

Call number: 01-79-09 PT. 4

Name: General discussion

Date and place: 10/17/1976, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

Date of summary's creation: 4/12/16

Notes: Original on cassette tape. Master copy on CD.

Man's voice talks about interest shown toward Alaska's constitution. People who participated in the convention did so out of their own free will.

The speaker thanks Alaska Humanities Forum for a grant that helped people participate in the convention review regardless of their financial status.

3:03 Evaluation component has been accomplished and they have discussed the constitution from many directions. The speaker liked the panels and thinks that Bill [William A. Egan?] and Tom Stewart made a real contribution and he hopes that they will be able to publish Tom's presentation.

The speaker has been impressed with President Bill [Egan].

5:01 Bill really contributed to discussion of provisions. The constitution isn't a holy cow and the president questioned the constitution, opening it up for discussion. It is making them think, but they aren't running to change the constitution. The speaker also congratulates Bill for his ability to remember names, and thanks him for his work.

Bill thanks Vic [?] and invites Eldor Lee to speak.

7:08 Eldor gives brief thanks for the convention, after which Herb Hilcher is invited to speak. Herb speaks about his concerns about fiscal irresponsibility of the legislature. He'd like to have a roll call vote on any bill that has an appropriation attached to it.

He adds that he liked Bill's speech and will spread it to the people of the State of Alaska. [End of the speech.]

9:37 Yule Kilcher steps up and talks about his unique position in the Constitutional Convention as a person who's an outsider in Alaska's and national politics. He explains his reasons to engage with politics.

11:47 His main contribution to the constitution has been one of principle and he made changes to the martial law clauses in order to prevent misuse. His colleagues agreed with him about the changes.

Yule talks about why he advocates for unicameral system.

13:44 As to limiting sessions, Yule wants to suggest limiting time for the budget. He would also limit governor's time to use veto. Yule closes his speech.

15:01 Chairperson introduces Delegate Frank Barr. Frank tells that he comes from Oregon and talks about the greatness of the Alaska's constitution. He talks about how he disagrees with the use of word borough. He thinks they should now have another convention to modernize the constitution.

19:05 They tried to create a document to separate the idea of a constitution and legislation and to create an enduring document. Legislature makes the laws and it's the caretaker of the government who are guided by the constitution. If the constitution has to be amended every year, it's not much of a guide. Barr doesn't think it should be changed.

They need to be modern and progressive too.

22:19 Permanent fund coming from oil funds is discussed. Barr reminds people that oil isn't going to last and says that he's for setting up a permanent fund. Barr talks about Alaska's economic base: oil and tourism.

Barr thanks people for the invite to participate and says that he hopes to participate in a convention "20 years from now."

24:18 The chairperson thanks him for his observations and invites [Steve] McCutcheon to speak. He doesn't seem to be present and the chairperson calls for Mr. Hurley who doesn't seem to be present either. Chairperson talks briefly about Mr. Olson and reminds people that they are late for a lunch at Mr. Hyatt's house.

The chairperson thanks the audience. [Applause.]

[End of the recording.]