

# *Why Not Jobs, Income from It?—* **Why Not Legalize Liquor at Barrow?**

Anchorage, Alaska  
22 November 1971

Dear Howard

The recent election in Barrow had a direct bearing on the 3.2 million dollar city owned Air Terminal Complex for which all preparatory work has been completed. The real issue was not whether the city should be dry or wet, but was whether the village would provide an improvement in the economic base of the village, by providing permanent job opportunities for for some 50 people in the community.

To say the village of Barrow is dry is to close ones eyes to actuality, yet the city receives no revenue from the \$500,000 of liquor coming into the city annually. Regardless of the outcome of the issues, why did so few people evidence interest in such a vital election, which also elected city council members. Only slightly more than 200 people voted on these issues of economic import to the City and region. That the Master Lessee, or person who guaranteed the mortgage for the City of Barrow on its Air Terminal, had stipulated a bar lounge was necessary at a public meeting between the board of directors and the City Council apparently went unheeded.

It is indeed unfortunate whatever the cause, that a project which Barrow so much needed both for its construction work and permanent employment potential, as well as being a point of civic pride and a prime source of badly needed income, should almost fall by the wayside because of the failure of civic leaders especially those hired to

advance the economic development of the community, to adequately inform the voters of the essential facts pertaining to the issues at hand.

IF THE PEOPLE ARE ADEQUATELY INFORMED OF THE ISSUES, AND CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE POINTS AT ISSUE, THEY WILL EVIDENCE INTEREST IN THE PROPOSITIONS BY VOTING, AND BY RENDERING GOOD DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS AT THE POLLS. Poor poll turnout indicates 1. a public which does not understand the issue at point, or 2. because there is so little difference between the pro and con of the issue that a vote cast one way or the other would not materially effect any change.

The City lost much needed revenue and only increased the problem and cost of law enforcement pertaining to the use of illegal alcohol.

I think that after so much work has gone into this viable project that the City of Barrow must decide in the mind of each individual, whether progress is really wanted, as so often stated, or has welfare, government agencies, and sterile board meetings so undermined the free will of the people that the collective initiative of our people is already destroyed by those very ones who seek us professedly to help us?

Howie, as ever, and God bless you.

HUGH

P.S. Howard, would appreciate your comments. This is for publication if you see fit.

Hugh Nicholls