

Series: Tanana Yukon Historical Society tapes

H78-64-03

Tom Fink, Don Young

Republican convention, 1974

Sitka, Alaska

Tom Fink, member of the House of Representatives in Alaska, talks about the proposed Alaska budget. He believes that the house will come under the governor's budget. He said there was a fifty million dollar pay increase for state employees. He didn't believe that the employees will be getting the raise that the governor proposes. He discusses the funds for pipeline construction impact. He is certain that there will be money for communities along the pipeline, but envisions that the communities will be better off because of the construction. He believes that the current Alaska administration has not moved along on energy development. He expects to have a well rounded package when the current legislative session is over. He talked about the purpose of the convention. It is the job of the convention to find outstanding candidates for office. It is important to win control of the state house and senate, governorship and U.S. senate and house seats. He feels that the present state administration lacks direction, initiative and stability and there are questions about practices. He discussed the importance of good candidates and the importance of public service. He isn't worried about the effects of Watergate on the Alaska election and proclaimed his allegiance to the president of the United States. He gives advice about choosing good platforms and candidates.

Unidentified speaker thanks Tom Fink. He gives an outline of the activities of the Alaska Republican Party in the preceding two years. He discusses the 1972 convention in McKinley National Park, the National Republican Convention in Miami and the special election of Don Young. Hope Alexander, the chairman of the credentials committee delivers her report.

Don Young is introduced by an unidentified speaker. Don Young comments about coming to the convention with a great deal of sentimentality and the choice of Sitka for the convention. He announced that he will be running again for the United States House of Representatives. He welcomed the new delegates to the party. He said their purpose at the convention was to follow the beliefs of the Republican Party. He discussed the issue of Watergate. He talked about the democratic leadership and the national debt, the courts, and increased power at the executive level. He doesn't believe that congress is working hard enough. He doesn't believe that there is responsible government. He talked about the executive government in Alaska and the lack of progress and deficit spending. He is proud of being a Republican. He believes that Republicans have built Alaska. He talked about the need for fiscal responsibility and the need for a Republican to run the state. He believed that Watergate would teach the United States a lesson. He said that there is a need to elect honest people and then to make sure they stayed that way.