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LEAGUE OF ALASKAN CITIES

improvements. With these loans it is possible to include the cost of planning and engineering in the overall project cost and within the total bond authorization instead of being dependent on limited general fund revenues of a given fiscal year. And because the frontier and immediate post-war blight would retard them in their development as modern American cities, Alaskan cities join the cities of the other 48 states in requesting that Congress amend the Housing Act of 1949 (as amended) to recognize the long-term needs of urban renewal and (1) authorize a ten-year program with an annual authorization of additional capital grant reservation funds of \$600 million a year; (2) permit a greater share of the program funds to be devoted to development of commercial and industrial purposes, and (3) to take all possible steps to expedite processing of mortgage insurance applications on new residential construction in urban renewal project areas.

11. TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A WIDER FINANCIAL BASE FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL GENERAL OBLIGATION AND REVENUE BONDS.

Alaska cities believe that the constitutional immunity of state and local activities from federal taxation must continue intact without exception. They further request Congress to amend Section 5136 of the revised Statutes of the United States to authorize commercial banks to compete freely with other financial institutions for these issues. And to further broaden the market for municipal bonds, Alaskan cities (for whom bond interest rates have been particularly high) request enactment of legislation permitting regulated and unregulated investment companies to distribute the interest on municipal bonds to their shareholders without loss of the tax exemption.

12. TO SUPPORT A STRONG CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSUMING GREATER LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS WHICH ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROGRAM.

Alaskan cities commend the action of the 85th Congress which last year enacted an amendment (P.L. 85 - 606) to the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 which makes the federal government a 50-50 partner with state and local governments in underwriting administrative and personnel costs involved in effecting uniform survival programs on the state level and coordinated with the National Plan for Civil Defense and Civilian Defense Mobilization. In addition, under the new amendments, the federal government would provide cooperating states on a loan or grant basis radiological detection equipment and many other supplies necessary for protection.

However, these meritorious provisions were by authorization only. Alaskan cities urge the immediate appropriation of funds sufficient to implement the program outlined under P.L. 85 - 606 to provide full assistance to state and local civil defense efforts. They also urge that a feasible shelter program be developed and that survival plan studies for states and cities be continued.

13. TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATIONS FOR AUTHORIZED RIVER AND HARBOR PROJECTS IN ALASKA.

Following are the projects, including estimated cost and authorization dates, for which Alaska cities urge appropriations during the first session of the 86th Congress:

- Anchorage Harbor (1958) - \$1,080,000 for initial phase cost and \$4,430,000 for the complete project;
- Dillingham Harbor (1958) - \$412,000;
- Homer Harbor (1958) - \$553,000;
- Juneau and Douglas Harbors (1958) - \$1,570,000;
- Naknek River (1958) - \$23,000;
- Ninilchik Harbor (1958) - \$202,000;
- Seldovia Harbor (1958 modification to include small boat harbor with 1945 authorization for channel improvements) - \$845,000 total;
- Sitka Harbor (1945 with modifications including 1954 authorization for Forest Service basin dredging) - \$1,180,000 total;
- Wrangell Narrows (Channel improvements under 1945 authorization have been completed but an anchorage basin which was added to original project under modification has yet to receive appropriation) - \$735,000 to complete;
- Chena River Flood Control at Fairbanks (1958) - \$10,790,000;
- Skagway River Flood Control (1946) - \$960,000;
- Talkeetna Flood Control (1958) - \$76,000.

14. TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN ALASKA.

Alaska, because of its large area and relatively small population, provides a number of suitable sites for experimentation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy. This program is of such vital interest to the Nation and Alaska that every effort should be made to cooperate and support such experiments.

15. TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKAN AND ALASKAN-CANADIAN WATER RESOURCES.

Forecasted requirements for electric energy indicate that the need will become an increasingly critical problem in the years ahead. At the present date the cheapest method of generating electric power is through the use of water. Available hydro-electric sites in most states are limited, whereas Alaska's potential is great and remains untouched. The Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation have issued reports indicating that the potential capacity of Alaska's streams is capable of producing millions of kilo-watt hours of electricity each year. A number of these sites have a capacity ranging from 500,000 kilo-watts to an excess of a million kilo-watts, thereby insuring production great enough to supply heavy industry at a reasonably low cost. It is in the national interest that these hydro-electric project sites be thoroughly investigated and a program for their development initiated at the earliest practicable date.

One of the largest hydro-electric sites involves utilization of water from the Yukon River. In order to develop this site, it is necessary for the Canadian and United States governments to cooperate inasmuch as the development will have to be located in both Alaska and Canada. The necessary arrangements to make this development feasible should be undertaken by the United States and Canadian governments.

Box 1127
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RG 30, Bur. of Public Roads

26.

Government is a contrivance
of human wisdom
to provide for human wants.
Men have a right
that these wants should be
provided for
by this wisdom

Edmund Burke
(1729 - 1797)

No one has power
except from the people.
...This is the condition
of a free people...
to be able to
give or take away
by their votes
whatever they see fit.

Cicero
(49 B.C.)

Liberty...is best managed
in a democratic city,
and for this reason
this is the only city
in which a man
of free spirit
will care to live.

Plato
(427 - 347 B.C.)

Section 1. The purpose
of this article is
to provide for maximum
local self-government
with a minimum of
local government units,
and to prevent
duplication of
tax-levying
jurisdictions.

A liberal
construction
shall be given to
the powers of
local government units.

Article X
Constitution of
State of Alaska
(1956)