

## Other Voices

### SECOND CLASS CITIES:

# The continuing saga of the most neglected political subdivision

If this year's politicians think problems in the state's revenue sharing program were corrected under the new Title 29 — they are probably wrong.

The slight increase Second Class Cities will now get still does not make them self-sufficient. You will still find Second Class Cities with poor road maintenance programs because they could not begin to afford the purchase of the necessary heavy equipment. Limited Fire revenues will not buy the second classers the necessary fire engines — maybe a few fire extinguishers. Limited Police revenues will not pay enough of a salary for a qualified policeman.

Special grant funds available to second classers from the state have ridiculous regulations such as how much a laborer could be paid per hour. That figure is very low. If we are to pay peanuts — expect monkeys.

The only answer to adequate funding for those small second class cities is the State of Alaska. Not only should there be increased funding for fire and police protection, recreation, road maintenance, health programs and planning, what is needed is the specific assurance of adequate funding for the proper administration of the city.

That calls for more funding beyond the revenue sharing program. What the Second Class City needs is the same attention the REAA's are getting.

When you go to the polls this year and you live in a Second Class City, it would be good to know that the person you vote for will share this same concern.

Agafon Krukoff