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MAJOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ALASKA'S REGIONS

Alaska is too large and varied to be treated as though it were a single homogenous entity and for various purposes has been divided into smaller and more meaningful regional units. Recently there have been attempts to find some general agreement on a basic division of the state which would be useful for administrative and research purposes. The following five unit division was proposed by the State Division of Planning in 1962 and is finding general acceptance :

(1) Southeast Region (land area 37,566 square miles), set off from the rest of the state by the Malaspina Glacier and the St. Elias Range, comprises the many islands of the Alexander Archipelago and a strip of mainland extending along the northwest corner of British Columbia.

(2) Southcentral Region (land area approximately 80,000 square miles) comprises the southcentral coastal area of Alaska south and east of the arc of the Alaska Range. It includes the Susitna River basin, Cook Inlet and its tributaries, the Copper River basin and Kodiak Island and other islands in the Gulf of Alaska.

(3) Southwest Region (land area approximately 150,000 square miles) includes the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea islands south of latitude 62 degrees north, the Bristol Bay drainage, Kuskokwim River basin and the lower Yukon River basin (south of 64 degrees north).

(4) Interior Region (land area approximately 180,000 square miles) includes the remainder of the Yukon River basin, the Tanana and Koyukuk River basins and the eastern part of the Arctic Slope within the Fairbanks election district.

(5) Northwest Region (land area approximately 125,000 square miles) is the remainder of the state, its extreme northwestern corner.

These five regions are not only different in terms of physical geographic characteristics and natural resource endowment, but exhibit clearly different economic and social characteristics and trends. Looking at only a few of the population characteristics reported in the last official United States census for Alaska (1960) the

general nature of these differences is apparent (refer to Table 5). In the southwest and northwest regions, the native population, or persons of aboriginal ancestry, are in the majority and in the other three regions they are minority groups. These two regions also exhibit the lowest per capita incomes (including estimated value of subsistence hunting and fishing) and the highest ratio of non-workers to workers. The southcentral and interior regions have had the greatest absolute and relative population growth in recent years, the highest proportion of military and government workers to total population, the highest per capita incomes and the lowest non-worker to worker ratios. The southeast region has the lowest proportion of military in its population and government employment in its total employed labor force.

A start has been made to estimating or measuring the different trends within the state in terms of income and employment (see Tables 6 and 7).

ELECTION DISTRICTS
WITHIN EACH REGION

SOUTHEASTS

1 through 6

SOUTHCENTRAL

7 through 13

SOUTHWEST

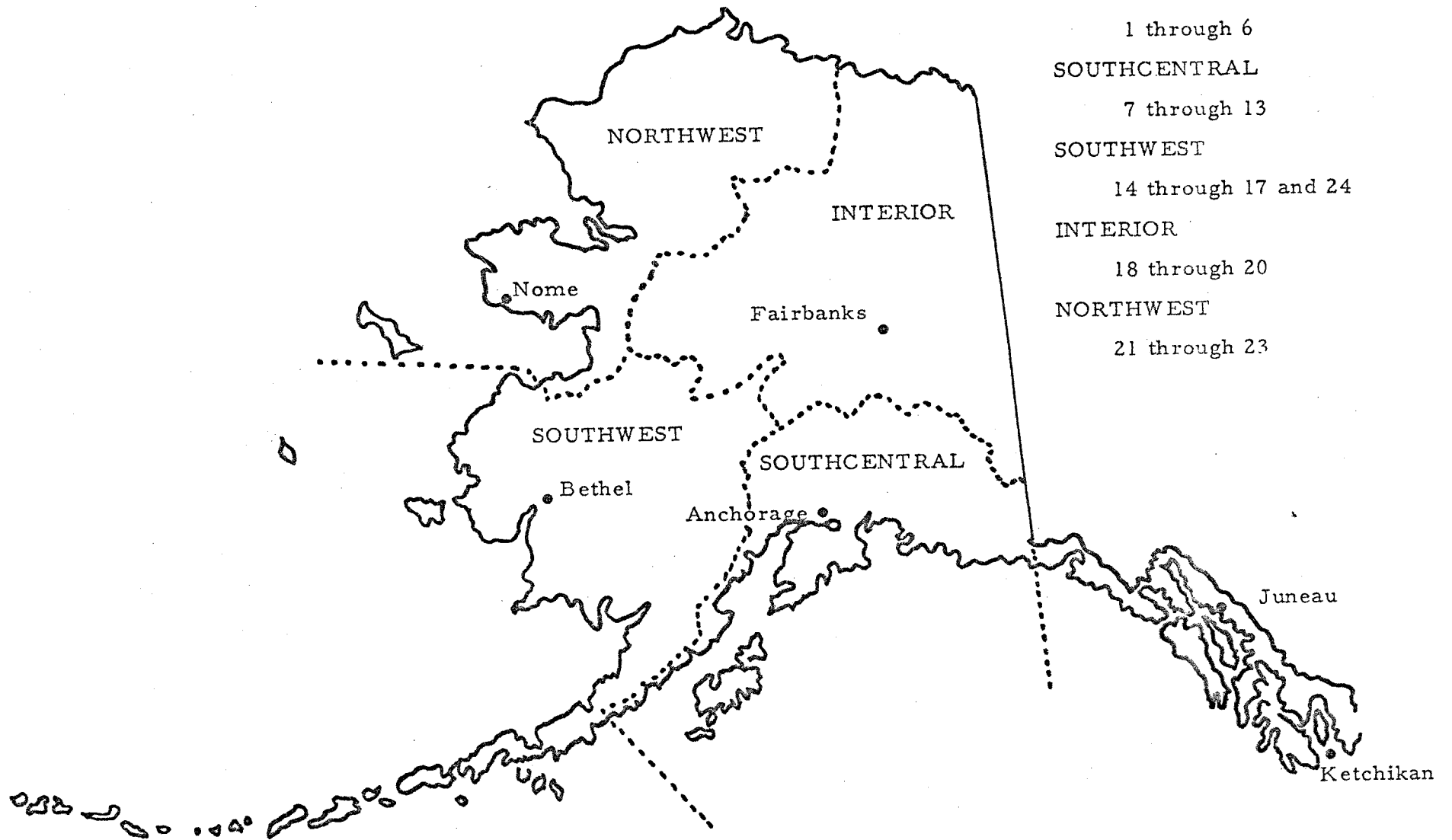
14 through 17 and 24

INTERIOR

18 through 20

NORTHWEST

21 through 23



MAJOR ALASKA REGIONS

Table 5 - SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF
ALASKA POPULATION BY MAJOR SUB-REGIONS, 1960 CENSUS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Southeast</u>	<u>South- central</u>	<u>South- west</u>	<u>Interior</u>	<u>North- west</u>
<u>Population 1960</u>						
Total	226,167	35,403	108,851	21,001	49,128	11,784
White	174,546	25,354	98,733	6,381	41,789	2,289
Native	43,081	9,242	5,514	14,314	4,638	9,373
Other races	8,540	807	4,604	306	2,701	122
% Native	19.0	26.1	5.1	68.1	9.4	79.5
Civilian	193,474	34,794	91,666	17,697	38,282	11,036
Military	32,692	609	17,185	3,304	10,846	748
% Military	14.4	1.7	15.8	15.7	22.1	6.3
Growth 1950-60 (percent)	75.8	25.5	117.3	18.5	113.5	22.4
<u>Personal Income 1960</u>						
Total (Million \$)	629	97.9	331.6	41.0	139.5	18.9
% State	100.0					
Per Capita (\$)	2,781	2,761	3,046	1,952	2,840	1,604
<u>Employment 1960</u>						
Total	90,923	13,678	46,209	5,998	22,179	2,859
Government	51,941	4,499	26,948	4,422	14,733	1,339
Private	38,982	9,179	19,261	1,576	7,446	1,520
% Government	57.1	32.9	58.3	73.7	66.4	46.8
Non-Worker to Worker Ratio	1.27	1.38	1.15	2.22	1.06	2.35

Source: Data from U. S. Bureau of the Census reports as presented in R. Cooley and G. Rogers, Alaska's Population and Economy.

Table 6 - TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME AND TRENDS
ALASKA AND MAJOR SUB-REGIONS, 1954-1962

<u>Calendar</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Alaska</u>	<u>Southeast</u>	<u>South-</u> <u>central</u>	<u>Southwest</u>	<u>Interior</u>	<u>Northwest</u>
(Millions of \$)						
1954	493.0	71.0	269.4	26.0	115.4	12.0
1955	500.0	69.3	274.6	25.9	117.7	12.2
1956	548.0	75.1	304.7	30.7	124.1	13.0
1957	537.0	75.0	289.5	30.3	126.4	16.1
1958	526.0	80.2	286.1	30.6	114.5	15.3
1959	555.0	92.7	298.0	32.2	115.7	15.9
1960	631.0	98.0	333.0	41.0	140.0	19.0
1961	628.0 ^{1/}	97.5	336.4	40.0	135.0	19.0
1962	661.0 ^{1/}	98.0	360.0	41.0	142.0	20.0
1954 = 100.0						
1954	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1955	101.4	97.6	101.9	99.6	102.0	100.0
1956	111.2	105.8	113.1	118.1	107.5	108.3
1957	108.9	105.6	107.5	116.5	109.5	134.2
1958	106.7	113.0	106.2	123.8	99.2	127.5
1959	112.6	130.6	110.6	123.8	100.3	132.5
1960	128.0	138.0	123.6	157.7	121.3	158.3
1961	127.4	137.3	124.9	153.8	117.0	158.3
1962	134.1	138.0	133.6	157.7	123.1	166.7

^{1/} Revised August 1964

Source: 1954 through 1960: R. A. Cooley and G. W. Rogers, Alaska's Population and Economy - Regional Growth, Development and Future Outlook, Volume II Statistical Handbook, pp. 174-187. 1961 and 1962: Computed from records of State of Alaska, Employment Security Division and other sources. U. S. Department of Commerce, Survey of Current Business, August 1964.

Table 7 - ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
ALASKA AND MAJOR SUB-REGIONS - 1954, 1958, 1962

Calendar Year	Government				Private		
	Total	Military	Federal	State & Local	Construc- tion	Other Commodity Producing	Distri- butive
(thousands of persons, 12 month average)							
<u>Southeast</u>							
1954	13.1	0.5	2.3	0.9	1.1	2.5	5.8
1958	13.5	0.6	2.4	1.3	1.0	2.8	5.4
1962	14.2	0.6	1.8	2.5	0.4	3.5	5.4
<u>Southcentral</u>							
1954	60.4	30.0	9.8	1.6	4.6	2.5	11.9
1958	51.7	18.4	10.5	2.4	3.0	2.4	15.0
1962	53.6	17.2	9.3	4.2	2.3	2.9	17.7
<u>Southwest</u>							
1954	5.7	3.0	0.8	0.1	*	1.0	0.8
1958	6.4	3.5	0.8	0.2	*	1.0	0.9
1962	7.2	3.5	1.1	0.3	0.2	1.0	1.1
<u>Interior</u>							
1954	25.0	15.0	2.7	0.7	1.6	1.2	3.8
1958	22.0	12.0	2.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	4.1
1962	24.0	11.0	3.0	2.1	0.9	1.0	5.8
<u>Northwest</u>							
1954	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	*	0.6	0.6
1958	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.8
1962	2.6	0.7	0.5	0.2	*	0.2	1.0

* Less than 50 persons.

1/ Agriculture, fishing, hunting, forestry, mining, manufacturing.

2/ Transportation, communications, public utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services.