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Minority Report from Juneau

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Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 7-inch reel, master copy on CD.

A man's voice is talking about exchange of properties in Barnette Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. [Fairbanks City] Council decided they will help with the cost of the exchange. University Presbyterian Church was appalled by poor conditions at the Juvenile Facilities, maintained by the city in 12th [Avenue] and Noble Street and they requested the poor conditions being eliminated by expanding the facilities. Councilman Roberts placed the proposal on next week's agenda. They could move City Engineering Office to Firehall 1 and Juvenile facilities could take the office. The motion passed by voice vote.

The council postponed action on Ordinances 11:31 and 11:44, which deals with conflict of interest, for two weeks. The council also postponed Ordinance 11:37 for two weeks. Motion in favor of the Pioneer Park was passed, which is to assess the Pioneers' effort to secure passing of House Bill 239 which is considered by the State Legislature today. About the ordinance to see if using local engineering firms would cut costs to the city.

[Break in the recording. Music.]

A radio voice is talking with Bill. Vote concerning Hamilton Acres has been postponed indefinitely. Miscellaneous news: UAF biologists' snowshoes and mitts were stolen by a man in a car. News of DUIs. President Kennedy promoted Major J. H. McHales [sp?], commanding general of the US. Army in Alaska, to lieutenant general. The promotion still has to be confirmed by the Congress. There's been a petition from Alaskans who want Senator Philips to become the governor. Philips couldn't promise anything until the close of the current legislative session. A funeral service is announced. A measure to increase salaries of some state commissioners wasn't received with enthusiasm.

Transfer of state lands for Pioneer Park was approved by the Senate. Three people have filed for candidacy for the State House of Representatives: Arthur Harris, a Democrat from the 12th District; M. J. S. Hammond, a Republican from 13th District and Ralph E. Ryder Jr. from 8th District. House concluded a legislative

action on two Senate Bills and sent them to William Egan. Senate Bill 221, concerning fire marshals' safety regulations, was approved. News of bond issues. Other news about legislation for hiring non-U.S. resident teachers and librarians, and about airports. About school supplies that will now be sent to schools prior to starting of schools in fall. Two House Resolutions were approved: one was about Cordova air traffic, and the other was urging BIA to replace a community cannery at Angoon. 65-foot fishing boat that was in distress, got safely to the shore, escorted by the U.S.S Kodiak. [Music.] News continues again. [Break in the recording.]

At 11:55 News broadcasting continues with a man talking about meeting regarding the widening of Barnette Street. About rental buildings owned by Mr. Smith that was to be demolished or brought up to standard. Nothing was done in the Council regarding R.B. Briggs' lot in Weeks Field that has not been development although it was agreed upon. Usually City would take the lot back. Council voted about moving the Engineering office so the Juvenile Detention Facility would get new space. More about changing situation with jails in Fairbanks. Council approved the contract for purchasing fuel from Texaco but towing and garbage service bids were not yet decided. The radio host talks about meeting concerning setback at Cushman Street and about a meeting for Barnette Street property owners.

More council news. Senator [John] Coghill [Sr.], a minority leader in the State Senate said that he is entering his candidacy in a state-wide office in the Primary. He has been a long-term Republican and resides in Nenana. News about a funeral service for Andrew A. Anderson, which will be held at Eagle's Lodge. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie Hughes' voice says it's April 23rd on Monday and he has a memorandum about things concerning the Pedro Monument, the Pioneer Park, and the Pioneer Welfare Committee. Harrie Hughes, Andy Wicken, Frank Young and Jimmy McDonald made a trip to Carl Main's [sp?] [meat] packing plant on the Badger Road. Jimmy McDonald made a request to receive wild game meat for the welfare cases of pioneers. Mr. Main is going to cut the meat up and package it. Wildlife Service will deliver any game from the Alaska Railroad that is hit by the train to be preserved.

Then Harrie and others went to Bureau of Public Roads to get information about moving the Steese Highway in the neighborhood of Pedro Monument. The Bureau would like to have information about what the Pioneers want. After that meeting, Andrew Wicken and Harry Hughes visited Eva McGowan and some members of the Chamber of Commerce Carnival Committee. Dick Web and one of the ladies

are on that committee and they'd like some help from the Pioneers in finding information on historic locations. Harrie referred them to President Adolph Stock.

This morning before noon, Harrie visited with Tom Casandrus [sp?], an early day pioneer who was in Fairbanks before the town was really established. Harrie also visited Paul Palfy (sp?) in his business on 1st Avenue. It was a pretty full day on April 23rd, 1962 at Fairbanks, Alaska.

At 21:29 news continue about competition between two garbage companies of which the other one just got its license. Some people have been complaining about water and backed up sewage from city's sewage system. Council passed Resolution 239 which concerns methods of paying for paving sidewalks on Cushman and Lacey Streets and on other downtown streets. 2/3rd of the money will be collected from the property owners. About some buildings and about Chiropractor Spaulding's request to allow another chiropractor to work in the clinic. Two Mile Lake on the Richardson Highway is a new site for State recreation. About moving a voting place from the library to the fire house on grounds that the library is an inconveniently old building and people steal books during voting days. Towing service has been decided about. The city is considering Birch Park low housing as a solution for old folks who can't afford to move from their cabins that are condemned or pay high rent.

About paving the Cushman Street and Urban Renewal Area, but lacking the money to do a sufficient job. [Break in the recording.]

At 26:41 Harrie Hughes states that it's April 23rd, and will give a report of a last night's [Fairbanks City] Council meeting. Harrie is going to record a memorandum about Pioneer Welfare Committee meeting at Nordale Hotel in April 24th 1962. Colin McDonald was the Chairman. Jimmy McDonald was there, as well as Andrew Wicken, Harry Avakoff, Frank Young, Bill Cashen. Irving Reed was the secretary. They had a report of the welfare members and talked about the ordinance considering the pioneers who live with small pensions and no additional income. Colin McDonald, Andy Wicken and Harrie himself visited with Allan McLeod and Jack Crook to see if they needed anything. Jack Crook had health condition problem at his house so Harrie and Andy let him know that the city wants him to clean up his place. Jack said he would try. End of the memorandum. [Music, bleed through from the other side of the tape.]

At 32:54 music continues.

[Recording sound fluctuates, hard to make out what is spoken.] Talking about vetoing the ordinance that would allow 13-year-olds to operate motor-scooters.

The ordinance has to be re-written if they want to change it. About sport fishing licenses that can be obtained from stores in town [stores are named]. Talking about FAA who asked planes to stay out of a dog racing area that extends from Creamer's Field to Happy –area and the East Slope of Ester Dome. [Unclear.] Alaska Legislature telegraphed, protesting reductions to air service that was seen as creating a monopoly [?]. News about a birth of a son for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Grichfield and his name is Gary Lee. [Break in the recording. Music.]

At 8:54 the talking resumes by talking about governor who was fired with Gardner and Roser [?] from the Highway Department. A report that the expansion of the Fairbanks Airport was going to be reduced considerably was exposed. A quote from Mr. [Unclear] from Department of Aviation and Mr. Nickles of the Department of Finance and Planning talks in favor of the expansion in order to accommodate international air-carriers flying over the North Pole. Senator Paul Greimann [?] is giving the Minority Report from Juneau.

At 10:50 a man's voice [Later identified by Bob Stratton [sp?]] thanks Jim [Binkley] for having him in his program. House of Representatives news: Discussing amendment to the Borough Act. Majority of the seats in the Borough Assembly may be given to people from areas outside of the 1st class city. Talking about Senate bills 258 and 259, one dealing with the minimum wage and the other with overtime provisions. Senate Bills 28 and 93, having to do with the same subject, passed earlier. Bill 28 raised the minimum wage \$0.50 above the federal minimum wage, so Alaska's minimum wage is \$1.65. Bill 93 gives most workers overtime pay in case they work over 8 hours a day or over 41 hours a week, and it applies to companies with more than 3 employees. Jim talks about hardships that are posed for the small and seasonal businesses. A male speaker agrees with Jim and says that they are the most over-regulated and under-developed state in the Union and the legislation aggravated the situation. They have a problem with getting the economy going due to shutting down in winter and having seasonal tourism for three months. The speaker feels that small operators need flexibility in keeping their motels and roadhouses or they will not be able to provide excellent service for the tourists. Jim thanks Bob Stratton from Anchorage for being in the Minority Report. [Break in the recording.]

At 45:37 Harrie Hughes says it's March 27th, 1962 and the recording was from Jim Binkley's Minority Report.

Forbes Baker is talking about state planning and funds for the Airport with Jim Binkley. They talk about airport expansion in Fairbanks, which would be needed for over-the-pole flights. Forbes [?] notes that if both Fairbanks and Anchorage are

backup airports for each other Fairbanks must have a ground operation that is comparable to Anchorage. Jim thanks Forbes and thanks the sponsors of Minority Report.

At 49:08 a man's voice says that Pioneers of Alaska and Pioneer Women of Alaska make their annual visit to Igloo no. 17 in Nenana. About transportation of people from Fairbanks to Nenana. Harrie Hughes' voice says it's April 1st.

Minority reports continue: The government agreed to participate in costs of gold exploration project that was planned by Richard W. Roar [perhaps Ruhr? sp?] of Fairbanks. Talking about gold exploration which will happen in 4th Judicial District. Exploration assistance program of Office of Mineral Exploration will help with the costs, which will be repaid by royalties from gold production. This was Maury Smith with news of Alaska.

Harrie Hughes says it was March 2nd in 1962. He has a visitor from the States, Mr. Cannonball. He's made his first trip through Dawson territory and Harrie asks him to talk about his trip. Mr. Cannonball says it's been one of the most pleasing trips he has made to Alaska. He talks about his plane trip from Whitehorse where he was the only one in the plane. He says he flew from Juneau from Whitehorse, and then he continues with a description of the weather and the stewardesses. They sat in Whitehorse for ½ hour. Harrie says they are restoring lots of historical objects both in Whitehorse and in Dawson. Harrie is talking about a brochure that Canada is going to distribute all over the world and how they are budgeting on the development of tourism. The Canadian government is also encouraging mining and oil prospecting and tourism. In Alaska, the Pioneer Park and Museum has got supporters from Juneau. Mr. Cannonball says people don't come to Alaska to see new store buildings but to see Alaska as it was. Harrie continues by saying that the City Council tried to stop them from acquiring the land [for Pioneer Park], and says that they are like wolves or a kid in the candy store. More talking about the Pioneer Park –project fight where the Pioneers lobbied in Legislation in Juneau to override Fairbanks real-estate –people who were talking against the project. Mr. Cannonball says that poor judgment has killed many towns and that Boise and Nampa [Idaho]. Nampa refused the railroad but Boise took it, and Boise is now a big city.

At 29:32 Harrie says he met a couple of old-timers in Nordale and they talked about Arizona and the war. Harrie was working there when he was 16-17 years old, building a hospital. One of the boys he met was a captain there and he remembered Harrie. Harrie introduced Mr. Cannonball to Furbire [sp?], and Mr. Cannonball says he met him at the hotel. Harrie says he'll turn the tape off.

At 30:38 radio news continues again by a man talking about age change [talking about Ordinance that proposes changing the age limit of motor scooters to 13?] and considering something else for the kids to burn their excessive energy on. Elmer Wheeler who is a proponent of the age change spoke about how kids just want to get out into the country and out to the trails, but mayor's veto upholds [he vetoed the ordinance on grounds of public safety] Talking about paving of Noble and Barnette Streets but that they weren't widened. Austin Ward was appointed as a member of Fairbanks City Park, Recreation and Cemetery Commission. Other council decisions. Russian Government extended official thanks for the U.S for medical service for an injured Soviet sailor. [Break in the recording.]

At 33:50 program changes and a man's voice talks about how State Senator Brad Philips [sp?] was urged to run for Governor by the Alaskans for Better Government –committee last night. Alaskans for Better Government is a bipartisan group. About the amount of signatures that favor him. Philips is a Republican.

At 34:29 the program changes into Fairbanks City Council news again. More talking about paving the Noble Street and widening it. Two business owners [named] spoke in favor of widening. About who of the politicians voted for pavement. About Pat Smith's property that was to be condemned: there were lots of photos about it as evidence in favor of condemnation. Pat Smith had come to Fairbanks in 1917 and the building that was to be condemned was his only source of income. The building had 8 rental units, but it had lost all but two tenants since the condemnation notice. He said he had tried to hook his building to sewer line but was informed by a city official that he could not, and now the house is being condemned for lack of sanitation facilities. A local contractor Mr. Crowley testified in favor of saving the building with some improvements. [End of the recording.]