

Letters from Here and There

703 Bentley Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
March 23, 1973

Chairman
House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

It was with consternation and perplexity that I read the March 19th edition of The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and the article concerning the proposed cuts in the Governor's recommended budget. The proposed reductions in the Health, Education and Social Services portion amounts to \$5.1 million. Isn't it ironic that in the same edition, the president of the Senate announced that the Senate had approved the expenditure of \$5.5 million for a parking

structure in downtown Fairbanks? It appears that the House takes away \$5.1 million from the aged, indigent, disabled and the educational funds, so the Senate can spend \$5.5 million for a structure to park 448 vehicles. This type of structure is precisely what we need in the core area of Fairbanks; to encourage more people to drive into the city-center to add to our existing high level of congestion and pollution.

It will be interesting to observe your future actions regarding the proposed pay increase for State employees; especially since the amount involved is little more than the amount recommended to be cut from the Education, Health and Social Services programs.

Indubitably, State employees need an increase in pay, as do

those receiving unemployment insurance benefits, to cope with ever increasing cost of living; as has recently been proposed. We, the recipients of assistance under these programs, are also the victims of the spiralling economy; especially those receiving assistance under the Social Services programs.

The constituency would be enlightened by the detailed motivating factors resulting in the proposed reductions in the allocations for these programs.

We solicit your reconsideration of the proposed reductions in the assistance and services rendered under the Health, Education and Social Services programs.

Sincerely,

Rogenia G. Thims, Chairman
Welfare Rights Board