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Juan Roederer, interviewee

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

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Karen Cedzo said federal budget cuts will cause a shutdown of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute system of seismographic networks around southern Cook Inlet at the end of 1982. That shutdown has serious implications for the state. Over the past decade a number of federal agencies and universities have been operating local seismographic networks along the Aleutian belt from the Gulf of Alaska to Adak. The Geophysical Institute largely with federal support has operated a system of thirty stations in the south central part of the state. The Department of Energy recently made the decision to shut down the system operated by the Institute in that area. Dr. Juan Roederer, director of the Geophysical Institute, said the cut back is not a decrease of support of the Institute, but rather a case in which the Department of Energy is saying it will support both projects of importance to the federal government. Dr. Roederer believes the state should be expected to support the seismic monitoring in the area because of the importance of that area. Roederer said the area in question is near the most populated area of the state. There is Anchorage, the rail belt, the coastal areas, and implications in the future of their studies there could be very important. They are interested in developing a seismic predicting capability and a volcanic hazard study development in that area. To develop prediction capability they will need many years of very detailed monitoring of the locally produced earthquakes. This doesn't include the big ones, but the small ones that give them information of activity in this entire area. Cedzo said Roederer pointed out there has essentially been no major support of seismology by the state up to now. To continue the program the Geophysical Institute requires about \$250,000 a year. Roederer said they currently have about thirty stations that are all automatic. They send their links to the center on campus. They are not talking about equipment, they are talking about servicing the equipment and mostly the cost of data transmission and data analysis. Dr. Roederer pointed out that the receiving of state funds is slow. Even if he received money from the legislature it would not be available until the next fiscal year, the beginning of July 1983. There would be no funding from December 31, 1982 through June 30, 1983. Roederer said what they need is some emergency support that could take two forms. One would be continuing collecting information without analysis so they would not entirely lose information from seismic events. He said the state legislature has appropriated 20 million dollars to all state agencies and that does include the university to cover shortfalls. The first priority in the allocation of those funds goes to social services and more human related activities. He believes what they are talking about is a human related or human impact activity. Cedzo said a proposal by the Geophysical Institute is being prepared to submit to the state Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

Cedzo reported on activities on campus.