenty of them in use in the bush.

Between now and the next edition, please write us
with YOUR suggestions for making the best use of
the state's one-eighth share of royalty oil.

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point for Northern Tier pipeline, the town has been split between those for and those against the proj-

ect. In fact a local organization has sprung up called

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