Alaska's Rich December 31, 1969

Get Richer and the Poor Natives Get... By TOM BROWN

Daily News Staff Writer

Alaska's white minority is getting richer and its Native majority is getting poorer.

The state has developed an affluent upper-middle class, composed mostly of urban whites, and a substantial lower class, composed mostly of rural Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts, with relatively few persons in between.

THE NATIVES are making no progress in their fight against poverty. While per capita income, on the other hand, continues to rise, increasing the disparity between the classes.

And if history repeats itself, the Natives will get scarcely any benefit from Alaska's oil boom.

These are the dismal conclusions drawn from a study titled "Personal Income Patterns in Alaska" published by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government

State Legislature

Germ of Riot

Annual Report

N969 Mob a Riot

Downtown
December 31, 1969

The Honorable Keith H. Miller
Governor

Honorable Members
Alaska State Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Alaska Statutes, Section 18.80.150,
we have the honor to submit herewith the seventh annual
report of the works and operations of the State Commission
for Human Rights covering the period of January 1 to
December 31, 1969.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest W. Griffin, Chairman

Thomas Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Liba S. Rudd, Secretary

Cyril W. George, Member

Benny Estepa, Member

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Encl.
Commission Members

Commissioners

Ernest W. Griffin, Chairman
Thomas Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Lisa S. Rudd, Secretary
Cyril W. George, Member
Benny Estepa, Member

Term Expires
Jan. 31, 1971
Jan. 31, 1972
Jan. 31, 1970
Jan. 31, 1973
Jan. 31, 1974

Staff

Willard L. Bowman
Larmon V. Stennis
Milo S. Griffin
Robert Willard
Mrs. Janet Twitchell
Miss Edna R. Ungudruk
Miss Patricia M. Brown

Executive Director
Field Representative (Anchorage)
Field Representative (Fairbanks)
Project Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Grant
Secretary
Clerk-Typist
NYC Office Aide
FOREWORD

In this decade when you have to run to
stay in the same place and where today's
progressive legislation is thrust into
obsolescence in a destructive spasm of
social convulsion, there is no room for
self-congratulatory complacency. Man
and his social structure in all its com-
plexities can no longer be rigidly identified,
predicted, codified and comfortably assigned
a "finished" label. The continuum of social
readjustment with its abrasiveness and
abrupt surges must be recognized, studied,
and interpreted in its relation to our State,
our communities, our peoples. It is to this
long-wasted resource of our peoples that
this Commission addresses itself -- our
peoples who in actuality must evolve to the
people of our nation, our State, our communities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Human Rights Commission recommends to the Governor and the Legislature:

1. That the Legislature pass Senate Bill 149 which appropriates $5,500 to the Human Rights Commission to undertake a study of "Alaska Natives and State Hire."

2. The addition of a Clerk-Typist in the existing Field Office in Fairbanks.

3. The addition of a Director of Research and Education in the Central Office of the Commission.

4. The addition of an attorney from the Attorney General's Anchorage office at least half-time as soon as possible in 1970.

5. The addition of a Field Office in Southeastern for FY 1970-71 to include a Field Representative and Clerk-Typist.

6. That the Legislature pass a bill repealing Alaska's abortion laws.

7. That the Legislature pass a bill relating to human rights laws introduced by Alaska Legal Services Corp.

8. That the Legislature pass a bill to revoke or suspend licenses of places of public accommodations found guilty of violating Alaska's laws against discrimination and who refuse to comply with the laws.

9. That the Legislature appropriate monies to the William E. Beltz Regional Boarding High School to provide for a year's remedial education for every entering student, and to provide for additional recreational opportunities for the students, and for wider recruitment of teachers.
It is in employment, which is the first area of confrontation for all minorities, where the largest group of complaints is found. The gut issue of putting food in your mouth and your children's mouths is a need and a duty which demands the sloughing off of the learned patterns of self-effacement, the thrusting away of the willingness to accept the tatters and leavings of an affluent society.

Effective measures should be employed to reduce the complaints in this area, keeping in mind that the solution to the problems in employment is not the solution of the problems which exist in public accommodations, housing, and personal and public relationships. If an equal effort is not made to remove the inequality which exists here, the members of minorities must perforce move their demands for full stature from one area of diminishing importance to another of growing importance until they have gained the birthright offered them by this State and Nation.
TYPICAL CASE

CASE NUMBER A:

A Negro male was terminated from his job for allegedly sleeping on the job. During the investigation it was brought out by persons interviewed that the complainant was in a warm-up shack, along with his fellow workers, waiting for the barge to dock. It was revealed during the investigation that every man in the shack was lounging or dozing during this waiting period. Further investigation revealed that complainant was unjustly singled out and terminated by his supervisor.

With all of the facts brought out in the case, a conciliation meeting was scheduled with the company involved. While the company did not admit that they had in fact discriminated against complainant, they did agree that an error had been committed on the part of the foreman. The Commission requested that the complainant be reinstated without any loss of pay, plus that he be reimbursed for his transportation cost from the island which he had paid himself. This agreement was finally accepted by the company with slight modifications. The company on its own volition terminated the foreman involved in the case.
PERSONNEL UTILIZATION

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Extra Duty</th>
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<td>660</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Represented above the normal work since this more than half a man year represents meetings, speaking engagements which occur during other than the work day.

With a limited staff of four personnel who must deal with complaints, the two most perishable resources of Time and Opportunity are the greatest taskmasters. With a public charge and the requirement to respond to the public's demands and inquiries, there can be no routine handling of any situation that arises. There is no routine manner in which one can deal with the emotions and problems of others, and each complaint must be treated with concern and interest. Nearly 40% of this staff's time is devoted to work away from what in any other organization would be referred to as normal duty. Over one full man year is devoted to required travel. Slightly more than half a man year is devoted to the endless process of public education; that is, in speaking to public and private groups and in attending meetings which affect the Human Rights of the peoples of this State.

The demands for the staff's time must eventually result in delays in dealing with problems and in an increasing backlog of work. These delays will result in greater dissatisfaction of those seeking help; and they will seek help elsewhere either by taking their complaints out into the street as has occurred in many other cities, or by personal confrontations which carry all ingredient requirements for civil disorder and violence.

We deal with an impatient world, a Now World, and both those who have established a complaint and those who are complained against must be assured that there exists and operates an effective legal means by which all rights will be protected and advanced.
--RIOT--

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

The wail of sirens still vibrated in the air.
The semi-circle of City Police vehicles and
Military Police vans are empty, engines
idling, red signal lights flashing against a
background of garishly lighted bar signs and
early Spring morning darkness. For a tense
moment police and a milling crowd of blacks
and whites face each other as four men, two
black, two white, are locked into the rear
seats of police cars. The cursing, the cries
of police brutality, and the attempts at inter-
ference have died. Now sensing the uncertainty
of the crowd, the police move forward ordering
them to disperse. For a sullen moment the
crowd refuses to disband; then as the police
move closer they begin to scatter, disappearing
into the dingy bars and alleys that had spewed
them out a few minutes earlier. In the city
where the citizens had convinced themselves
that racial or mob violence could not occur, the
police feel a momentary sense of relief. But
the unanswered questions of how and why the
crowd had suddenly gathered gnaw at the
certainty that it couldn't happen here.

The City is Anchorage, Alaska.

The date is April 28, 1969.

THE ANSWER IS YES!
PURPOSES OF COMMISSION

The State Commission for Human Rights holds as its purpose and aim the fostering of a climate of understanding, mutual respect and equality for all Alaskans without consideration of race, religion, cultural background, or sex.

To achieve this end, the Commission will:

(a) Promote an educational program based on intergroup understanding which will eliminate discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing because of race, religion, color, national ancestry, physical handicap, age or sex.

(b) Receive, initiate, investigate, and resolve complaints of discrimination which are contrary to the laws of the State of Alaska.

(c) Study the problems of discrimination and promote and provide guidance to the public in seeking means to establish cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of the population of the State.

(d) Publish the results of all investigations and research which through public disclosure will tend to eliminate discrimination.
POWERS OF COMMISSION

Section 18, 80 (. 030-, .070, Chapter 117, SLA 1965) states both the powers and duties of the Commission as follows:

It shall:

(1) Elect one of its members as chairman.

(2) Hold a regular annual meeting and shall hold special meetings as are found necessary.

(3) Adopt procedural and substantive rules and regulations necessary to implement this chapter.

(4) Appoint an executive director approved by the Governor and hire other administrative staff as may be necessary to the Commission's function.

(5) Receive, initiate, and investigate complaints of alleged discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

(6) Hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath and issue orders based on its findings.

(7) Call upon the departments and agencies of the State for cooperation and assistance in carrying out its duties and report to the Governor of Alaska, and to the State Legislature, on its activities annually and recommend legislative action.

(8) Be authorized per diem and travel allowances allowable to members of other boards and commissions.