

AMIPA
Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association

February 20, 1993

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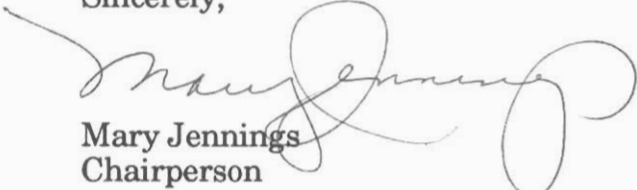
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SECTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Enclosed is a short statement by the Board of Directors of the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association (AMIPA). We are a newly formed non-profit corporation (1991) which is very concerned with the preservation of film and television. Although we are strictly a volunteer organization, in the past year we have designed a survey instrument and have begun collecting information on the extent of the moving image preservation problem here in Alaska. We are very concerned that video and television materials are being excluded from the national study and have based our short statement on that issue. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Jennings
Chairperson

AMIPA
Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association

Statement on the Current State of Film Preservation

February 20, 1993

The Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association is deeply concerned about the narrow scope of the Congressional Study. While film preservation is very important, the reality of our times dictates that television be included in the study for the following reasons.

- Television's shelf life is much shorter than film. After 15 years, TV needs to be re-mastered because of deterioration and obsolete formats and technology.
- Our national, state and local history has been documented on TV the last half of this century. If we lose it, we lose an irreplaceable historical heritage.
- The quantity of TV materials far exceeds the quantity of film materials and is therefore much more difficult to not only preserve but to select what should survive.
- Because television technology is a part of every home, film materials are routinely transferred to this medium for broadcast as well as for preservation. For this reason much of the film that needs to be preserved has already been transferred to TV.
- The study's narrow focus will not guarantee that film preservation is thoroughly researched because TV technology is so entwined with that of film.
- Today's generation cannot distinguish between the two. Therefore we suggest the study be defined as a **moving image** preservation study so that both film and TV are included. We all agree that not enough work on film preservation has been done but more work has been done on film preservation than TV preservation. The irony is that the quantity of TV materials far exceeds the amount of film.
- Major collections of video have already been lost. This country is only now becoming aware that television collections are in jeopardy. The irony is that interactive information systems are being perfected that will demand information stored on video for use in classrooms, industry and government. They are invaluable materials and store our nation's culture, history, entertainment and knowledge. A choice between saving film or saving television is not the issue, they are both one and the same. Different technology of tape vs. film are details of interest only to the industry. The truth is that the American people don't distinguish between film and video and a preservation program should be just as inclusive. TV and film are simply moving images.