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Egan, AFN Establish Good Working Level

## League of Women Panel on We elfare

The League of Women Voters will present a panel discussion

on welfare and its alternatives on welfare and its alternatives on Thursday, November 12 at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Bear Gallery of the Alaskaland Civic Center
The meeting will be open to the public. Panelists will include representatives from the regional Welfare Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center, the University of Alaska Sociology Department, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Labor Council.

In 1969, at least 25.4 million Americans, or 13 per cent of our total population, were classified total population, were classified
as poor. 25 per cent of all aged persons and 15 per cent of all children under 18 were poor. 34. per cent non-white Americans and 10 per cent of white Americans were poor.
Of the 25.4 million poor people, about 10 million (or 40 per cent) received public assistance.

There is a general dissatisfaction with welfare as it exists - today among recipients, administrators and the public. It is conceded by all that a new and
imaginative approach is now needed.

## Juvenile Problem

## tition which charges Johnny with

 having committed certain offenses.He is warned of his right to remain silent just as an adult would be.

Then the juvenile officer de cides whether to detain him or cides whether to detain he.
to return him to his home.

He is detained, according He is detained, according to
Officer Wood, if he is believed Officer Wood, if he is believed
to be a danger to himself or to to be a danger to himself or no place to send him, or if it is believed he will run away and not be present for later proceedings.
If Johnny falls into one of these categories he is taken to the Juvenile Detention Wing of the State jail. Young offenders, Officer Wood stressed, are not placed in the Fairbanks City Jail.

If Johnny is detained, the Juvenile Officer must go to cour within 48 hours and justify the within 48 hours and justify the hearing the judge decides wheth hearing the judge decides wheth er to release or further detain
the youth, and he sets a time for the youth, and he sets a time fo
the hearing. the hearing

No attorney is provided for the young person at the deten tion hearing, Wood said.

An effort is made, he con tinued, to schedule the juvenile hearing as soon as possible. Sup posedly the youth can be detain ed without a hearing no longe than 30 days, but the time for some has been longer because of a tremendous work load on the courts and police department Wood added

If Johnny is not placed in the State Jail, he is released to the State Jail, he is released to his real parents or foster pare In while awaiting a hearing. In talks with the child and his talks with the child and his
parents. The parents are told parents. The parents are told
that they can either hire an at that they can either hire an at torney or that a public defender will be provided.

The next step is the hearing in Juvenile Court where, Wood said, the youth must be proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

If he, is convicted, the judge assigns the case to a probation officer or to the welfare depart ment if the youth is determined to be a dependent-a minor in need of supervision.

A disposition hearing is sched uled within 30 days following conviction. There the probation

## fficer or welfare worker ou

lines his plan for the child
Some of the alternatives are placement in his real home, in a foster home, or in a corrections for this hearing and is present his opinion, but the final decision is made by the judge.

The system is set up for re The system is set up for re-
habilitation, Wood said, but in habilitation, Wood said, but
reality it lacks in many areas. eality it lacks in many areas.
A main deficit, he continued, is an insufficient number of probation officers. Each officer averages a case load of from 100 to 200 kids. Often the young people must remain in the State jail just because the probation officer has not had enough time to locate a foster home for them.

Selwyn Carol, past supervisor at the Juvenile Wing of the State jail, agreed that more probation officers are needed. He added that more welfare workers are also needed for the dependency also needed for the dependency cases. Both go from one cris to another, unable to do ade quate follow-up.

Carol also stressed the need for a juvenile judge and court to expedite the cases.

He explained that the Superior Court Judges must now work the juvenile cases into their al ready overloaded schedules

And, rehabilitation facilities for juveniles need to be enlarged, he said. The State's only such facility-the McLaughlin Cente in Anchorage--is crowded. Often Carol said, a young person mus wait five to six weeks in the Fairbanks State Jail before get ting into McLaughlin.

Thus the start of his rehabili tation is delayed five or six weeks.

And, if he cannot get into McLaughlin he is sent "outside. The State needs more center like McLaughlin, Carol continu ed, so that kids could be nea their homes where parents could visit and where they would no be cut off from their heritage and culture.

In addition, Officer Wood feels there should be counselor in the elementary schools so that trouble could possibly be detected and corrected at an early age. "I believe in preventive work," he stressed.

Next: Detention at the State Jail in Fairbanks.

