



Alaska State Legislature

1966

Source:

HJR 65

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting a presidential commission for the Alaska Native.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS it is the unanimous view of the Legislature of the State of Alaska that a series of articles on "The Village People" prepared by the staff of the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, Alaska, is an outstanding combination of well-researched and well-written text supported in its excellence by the best in journalistic photography; and

WHEREAS the series of articles and supporting photographs on "The Village People" has had a tremendous impact on the people of Alaska and those around the nation, most of whom for the first time have learned of the economic and social plight of the Alaska native people as they strive to find their place as citizens in a fast-moving and increasingly technical society; and

WHEREAS it is the conviction of the legislature that the problem of the Alaska native citizen as ably revealed and described by the efforts and reporting of the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS is mainly a federal one requiring conscientious and immediate attention

rather than the piecemeal, inadequate and disastrously-uncoordinated efforts of the present;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska combines its highest commendation of the service performed by the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS of Anchorage, Alaska, in preparing and publishing its thoughtful and moving series of articles on "The Village People" with an endorsement of its call for federal action which the legislature earnestly commends to the attention of the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States, in the language of a summary statement found in the collection of the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS articles:

"We believe that nothing less is required, immediately, than a Presidential commission for the Alaska native. Such a commission should be headed by a nationally-respected figure. It should look at the record, talk to the native people and transcend the authority of existing agencies to set up machinery for the restoration of the Alaska native to a place of equality and dignity."

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Carl Hayden, President pro tempore of the Senate; the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.