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December 27, 1962

The Honorable William A. Bagan -Governor of Alaska Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Eagan:

This past summer following a little talk I made at the athletic roundtable meeting in Amehorage I had the honor of meeting you. Since returning to Colorado I have followed the news from Alaska and an happy to know of your re-election. I offer my congratulations to you and feel the State of Alaska is also due congratulations in commanding your service for enother term.

In our conversation at Anchorage, you suggested educ ideas that have been very much in my mind in these intervening menths.

Quite frankly, my three-year contract with Depres University as physical education instructor and coach for track, cross country and secces ends in June 1963 and I am looking for bigger apportunities.

From 1948 to 1960 I was employed by the Chilean government to foster a nationwide track development program in the sities and villages of that country and was track seach to that area's entry in the 1948, 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games. In the Pan American Games the Chilean entrents finished high. These were the more spectacular evidences of the success of building a sport program for all age groups; the more important evidence lies in the improved physical fitness and higher moral tene among the participants.

The techniques tried and proved in Chile I believe can be adapted to your great state and in other sports as well. My specialties in my native Latvia were Seecer, Speed Skating and Cross Country Skiing in addition to Track.

To foster a foundation program in these and other sports on a statewide basis, I believe, seems natural for Alaska and a move that should be important to the future of all the citiesse. Sports for everybody, in my judgment, yield greater dividends than the great star teams, important as they are as incentivies. Much can be done through the training of local coaches and in sports clinics.

Of course, I am a little in the dark on the details of your civil service setup, but I can envisin working under your direction in building a sports and physical fitness program among the villages, towns and cities of Alaska from which could energe a solid record of accomplishment with a relative small funds outlay.

Tour portrayal of the sports program in your state and my observations while there suggest that my experience in building physical fitness programs through athletic participation may be the foundation upon which I can build those bigger opportunities I seek.



Your interest in sports at inchorage convinced me of your concern for the development of the Alaskan youth semewhat along these lines. I'm sure you have still mee ideas and I would be most grateful to hear from you. I shall be happy to respond in greater detail along these lines regarding methods, costs, equipment and incentives.

May the Holidays be filled with great happiness and your new year of service to the citizens be gratifying to you in every way.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Laipenieks

