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Form and Function of a Fiscal Policy for Future Alaska Netzer and Ylvisaker Side B Part 1, Anchorage, Alaska

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Notes:

A man says he realizes many things are expected of a man. He says he believes he has a renaissance quality having spent several years in the city of Florence studying the Gill system. He says that he met his friend Mr. Covant [sp] from Ketchikan who asked him how was he doing. He says one thing he would do differently would be his approach to larger issues. He says he would introduce a component during conferences and he wouldn't come off [?]. He says we are constantly confronted with the necessity of some shock. He says there comes a time in the history of events when our thinking and our political processes have to be reinstitutionalized and reoriented. He says as he views the Alaska scene, it seems like Alaska does stand at a particularly important moment of Alaskan history, similar to the point at which Alaskan attained statehood. He says he previously said the same thing that George Rogers said the day prior, that the Brookings Institution is not the expert and cannot even assemble the experts from outside to come to Alaska. The Brookings Institute can provide the possibilities of the process of policy formulation. He said he was reviewing some of the things that Alaskans have left undone and one of them was the matter of communications. One of the things that struck him about Alaska is that it is somewhat similar to South Carolina. Everyone knows everyone in South Carolina. He has come to think of Alaska of an agora [Greek central meeting place]. Aristotle said that the meeting place could be no larger than an extent of the reach of a man's voice. The whole point was that communications controlled the whole democratic process. The agora was the central part of the city where the people of the Greek city met. If a man got up and could no longer be heard, no longer could the democratic process take place. In Alaska the Greek agora has been restored because people know each other. He says Mr. Hibbert has given several policy documents dealing with communication. He discusses what Paul Ylvisaker had to say to heart, that there is this trend towards democratic participation. He says people would be interested in how a telecommunications system could cover Alaska and provide the conditions that people have had in the conference "here in Anchorage." He again discusses extending the idea of an agora in the form of a telecommunications system for Alaska. He says communication seems to control the time and space component of society. He says he asked Paul [Ylvisaker] to take on an important task. He said they started out discussing development of Alaska. They took up the human resources and environmental aspect. He says if you are going to deal with development, human resources, and environment there is a matter of building institutions. Paul made people aware of how sensitive he is to the realities of change and how these changes are causing the emergence of new movements and new institutions.

At 13:00 Paul Ylvisaker steps up to the microphone. He says in thinking of what to say after a four daylong conference, he thought of a mischievous part of his life. During this part of his life, his then 7 year old son's hen had just laid eggs and his wife was about to give birth to his fourth child. His seven year old son asked how babies are made. After 50 minutes he said he had to get to the moment of truth. He told him how God had engineered to two sexes. The son was smiling and said one word, "neat." He said he told the people yesterday that today he would talk about specific institution recommendations. He says many of the things New Jersey is currently dealing with are being dealt with by Alaska. He discusses where Alaska needs to sure up some of the present institutions. Ylvisaker says there are a few sensitive spots that he sees. One is on the legislative side on the development of public policy. He says the Alaskan legislature will need all the help that it can get. He says he has watched the faltering development of local Alaska institutions. He said he read the piece published by Dick Fisher and his colleagues. He says one of the great fallacies of political thinking is that if you strengthen one, you weaken another. He says we are starting to realize that we need strength on all levels. He says if you talk to a biologist he will tell you that an organism that wants to enlarge must simultaneously miniaturize. He begins discussing Native adapting to newer forms of 20th century living. Ylvisaker says one of the needs in Alaska will be to perfect the settlement patterns. He says people are discovering the need for early cash flow when developing a city. He says Dick Netzer has been driving at early cash flow in his presentations. Jim Rouse is discovering, when building Columbia [South Carolina], that he doesn't need all of the subsidies that he thought he might have originally. He discusses the traditional process of building communities and how the developers make money while the community members pay for sewers, trash, etc. He says the communities should be bargaining for better tradeoffs. He begins discussing maintenance of values over time so the entrepreneur gains regularly an increasing market and return on his equity investment and risk capital. Another place he sees Alaska needing help is the development of human resources. The Guild of Educators will gladly give the bill of increasing needs based on present circumstances. Since this is a bargaining society, let's sit down and bargain with educators and ask in what way they are producing. He said he would argue strongly that as Alaska develops the funds and the need to develop education; tough questions need to be asked. He says no longer is the book tied to a chain by the wall. Ylvisaker says learning takes place as much off campus as on. He says he would want to ask educators tough questions in how they can adapt to the needs of the time. He would also ask to start teaching the population survival in a human environment. He says people have to deal with two kinds of animals in the human society. One is the obvious case: the isolated culture which now has to make it in the mainstream that is forcing itself on people. The other is the mainstream which he thinks needs more education than people living isolated. He said in his neighborhoods [of New Jersey], "the blacks know more about the whites and poor know more about the rich." He said the people living in economic security know less about surviving in raw life. He said it has to be a mutual process of education. He says Alaskans need help in the regulation of the service industries. He says Alaskans are now in a society where people want what you have and will go after it. He guesses that the regulatory agencies probably look like the ones in New Jersey. Ylvisaker says the point is that we better get into the regulatory process from other points of view. He says Alaska needs help bargaining with the outsider such as Japan, the Soviet Union, and Canada. He speaks about his time in Japan.

At 38:00 Paul begins discussing the importance of public figures. He mentions he wants to limit the recommendations to one. The recommendation comes from when he was teaching at Swarthmore College. He got a call from the then Mayor of Philadelphia, Joe Clark. Clark said he just lost his executive secretary and he asked Paul to take the job. The salary was double. When he got there he and Joe talked it out. Paul asked what the job was and they said "You should be the Charlie Murphy of the White House." One guy said Paul should have an office down the hall. Joe Clark finally said he wants Paul to help fight the battle of Joe's mind. In summary, Paul is discussing helping to fight the battle of Alaska's mind. Paul says the best way to fight for the mind is through people. One thing people can do now is to begin concentrating on mining and important human resources, particularly the younger generations. Paul says 15 years ago he began meeting with Bell executives, the vice presidents of AT&T, Western Electric, Balcoa [?], the Mead Paper Corporation, probably about 15 or 20 companies. He said he noticed something. The Western Electric Company brings in their bright young people and develops them. If you go to Princeton now, they [the Western Electric Company] have a research and development campus for the young executives. They take the young people and know they are going to be the vice presidents. They take them for about a year and go at them. They stretch them from every direction. They bring in Black Panthers, Black Muslims, the John Bircher's [Possibly Birch], the best writers in the business all into the group. They make them go to plays on Broadway. The men get used to living in these realms. He says Alaska must begin investing in the younger people who can do the jobs that Alaska faces. He says he would go into the Native communities and pick out the self-standing people and tell them they have the potential and instead of telling them they have to go mainstream, tell them to keep the culture while joining the mainstream. He says he would go outside of Alaskan border to recruit the generation who is ready to crack the problems that Alaska has.

At 48:40 he says some of the least privileged are the sons of the privileged. They are cut off from a cause because what cause can they fight for. He said he discovered that these groups of kids are just as good as the Natives and migrants. Ylvisaker says assign people to places where there is plenty of work to be done and with people who have influence. He says some can be placed in industry and Paul says he would choose that they get rotating assignment over a longer period of time. They go into the oil industry, the pulp business. He says he is tired when naïve people take on difficult systems and difficult social circumstances. He says we can save civil war in the 70's if we begin to get the evolutionary changes moving faster within our guilds, professions, and trade unions so the younger ability gets put as staff to some of the regulatory commissions. He says he would put them in the University and research institutes. Ylvisaker discusses summer internships and the recording ends.