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On the continuation of general discussion, Delegate George Sundborg continues talking about legislators' salaries. They came out of the first constitutional convention with the feeling that they had done a good job. The level of salaries is tied to length of sessions. [Talking about lengths of sessions and how they now need longer sessions.]

2:44 They didn't discuss unicameral legislature seriously. They brought up the issues, but it was decided early that they would have the bicameral legislature.

The speaker thinks that the legislature in Alaska has done a better job than what they are given credit for, but in democracy, people in public offices are always subjected to unfair criticism. Constitutional convention talks about how they pinched pennies and kept the cost of legislative sessions very low. [Talking about the budgets.]

5:49 The chairperson thanks Mr. Sundborg and gives one more chance to comment before a break.

Don Hopkins [sp?] introduces himself and talks about how everybody thinks they have the best government. He doesn't think they have good enough of a government, and says that the problems on state and national levels seem to be getting worse. They should take a broader look to the structure of their legislature and see if something could be done to improve its image and functioning.

7:28 The speaker would like to see the general policy function to be taken over by voters who would form an organization that consists of many small units that are well organized so that they can function together. The voters' branch of government would create and review general policy statement on all public issues and then it would be left for legislature to carry out the policies. The speaker would like to see the general policy function return to citizens and welcomes comments on his suggestion.

The chairperson thanks him. Another man says that they spend lots of time in big town meetings but he doesn't think that his suggestion would work unless everybody could give up 2-3 months of their year to politics. He likes the theory, but thinks that they would end up with lots of special interest people who would have time to attend the meetings, as opposed to having voted people making those decisions.

9:41 Mr. Hopkins says that a part of the legislative process is to hold public hearings about various types of bills. Instead of setting another branch of government, the function of a concerned, voting citizen should be at the public hearings to talk about their opinions. Many people, Mr. Hopkins included, feel like their words wouldn't have an effect.

Politicians and legislators go through the motions because they feel like they have to. The public senses that and don't even go vote, which indicates a real sickness in the system.

11:30 Mr. Bradner says that the issue has been taken on by some advocacy groups and says that the legislature has only now started appreciating advocacy groups. They know that the legislature has to, for example, decide on an energy source and pick from the options, but they want to make sure that legislature has looked at all the alternatives before making a decision.

13:25 Another man says that there's a difference between a statement of advice and a statement of direction.

Another man points out that times have changed and they don't know any more who most of their constituents are. It used to be easy to know what voters wanted but with mobility of people today, that's not possible.

Another man's voice says that he agrees with Mike [the previous speaker.]

15:37 The chairperson asks participants for closing remarks. A man's voice says he'd like to know Mr. Finck's view on the matter of revenues [?]. [Talks about revenue and intake matters, and says they need a greater hearing in the legislature.]

Another man says that all revenue matters go to finance committee.

[Unclear talking and discussion.]

19:03 Bradner talks about legislature being able to participate in discussion about revenues, while Kilcher reminds everybody about the lunch.

Delegate [Yule] Kilcher is given the last closing remark. Kilcher says that there's not enough time for meaningful discussion between 26 delegates, and he hopes to make his remarks later as to not interfere with lunch.

21:35 [Unclear talking, laughing, and chairman's thankyou's. Break in the recording.]

[Recording resumes with unclear talking.]

23:35 The chairperson welcomes people to a session on natural resources and the article 8 of the Alaska State Constitution. He introduces various people in the panel:

- Jim [James J.] Hurley who has served on the federal state land use planning commission was a delegate at the constitutional convention and will open the discussion.
- Bob Weeden, a professor of wildlife management at UAF. He was the first director of policy development and planning during Hammond administration.
- Present commissioner of natural resources, Guy Martin.
- Past commissioner of natural resources, [Charles] Chuck Herbert. He and the chairperson are UA alumni.
- Tim Wallis who is the president of Doyon Inc. in state legislature.

The speaker introduces himself as Walt Parker and says that he is currently a coach chairman at federal land use planning commission.

26:46 Walt says that he's going to talk about the constitutional convention when things operated on fairly low level and there wasn't much going on. [Talks about land holdings that were administered by BLM and the resources in Alaska at the time of the convention.] One of the themes that were talked a lot about that time was the control over Alaska's natural resources by outside forces like the federal government. [Talking about Article 8 that established how resources were for use by Alaska residents.]

30:03 Some of the things that have occurred [in discussions] since Article 8 was written are the subsistence questions about utilization of fish and game that belong to all Alaskans. [Talking about how the subsistence resources are divided between residents. Also talking about lease policy and Alaska Native claims' effect on the use of resources in Alaska.] Walt invites Jim to start.

32:37 Jim starts his speech by talking about times under territorial government and resource article and the changes in Alaska's economy under conservationist ideology. [Break in the recording.]

They needed both development and conservation of nature.

35:05 Committee was chaired by [Walter] Bo Smith from Ketchikan who was a commercial fisherman and well versed in human resources of Alaska. There were also other [influential] people like Burke Riley who was an attorney.

The other important thing was that commercial fishing looked like the most important source of revenue for the state before oil development. Mining people were concerned about whether they would be able to continue the same way than they did before.

At the time, statehood bill hadn't passed yet and the draft bills differed from each other so nobody knew what was going to happen regarding development of mineral claims.

37:25 Mining and fishing were issues. Mining people spent lots of time with the committee and so did the sports fishing and hunting people. The speaker recalls that they were the only lobbyists in the constitutional convention and the delegates paid attention to them but the decisions they made were independent of the lobbying efforts.

One of the big questions was land rights. Under homesteading act, land was not hard to get, but those things have changed.

40:16 There was a great concern at that time about how to protect the resources, and that's why constitution includes 2 Section 26 boards.

The executive article was put in for the purpose of satisfying the education people and fish and game people. They didn't want a strong single person administering about the matters. Jim closes his speech.

41:22 Walt introduces Bob Weeden. Bob says he wasn't in the convention and did his first trip to Alaska a year later to study ptarmigan, so he wasn't in touch with the events of constitutional convention or statehood.

The document covers lots of ground in few words, and the words are general. Looking at the language, it looks like there was an effort to boil many hours of discussions down to few words. Those words start often with assertion of policy and then provide a way out of it so that when one looks at the document, one can

see that there are two approaches: one providing guidelines and the other making sure that one can do anything within the constitution.

The speaker's approach has been to try to understand what the delegates thought would be an appropriate natural resources policy.

43:49 The constitution shows the effect of modern thinking as it was in 1950s. [Talking about language concerning use of natural resources.] The people who wrote the constitution were still the pioneers and they were coming from their idea of human development. They were newcomers who wrote from perspective of older states' agrarian, industrial, and urbanized cultures.

47:19 [Talking more about how Native people were forgotten from natural resources article that encouraged and dealt with white settlement of Alaska.] The natural resources article's language was utilitarian.

49:29 There is a parochial aura to the constitution too, and it probably stems from Alaska's separateness and antagonism that Alaskans felt and still feel toward "Feds". There should be recognition in the constitution that Alaska is a part of the United States and in close contact with the other 49 states, especially since most peoples' family is in the lower states.

There's now an emphasis on commodity resources that can be sold for money and on the intangible values, like aesthetics, that are relegated to Section 7 that is titled Special [Purpose?] Sites that encompass recreation, parks, and wilderness areas.

51:32 That accounts to persistent effort to make amendments to Article 1. That is, for human rights to make reference to less tangible values. [Talking about amendment attempts.]

53:14 Continuous use of terms such as maximum use benefit, and failing to define sustainable yield, makes it hard to sustain both harvest and yield. [Talking about gaps in knowledge that make it hard to prevent overuse and environmental problems like inability to predict or control oil spills. There is overuse and mismanagement.]

55:55 The speaker doesn't think they have to rewrite the entire constitution but says that few changes in wording would provide better balance in guiding instruction to legislature and to executive and judicial branches. The speaker wonders if the reality of statutes and regulations reflects the ideals of the constitution.

A man's voice thanks Bob and invites Tim Wallace to speak. Wallace represents Doyon that is one of the leading private land owning corporations in the world and will probably be one of the leading holders of resources. Wallace is also in state legislature.

58:04 Wallace thanks Walt and adds that he won't be in upcoming legislature.

Wallace talks about establishing policies related to resources and thinks that they have to be broad enough to encompass unknown events. Things have to be left to be interpreted by legislators when they pass laws.

1:01:16 In creating the constitution, there was an oversight concerning the Native people who had no idea what was going on. [Talks about not having a good definition on subsistence. About problems with Fish and Game.]

The discussion about deleting or not deleting wording is up for discussion and the speaker isn't going to go into that any more. He thanks the audience.

1:04:09 The chairperson asks Chuck Herbert to speak. Chuck talks about section 2 and Alaska's natural resources that should be of maximum benefit for Alaskans, stating that that was written before the discovery of oil. Unlike then, now Alaska is an important part of the union and its material needs, and Alaska has to support the nation that has supported Alaska for so long.

1:07:19 The speaker says that former secretary of the Interior Rogers C. Morton said in a message to congress that there was a widening gap in the U.S. mineral deficit and he warned that the deficit might increase over the years. Alaska is important for addressing the deficit.

[End of the recording.]