

Alaska Pacific Bank commends the Resource Development Council for their work in promoting economic development in Alaska. They have worked tirelessly to broaden Alaska's economic perspective through diversification, without losing sight of sensitive environmental considerations. We appreciate and support their continued efforts to improve the quality of life for all Alaskans through sound resource development.



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Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. P.O. Box 100516, Anchorage, AK 99510

Crisis In Resource Production: Can America Compete?

The Resource Development Council will bring Alaska's competitive position in global resource production to the forefront at its Sixth Annual International Conference on Alaska's Resources February 12-13, 1986 at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel.

Entitled, "Crisis in Resource Production: Can America Compete? and Alaska's Competitive Position: Public Policy Issues," the conference will open with international experts addressing such subjects as global politics and minerals production, fisheries and the 200-mile limit, wood products as a worldwide commodity, the profitability of agriculture and the new world view of petroleum and coal.

The main focus of the two-day event will be on maximizing opportunities, assessing Alaska's competitive position and highlighting public policy issues.

On the second day of the conference, speakers will consider recognized constraints to Alaska's development and options to improve the state's competitive position. Presentations will focus directly on the costs and benefits of industry incentives, building resource transportation systems, the impacts of land use policies on development and the effects of government decisions and regulations on industry competitiveness.

Specialists in economic development will also relate experiences and provide direction for an Alaska strategy to enhance the state's economy. Additional presentations include "From Rags to Riches: A Strategy that Worked" and "Alaska's Economic Priorities: A Five-year Strategy."

The conference is designed for senior executives of Alaska businesses, Alaska government officials and state legislators, regional and village corporation, officials, executives of national and international firms with Alaska interests, state and national labor leaders, potential investors in Alaska projects, suppliers of equip-



Alaska coal, evolving supply and demand patterns, will be examined at the sixth annual RDC conference which is designed to assess Alaska's competitive position in global resource production.

ment and services and community leaders.

The registration fee for the conference is \$195 for those who register before January 1 and \$225 thereafter. The fee includes luncheons, conference program, educational materials, coffee breaks and hosted receptions. A special rate is available for full-time students.

For additional information, write the Resource Development Council at Box 100516, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 or call 907-276-0700.

Alaskans...Working with Alaskans to improve the quality of life through sound resource development.



Message From The Executive Director

By Paula P. Easley

Integral Vistas

Analyzing issues of potential importance to Alaska's economy is a challenging responsibility, one we take seriously. Knowing which issues are developing on the public policy agenda — and monitoring them — is made easier by our interaction with individuals and groups throughout the United States. Many of these citizens are deeply concerned about our nation's growing inability to maintain a strong industrial base, to produce food and fiber, to explore and produce energy and minerals, and to achieve firmly-stated national security objectives. Others have different priorities.

As a nation we are committed to clear air, clean water and a safe environment. We are also committed to providing jobs for the people of this nation; but we are less and less able to support those who don't have them.

Sometimes our priorities get really murky. Take the matter of protecting "integral vistas," a bureaucratic term for the panoramas and landmarks viewed from the nation's parks and wilderness areas.

We've followed this issue since 1980, hoping it would disappear over the horizon like the views it seeks to protect. Integral vista protection would ideally assure that if you were standing at an observation point in a national park, you could scan the horizon as far as the eye could see and not have that view "destroyed" by, heaven forbid, a plume of smoke from some useless industry outside the park.

There has never been a speck of debate over whether integral vista protection should be a national goal or whether it should

take precedence over other national goals. Moreover, the National Park Service should admit its collective embarrassment over having proposed the regulations in the first place and get on with managing the parks. That means not concerning itself with controlling resource production that supports national priorities taking place **outside** the parks.

"How could you be so unsympathetic to this environmental issue?" some might ask. To those I would say, "It's easy. It's because I have common sense."

When the national parks and wilderness areas were created, conscious decisions were made to draw their boundaries large enough so that the purposes for which they were created would not be impinged upon by activities on non-park lands. That was a sensible policy, but it wasn't enough.

We now have state regulations in effect which assure that no adverse impacts to visibility within boundaries of national parks and other federal Class I areas are permitted. The regulations also require states to assess whether existing sources cause significant visibility impairment, and if they do, the states can require they be retrofitted to remedy the impairment. States can also require that new facility site locations be changed, downsized or not constructed at all.

So what we have is an implied policy that says your right to hike in a park or wilderness area and not see a plume of smoke 200 miles away from the park is more important than the right of others to produce raw materials used by the same person walking in the park! It's crazy!

There are some statistics we quote in RDC's policy statement on minerals and materials that are of importance to this discussion. Every American requires some 40,000 pounds of new minerals annually. The average newborn citizen requires a lifetime supply of over 1,050 pounds of lead, 1,750 pounds of copper, 1,050 pounds of zinc, 4,555 pounds of aluminum, 91,000 pounds of iron and steel, 360,000 pounds of coal, and 1,337,000 pounds of stone, sand, gravel, cement and clay.

Unfortunately these materials don't have the luxury of choosing where they will be found. Sometimes they are indeed within one or two-hundred miles of a conservation unit. And, true, sometimes they will be viewed from a distant "integral vista."

The National Park Service would like more control over permitting outside the parks. To allow that would result in confusion, confrontation, uncertainty and costly litigation.

The industries that support our national economy and priorities can do without such "help," thank you.



By Harold C. Heinze
President,
ARCO Alaska, Inc.

A recent study by the Alaska Public Interest Research Group claims, incredibly, that lower world oil prices have affected state petroleum income but not the oil companies' incomes. AKPIRG, and a few state legislators, are using that claim as an argument in favor of increasing taxes on the oil industry.

AKPIRG's latest study confirms once again its anti-business, anti-development bias. It doesn't take a master's degree in economics to realize that when the price of oil drops, the owners of that oil are going to receive less income. As one of the owners, along with the state, we at ARCO Alaska have seen a decline in our income, despite the fact that we have brought a new field, the Kuparuk field, on line since 1981.

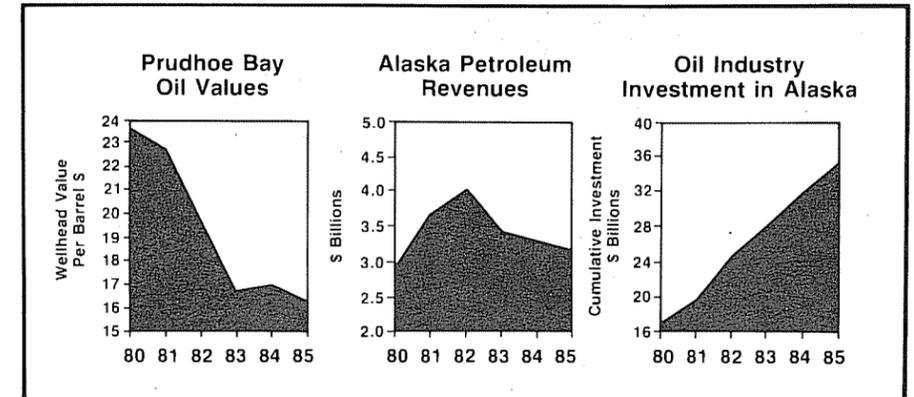
The Alaska Department of Revenue reports that gross annual Alaska petroleum revenues (including both state and industry) are \$1.5 billion lower in fiscal year 1985 than they were in FY82. The lower total comes despite an increase of over 200,000 barrels a day of Kuparuk production.

The state, as land owner, owns a royalty interest of at least one-eighth of the production in Alaska, and, in addition, levies production and other taxes. In fact, right now petroleum revenue accounts for nearly 90 percent of the state's income.

The state's proper response, in the face of declining oil prices, is to encourage as much new production as possible, to provide jobs and make sure its petroleum income continues into the future. Levying new taxes, thus drying up the necessary investment capital, isn't the way to encourage development.

Since the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968, my company has consistently invested more in Alaska than it has received in

Tax stability is vital to Alaska's future



INDUSTRY INVESTMENT SOARS DESPITE OIL PRICE DECLINE

While oil prices have declined, (see graph at left) industry investment in Alaska has continued to soar (graph at far right) and now approaches \$40 billion. Meanwhile, state petroleum revenues have declined only slightly, (see center graph) despite price drops, because the industry has brought new production on line at the Kuparuk field on Alaska's North Slope.

income. ARCO literally mortgaged nearly all its property in the Lower 48 to obtain financing for its share of Prudhoe Bay development.

And we are continuing to invest hundreds of millions of dollars each year in continuing development at Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk. Not only have our revenues declined because of falling oil prices, but our operating costs have increased because of the new facilities we've installed.

In addition, we have embarked on development of a new oil field, the Lisburne, due to go into production in late 1986.

We're conducting a pilot project at the West Sak field, which overlies the Kuparuk. It's a shallow reservoir, difficult to produce, but with a lot of oil in place — maybe more than the giant Prudhoe Bay field. Raising our taxes isn't going to help us put that field into production.

We wish we had more places to invest in Alaska. For many years after the discovery

of Prudhoe Bay in 1968, the state issued no new leases. Yet taxes were raised every year, even before Prudhoe went into production and before we had any income from the North Slope.

In 1981, when the Legislature repealed the onerous provisions of the separate accounting method of levying income tax, we predicted that a period of tax stability would have the desired effect of encouraging new investment in Alaska.

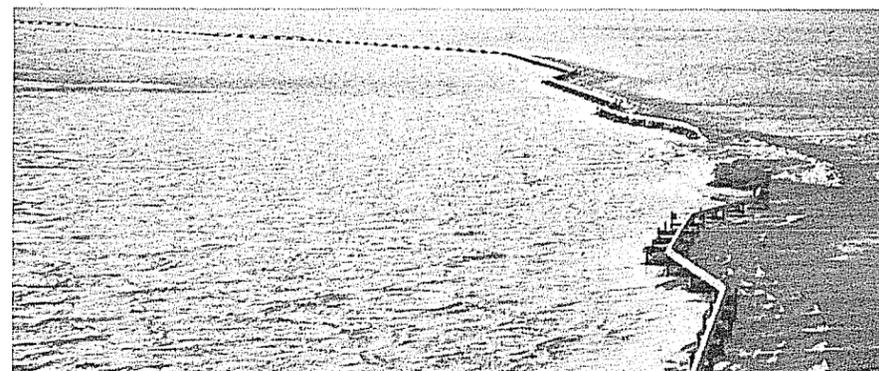
And that's precisely what has happened in the last four years.

In addition to new production from the Kuparuk field (second largest in the U.S.) and development of the Lisburne field, we have seen other new fields begin to be developed, including the Endicott and Milne Point reservoirs. These investments are in addition to the billions of dollars being spent to continue development of the giant Prudhoe Bay field, largest in North America

The oil industry's investment in Alaska, now rapidly approaching \$40 billion, has produced jobs and income for all Alaskans.

It's a fact that the destiny and economic well being of the state of Alaska and the oil industry are indivisibly linked. Alaskans need to be concerned about the state's economy in 1990 and beyond. The best thing legislators can do to insure a healthy financial future for Alaska is to come to grips with reduced state income by reducing state spending.

A stable tax policy will provide an opportunity for the oil industry and the state of Alaska to continue as partners in the business of producing new jobs and new income.



The trans-Alaska pipeline, the state's economic life-line.

Resource Development Council, Inc.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.

RDC invites members and the general public to its weekly breakfast meeting featuring local and nationally-known speakers on economic and resource development issues. The meetings are held on Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in the Northern Lights Inn. Reservations are requested by calling 276-0700.

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The RDC business headquarters are located at 807 G Street, Suite 200 in downtown Anchorage.

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Carl Portman
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Resource Review encourages its readers to submit articles, announcements and letters to the editor for publication. Send all correspondence to Resource Development Council, Resource Review, Box 100516, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.



WASHINGTON COMMENTS

Sen. Frank Murkowski



The Cook Inlet Oil Decision

With the approval and strong support of the White House, the U.S. Commerce Department will soon issue a permit to allow the export of Alaska Cook Inlet oil to foreign nations.

This is the breakthrough we have long sought in our effort to begin exporting Alaska oil abroad.

And even though the ruling only pertains to the 60,000-barrel-a-day Cook Inlet production, we should not underestimate the significance of this action.

This small beginning can be a catalyst to overcome the previously unpenetrable barriers to the eventual export of our North Slope oil and gas.

The decision by our President is an important step towards unlocking Alaska's natural resources. Revenues from exporting Cook Inlet oil can be used by the producers to explore and develop new oil fields. They will have an added incentive to invest in new exploration because new markets in the Pacific Rim are now available.

Thus far, the state's royalty oil - about 6,000 barrels per day - is the only Cook Inlet oil available for sale overseas. However, the other owners of Cook Inlet oil will now have the same option assuming willing buyers are available.

So far our office has been approached by South Korean, Taiwanese and Japanese interests about the possible purchase of Cook Inlet oil.

The Alaska Congressional Delegation has worked closely together in convincing the Administration to lift the ban on Cook Inlet oil, which is both in our national interest and in the interest of Alaska. Now it is our governor's turn to take the issue and negotiate proposed sales agreements with our Pacific Rim neighbors.

When the White House made the announcement, spokesman Larry Speakes said that the President, in making his decision, sought nothing in exchange. However, he noted, "We have made it clear to our friends in Asia that we would like to see them move more rapidly in opening their markets to U.S. products."

I believe the President's decision is consistent with the Administration's policy of removing barriers to trade and encouraging other nations to do likewise.

President Reagan made a courageous decision because it signifies his willingness to do what's best for the nation and stand up to those that have fought Alaska on the export issue for the past several years.

His support will go a long way toward countering the national hysteria and misinformation campaigns that have surrounded the Alaska oil export issue.

I believe all parties have worked in concert to achieve this milestone, which is a great victory for all Alaskans. It leaves our state poised to move into its challenging role as a resource supplier to the Pacific Rim.

Our work is still cut out for us, though. I understand certain lobbyists and Congressmen are now working to try to void the President's decision. This time, however, we have strong support from the White House on our side.

Industry, Education cooperative effort

(Continued from Page 5)

A group of more than 50 local companies have so far contributed to the Alaska Energy Source Education Council. Besides those directly involved in the energy field, sponsors include hotels, banks, restaurants, travel agencies, office supply companies and even a plant shop. These contributors realize how vital the energy industry is in Alaska and how

important it is to ensure that youth receive the education necessary to form rational and knowledgeable opinions about energy.

Steps are being made to make the program available to schools statewide this winter.

Contributions to Energy Source may be sent to the Alaska Energy Source Education Council, c/o ARCO Alaska, Inc., Public Affairs, Box 100360, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

PORTRAIT

Phil R. Holdsworth

The main obstacle to the establishment of new business and industry in Alaska's capital city is the "anti-development attitude of a majority of Juneau's population, which is principally government employees," says RDC board member Phil Holdsworth.

Holdsworth, a member of RDC's Executive Committee, has called Juneau home for some 34 years. He said RDC can help Juneau overcome roadblocks to economic development by "continually critiquing government's implementation of statutes to ensure that stated goals are not circumvented by unauthorized regulations or planning activities."

From 1952 through 1959, Holdsworth served as the Territory's Commissioner of Mines. After Alaska was accepted to the Union, Holdsworth was appointed the first Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. While serving as DNR chief from 1959 to 1967, Holdsworth worked closely with the legislature on the Alaska Lands Act and directed state land selections, including Prudhoe Bay and the Beluga coal field.

Since 1968 Holdsworth has worked as a consulting engineer in mining and land issues.

Holdsworth has been an active member of RDC since its inception as OMAR in 1975. He represents the Resource Development Council and others, as legislative counsel in Juneau.

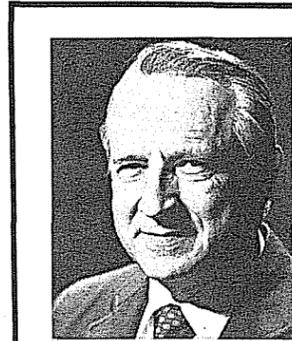
Dale Stotts

Life-long Barrow resident Dale Stotts works closely with the residents of Alaska's far north as Village Liaison and Capital Improvements Project Planner for the North Slope Borough.

In carrying out his responsibilities, Stotts works with residents, village corporations and economic planners to set priorities and develop an overall economic development plan. Part of his job requires the ability to integrate subsistence and cash economy considerations.

Like most North Slope residents, Stotts has a deep interest in subsistence issues. He was involved in the creation of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in response to national and international attempts to limit subsistence whaling.

He served as the Commission's first executive director, managing research projects concerned with bowhead whale population dynamics and distribution and interfacing with the media, conservationist groups and state, federal and international concerns.



Thoughts from the President

By
Charles R. Webber

Wouldn't it be wonderful

One of the pressing issues today in Alaska is exploratory oil drilling in Bristol Bay. The Southwest Alaska bay has long produced a fishery resource for the 49th state that is second to none. Now there is evidence of substantial quantities of oil in the same area, and the fear among area residents and fishermen is that oil development will occur at the expense of the already-established fishery.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we as a state addressed the problems of fishery and oil development concerns in a way that provides reasonably safe assurances for both to move ahead without fear of future disaster for either.

Such leadership must be brought into play in our state or we may find ourselves straining our economic future unnecessarily and at the expense of all Alaskans.

Harvest Supper features Alaska grown products

The menu featured tossed green salad, prime rib, boneless pork loin, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, bread and butter pickles, fresh-churned butter and dinner rolls. This special dinner combined with a rich dessert of carrot cake and tasty ice cream, attracted some 150 Alaska farmers, legislators and friends to a special harvest supper at St. Michael's parish hall in Palmer November 5.

Sponsored by the Resource Development Council and Alaska Farmers and Stockgrowers Association, the harvest dinner featured all-Alaska grown and processed products. Even the hors d'oeuvres, including carrot sticks, deviled eggs, premium hams, beef and pork hot links and reindeer sausage, were produced in Alaska.

The home-grown supper brought together pioneer Alaska farmers with a new generation of Alaskans to celebrate a growing Alaska harvest of agriculture products. The dinner menu illustrated the diversity of the harvest and the industry's potential to feed Alaskans with a wide variety of high-quality products.

Purpose of the event was to highlight contributions of the agriculture industry to Alaska's economy.

Legislators attending the dinner included Representatives Virginia Collins, Roger Jenkins, Mike Szymanski, Ron Larson and Katherine "Katie" Hurley. Senators Jay Kertula and Edna DeVries also attended. Other legislators who could not attend were represented by their aides.

resented by their aides.

RDC members who had participated in a recent tour of farm facilities also attended.

George and Mary McClure cooked the dinner while a host of energetic Future Farmers of America served beverages and dessert. Paul Huppert, owner of Palmer Produce, was Master of Ceremonies.

All meats were processed by Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage Company. The prime rib was produced by Dennis Green & Sons while Herb and Jackie Simon of Little Nelchina Farm provided the boneless pork loin.

Gene Jenn of Totem Egg Company provided fresh eggs for the supper while the carrots were supplied by Paula and Jerry Giauque of Gold Nugget Farms and Brian and Karen Laughlin of Pioneer Processing. Bernice and Paul Huppert and Joyce and Jerry Huppert of Butte Farms supplied the mashed potatoes.

The fresh dinner rolls, cooked by Terry Weiland, were made of wheat produced by the Palmer Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and barley from the Plant Materials Center. Marsha Melton churned cream from Matanuska Maid into bowls of golden butter while John Fejes offered honey. Homemade bread and butter pickles were made from cucumbers and onions grown by Barbara Holmes.

Fresh white and chocolate milk were provided by Matanuska Maid, and Northern



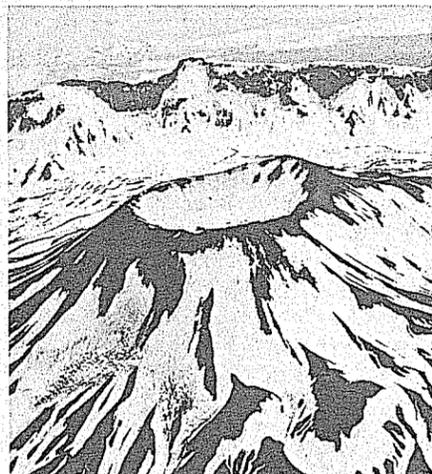
Over 150 guests at the Harvest Supper enjoyed a feast of Alaska agriculture and dairy foods in Palmer earlier this month. Joe Jordan, right, District Manager of Morrison-Knudsen Engineers, discusses recent advances in Alaska agriculture with Pat Mulligan of Mulligan Farms.

Lights Dairy of Delta donated the ice cream.

Table-settings were accented by fresh flower centerpieces created by Mann Leiser of Alaska Greenhouses.

Long-time farmers and agriculture specialists attending the supper included Palmer Mayor George Carte, Mr. and Mrs. Ray DeVilbiss, Dallas Schible, George Crowther, Marsha Melton, Don Donatello, John Nash, Tom Williams, Irwin Flow, Bill Longenecker, Mann Leiser, Terence Weiland, Bob Havemister, Louise Kellogg, Stan Davis, Robert Mielke, Paul Huppert, Ray Depreist, Bill Hoskins, Harold Stephan and Tony Vickaryous.

Tim Kirby of Safeway stores attended along with John Seawell of Matanuska Maid and Ed Crane, President of the Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank.



The National Park Service will allow additional public comments on management plans for nine Alaska parks and monuments. The Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve is pictured above.

Park Service says it's "making every effort" to reopen mining in parks

"The National Park Service is making every effort to allow environmentally-sound mining operations to reopen in the national parks," according to Boyd Evison, new Regional Director of the National Park Service.

Mining operations in Alaska national parks and preserves were ordered closed by a July Federal District court order. They cannot reopen until they are brought into compliance with the Mining in the Parks Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Evison anticipates permitting environmentally-sound operations next season. He said miners can help by submitting high-quality plans of operations. The plans of operations, which include detailed environmental reports, are required by each miner to obtain a permit to mine in a national park.

The NPS is issuing guidelines and sample plans to assist miners in preparing the plans.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve are exceptions. For these parks, the court ordered the preparation of environmental impact statements on the cumulative impacts of multiple mining operations.

"We have petitioned the court to allow mining to continue simultaneously with the preparation of the environmental impact statements," said Evison.

Jim Jinks, Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association, said he welcomes Park Service actions that would allow mining to resume in the parks next summer, but cautioned that government guidelines and sample plans are based on large-scale operations in long-established, mature conservation units in southern states. He charged that the Park Service model plan is designed specifically for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada.

"The sample plan obviously pertains to a very large-scale mining operation," Jinks said. "We question its applicability to Alaska conditions and the ability of the small Mom and Pop mining operation most common in Alaska to bear the costs of such a plan's preparation."

The Alaska Miners Association and the Resource Development Council have consistently worked for realistic guidelines specifically aimed at small Alaska mining operations, not large-scale operations in mature conservation units. Both organizations have urged

the Park Service to write guidelines that reflect local mining expertise and the specific nature of Alaska's parks.

Jinks said Alaska miners stand ready to assist the Park Service in developing regulations that industry can realistically meet. Without a cooperative effort, miners question whether the Park Service will be able to take the necessary action to insure that mining can resume on valid claims within national parks next summer.

Notable Quotes

"Education is the bedrock upon which our economic and social structure and growth rests. It provides an individual with the capability to participate effectively in our economic, social and cultural systems. It permits an individual to break economic, social and racial barriers and participate fully in our society. It is the most important gift that can be given and the most important capability that can be acquired. Education is essential for the individual and for the United States, if we are to compete successfully in the increasingly competitive worldwide economy."

— Stanley Pace, Chairman of National Association of Manufacturers and Vice Chairman of General Dynamics Corporation.

"The group able to sustain its attack over months and even years enjoys an immense advantage over opponents. Without active members, money, time, skills, patience and especially dedication, an interest group has little chance for government action on its behalf."

— Journal of American Insurance No. 3, 1984 reprinted in Association News.

"Had the extreme environmentalists, the laity and priesthood of fundamental environmentalism, been active in the 1840s, there would have been multiple streams of wagon trains backed up from St. Louis, Missouri to Bangor, Maine hopelessly awaiting approval of their environmental impact statements."

— Robert Horton, U.S. Bureau of Mines
"If we developed all the major prospects in Alaska, we would impact less land than is covered by pavement in Anchorage."

— Jim Jinks, Executive Director of Alaska Miners Association.



Point MacKenzie dairy farm tour

In late October, the Resource Development Council and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources sponsored a tour of the Point MacKenzie dairy farm project. The tour introduced RDC members, legislators and aides to both the reality and the potential of dairy farming in Alaska, and to agriculture's contribution

to the state economy.

At left, tour participants, including RDC International Trade and Industrial Development Division director Larry Dinneen, second from right, visit the Tucker Dairy Farm. At right, visiting guests witnessed the birth of a calf, named "RDC" in honor of the tour.

RDC holds fourth economic workshop, offers overview of strategic planning

The Resource Development Council held its fourth Economic Development Workshop November 11 in Fairbanks.

The workshop offered an overview of strategic planning and problem-solving for local communities. The one-day event, attended by urban and rural community officials, was moderated by the RDC's executive director Paula Easley.

Alaska economist Bob Richards opened the workshop with a presentation entitled "Packaging for Community Progress." Perry Eaton, president of the Community Enterprise Development Corporation, reported on "Economic Stabilization with Guaranteed Employment for Rural Alaska." David Hoffman, former mayor of Ruby, focused on "Building Stronger Local Economies."

In the afternoon segment, business consultant Terry Mahaney, Ph.D., facilitated a problem-solving session entitled "Carving Up the Budget Pie." Community mayors and planners presented projects that would stimu-

late economic development in their areas and the cost of each project. Participants acting as legislators, then lobbied for and "funded" certain projects based on criteria they had approved earlier.

The workshop was held in cooperation with the State of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Office of Enterprise, and the Economic Development Administration.

Industry and Education join together to offer energy guide

Five years ago, educators from several energy-related organizations met to discuss an important issue: how to fulfill the need for a comprehensive, high-quality energy education program for students in kindergarten through high school. The result of this meeting was the formation of the Energy Source Education Program, a cooperative effort between industry and education.

The program, a series of seven complete instructional units geared for every grade level from kindergarten to twelfth grade, was initiated in early 1980. Its goal is to thoroughly educate America's future leaders and voters about an issue of fundamental importance to the welfare of the country: that of energy production and use.

During the program's three-year million dollar development effort, the Atlantic Richfield Company, San Diego Gas and Electric, and Westinghouse Electric were instrumental to its success. Several other companies, including the American Gas Association and the Southern California Gas Company, also helped to sponsor the Energy Source pilot program.

The Joint Council on Economic Education, the National Council for Social Studies and the National Teachers Association reviewed all stages of the unit's development. From its hopeful beginnings, the Energy Source Education Council has now grown to include 250 members nationwide. Last year the program reached more than one million students, compared to the 300,000 students who used the kits in 1982.

In Alaska, Energy Source has been used in more than 50 schools in the Anchorage and Mat-Su School Districts since its implementation in January 1984. Response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

Energy Source has been fully endorsed by both the Anchorage School District and Board, as well as by state Commissioner of Education Harold Raynolds. "The kits are of a very high calibre and have added a great amount to the science curriculum of the Anchorage area schools," he said recently.

(Continued on Page 6)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for
Resource Development Council's
Sixth Annual
International Conference on
Alaska's Resources
February 12-13, 1986

NPS extends comment period on park plans

The National Park Service has announced it will reopen public comment on management plans for nine national parks, monuments and preserves in Alaska.

The parks, spanning some 40 million acres, doubled the size of America's park system when they were created or expanded by Congress in December 1980. Congress gave the Park Service five years to write management plans for them all.

In an effort to meet the December deadline, the Park Service released the nine plans simultaneously last spring for public comment. The 90-day comment period was extended to 120 days after Alaskans with various interests complained that not enough time was provided for sufficient study and comment on the lengthy documents.

The Park Service received about 2,000 written comments and thousands more verbal comments at public hearings held throughout Alaska.

The Resource Development Council believes the extension is an indication that the Park Service has a real tiger by the tail and that the federal agency needs to do a better job of taking account of the massive amount of public comment on the nine plans.

In its initial responses to the nine plans, the Council said the management plans reveal a serious trend of restricting recreational opportunities and access on park lands. While agreeing that park values must be protected for future generations, the Council stressed that the plans must not violate the rights of the people who live and work on those lands.