

# Community Centers

## *Bond Issue on Special Election*

The special election ballot on March 6 will give Alaskans the opportunity to vote on an \$11,500,000 bond issue for Civic Convention and Community Centers throughout the State. According to the Department of Economic Development, the proceeds from the bond issue will be used to meet a part of the construction cost of these facilities, which will answer a real need in many communities for a public meeting and recreational building, and which will contribute to our cultural and economic well being by making it possible for Alaskans to hold their intrastate conventions, symposiums, and regional meetings in many more of our interesting, smaller communities.

Convention Centers being planned and discussed for the larger communities will make it possible for Alaska to host some of the larger national conventions. These have indicated interest in coming to Alaska — if we provide the facilities.

The importance to Alaskans, of this development program needs to be better understood. Particularly at this time of indecision in pipeline construction. State Convention Coordinator R. A. "Dutch" Derr has reported that Alaska will play host to approximately 350 intrastate conventions in 1974, with an average of 92 delegates per convention.

According to Dutch, this means that more than 32,000 Alaskans will be moving around

the State for conventions, each of them spending about \$40 per day during the four days, of meetings, for a total of more than \$5 million each year.

The year 1974 will also see 100 regional, 60 national and 40 international conventions in Alaska. An average of 300 delegates from outside will spend four days in Alaska for each of these meetings....and spend \$50 per day in the process. That totals \$12 million yearly!

Before the actual convention is underway, and during the days following the official meetings, many of these delegates will be tourists in Alaska — and as such will spend as much or more each day.

Conventions alone in Alaska during 1974 will generate in excess of \$17 million of pure unadulterated, unfettered, undiluted, dollars.

Nearly every cent collected through convention activity will stay in Alaska and filter down into every economic corner of the State. More than 36% of the convention dollar will pay for wages and fringe benefits of the employees who helped serve the convention crowd.

Another 25% will help pay the operating expenses of the hosting facility, with nearly 5% more going to debt service. The food and drink consumed will take another 13% of the convention dollar while various taxes — excluding income tax — will account for nearly 5% more.

Finally, there will be a State income tax contribution out of the 11.6% before taxes profit figure.

Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, and all the way to Savoonga, Teller, Point Hope and St. Marys — all will feel the economic impact of conventions because the delegate will buy goods ranging from those perishables shipped in by air, to such hard goods as ivory carvings coming from Alaska's numerous remote villages.

And with this influx of money, and the supplies the conventioners will need, comes the increased value of the dollar because of large-lot purchases.

The conventioneer will actually help Alaskans realize lower prices on the goods they need every day! This is a business we need to foster.