

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 21

To the Honorable William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska! and the Honorable Hugh J. Wade, Acting Governor of Alaska:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in First Legislature, First Session assembled respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, there is a need for financial assistance to several school districts of Alaska where, despite the full measure of state support provided comparable districts, and despite local taxation equal to or beyond the state average, such districts are unable to meet school financial needs primarily because of the impact of Native populations; and

WHEREAS, there is need for more high school programs throughout Alaska, and particularly a need for local and regional high schools in the vast area of Alaska inhabited primarily by Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for provision of transportation and subsistence funds to Native families for the support of their children to live in areas serviced by a high school; and

WHEREAS, there is need for development of a long-range plan for transfer of operational responsibility of the schools presently operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the State of Alaska on a planned and scheduled basis which would insure that adequate building facilities were available, and would further insure necessary and adequate financial support through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the operation of such schools;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist does respectfully request that the Office of Governor of Alaska initiate a request for complete policy discussions to be held with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Interior, representatives of the Juneau Area Office of the Bureau of Indian

Affairs, representatives of the Department of Education, and representatives of the Alaska Legislative Council, with a view to developing a long-range agreement which will encompass the following points:

(1) A plan for transfer of operational and major financial responsibility of the present Bureau of Indian Affairs day schools to the State of Alaska on a planned and scheduled long range basis which would cover a 15 to 20 year period. Included in such plan there would need to be specific provision that the Bureau of Indian Affairs would provide necessary and adequate school facilities at each location before the state would accept title and assume major financial responsibility.

(2) Consideration of the need for more high school programs throughout Alaska and particularly the need for local and regional high schools for at least the 9th and 10th grade level, with the continuation of Mt. Edgecumbe as a regional high school for the 11th and 12th grades and to serve Southeast Alaska as necessary.

(3) Arrangements whereby the Bureau of Indian Affairs would provide transportation and subsistence funds to families for the support of their pupils to live in such places as Bethel, Dillingham, Kodiak, Nome, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Palmer, Cordova, Juneau, Petersburg, Sitka, Ketchikan and Valdez while attending local high schools.

(4) The provision of financial assistance to school districts under the Johnson O'Malley Act in those cases where school districts, despite the full measure of state support provided comparable districts and despite local taxation equal to or beyond the state average, are unable to meet school financial needs.

Passed by the Senate March 23, 1959.
Passed by the House April 4, 1959.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 22

To the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard Nixon, President of

the Senate; the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable E. L. Bart-