

## Daily News Numbers

Delivery .....	279-5622
Want Ads .....	272-7406
Display Ads .....	279-5622
Newsroom .....	272-8561

# ANCHORAGE

# DAILY NEWS

## Fair

ANCHORAGE AND THE MATANUSKA VALLEY — Fair through tonight. North winds to 20 m.p.h. with gusts to 30 m.p.h. in the valley. High today near 15. Low tonight zero to 10. Outlook for Friday, fair and cold.

VOL. XXIX, NO. 130 20 PAGES

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1975

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# Eagle River borough pros, cons aired

By JIM BABB  
Daily News Staff Writer

An occasionally surly crowd attended a hearing Wednesday night at Chugiak High School as the Local Boundary Commission listened to the pros and cons of whether a separate Eagle River-Chugiak borough should be reestablished.

On the basis of the testimony given Wednesday night, the commission has to reach a decision whether to allow the residents of the area to go to the polls and vote to either secede from or remain a part of the Anchorage Municipality. If the commission decides as most of the over 250 persons who attended the meeting apparently want it, an election on the question will be held in the near future.

THOSE SPEAKING in favor of partition were greeted with applause. The reception was cooler, and sometimes hostile, for those arguing against the reestablishment of an Eagle River-Chugiak borough.

Residents of the area voted in 1974 to establish a separate

borough. Those in favor of separation amounted to 56 per cent of those voting. However, the establishment of the new government was ruled illegal last April by Alaska's Supreme Court. The court's opinion said the process by which the election was held and the new government instituted was improper and the government was disbanded.

An act had been passed by the state legislature enabling supporters of a separate borough to bypass the Local Boundary Commission. The court said this was "special interest" legislation and as such was unconstitutional. Since then, residents took the longer and slower route to independence and presented a petition to the commission.

THE FIRST PERSON to testify at Wednesday's hearing was Lee Jordan, former mayor of the defunct borough. Jordan strongly urged the commission to allow an election to be held. He characterized a brief filed with the commission by the Anchorage Municipality opposing a separate borough as "asinine."

The brief said that the area lacks the human, economic and

cultural resources that would justify a separate government.

"The stupidity of that statement is an illustration of Anchorage's lack of knowledge of our area and our needs," Jordan declared. Jordan took particular offense at a portion of the brief that said the closest approximation of a social and cultural center in the Eagle River-Chugiak area was "a local supermarket parking lot where the youth . . . gather."

In a half-hour long speech, Jordan claimed establishment of a new, separate borough was in the best interest of Eagle River-Chugiak area residents, the people of Anchorage, and the State of Alaska. He said the Anchorage government was unable to recognize his area's needs and tailor government services to meet them.

JORDAN CLAIMED establishment of the new borough would make it the sixth largest in the state. He said five of the existing 11 boroughs have less population and a poorer economic base than the proposed borough would.

Jordan blamed most of the Eagle River-Chugiak area's problems on Anchorage.

JOE WILEY of the Anchorage Planning Commission said there were both benefits and drawbacks to the proposed borough. He pointed out that if a new borough were established, many services provided by the present government would be discontinued. He cautioned also that the availability of federal funds might decrease.

Norm Levesque, chief finance officer for Anchorage, told the commission an accounting of assets and liabilities and the division of these between the present government and a proposed one would be very difficult. "We're trying for fairness and equity," Levesque said.

"IF YOU'RE SAYING anything, how about speaking up," one person shouted during Levesque's testimony. "He ain't saying anything," another retorted.

Ernie Brannon, member of the Anchorage Assembly for Eagle River-Chugiak, urged the commission to reach their decision on the facts, "without interference by politicians."