

SENATE AND HOUSE JOINT JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

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No. 6

ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE TED STEVENS

U.S. SENATOR

BEFORE A JOINT SESSION

OF THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE

NINETEENTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

February 3, 1995

Juneau, Alaska

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by the Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator

before the 19th Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
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MADAME PRESIDENT, MADAME SPEAKER, CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU. ALASKANS ARE PROUD YOU ARE MAKING HISTORY IN YOUR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS -- ALASKA HAS ONCE AGAIN SET A STANDARD FOR OTHER STATES TO FOLLOW.

YOU'VE PROVED THE BUMPER STICKER IS RIGHT. A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOUSE...AND THE SENATE.

AND TO ALL OF YOU MEMBERS OF THE 19TH ALASKA LEGISLATURE AND FELLOW ALASKANS, MY THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME OF THE CHANGES FOR ALASKA THAT MAY TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

I CONGRATULATE GOVERNOR TONY KNOWLES, ALSO. HE SAVED THE STATE MONEY DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY SLEEPING OVER AT THE WHITE HOUSE. EACH MEMBER OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MET WITH THE GOVERNOR -- WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

IT IS DIFFERENT IN CONGRESS. IN RECORD TIME WE ENACTED THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT -- TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESS LIVES BY THE SAME LAWS WE APPLY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- A PROCESS I HELPED START IN 1991.

BOTH HOUSES ALSO APPROVED LEGISLATION TO STOP CONGRESS FROM IMPOSING UNFUNDED MANDATES UPON STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS. THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE WILL MAKE COST ESTIMATES IF A MANDATE COSTS NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS MORE THAN \$50 MILLION, AND MUST DO THE SAME FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IF A MANDATE EXCEEDS \$200 MILLION.

ONCE THE COST ESTIMATE IS DETERMINED, CONGRESS MUST FUND MANDATES TO GOVERNMENTS OR VOTE TO EXPLICITLY WAIVE THE LAW'S PROVISIONS. SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THIS ACT ARE LAWS TO ENFORCE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS NOT RETROACTIVE, BUT IT COULD APPLY TO ANY INCREASES IN EXISTING MANDATES.

ON BALANCE, THIS SHOULD PREVENT MUCH OF THE COST-SHIFTING YOU HAVE SEEN RECENTLY. NOW, BEFORE CONGRESS PASSES A LAW, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN IT MAY PLACE ON GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES MUST BE CONSIDERED.

TOM FINK AND PAULA EASLEY OF ANCHORAGE DESERVE CREDIT FOR THIS NATIONAL CONCEPT. AS MAYOR TOM RAISED THE ISSUE AT THE MAYOR'S CONFERENCE, AND WITH PAULA'S HELP PREPARED A 1992 REPORT, "PAYING FOR FEDERAL MANDATES." MAYOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE OF BOISE, IDAHO, BECAME A U.S. SENATOR AND BROUGHT THE ISSUE RAISED IN THAT REPORT TO THE SENATE -- THE RESULT IS S. 1.

THIS NEW CONGRESS HAS ALSO CUT ITS OWN COSTS. AS CHAIRMAN, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RULES COMMITTEE, I HAVE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE A RESOLUTION WHICH REDUCES THE COST OF OUR COMMITTEE STAFF BY 15 PERCENT. WHEN APPROVED BY THE FULL SENATE, WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE RANKING DEMOCRAT ON THAT PANEL, WENDELL FORD, WE WILL HAVE SLASHED COMMITTEE BUDGETS BY 25 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND REDUCED STAFF POSITIONS FROM A PEAK OF 1,250 IN 1992 TO LESS THAN 950.

THESE MEASURES WERE TAKEN BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE MESSAGE THE VOTERS SENT US LAST NOVEMBER! THEY WANT LESS GOVERNMENT; THEY WANT THE GOVERNMENT THAT REMAINS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND COST LESS.

WENDELL FORD AND I FIRST RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE ENOLA GAY EXHIBIT LAST YEAR, AND JUST LAST WEEK THE SMITHSONIAN FINALLY CAME TO THEIR SENSES AND ELIMINATED THE "POLITICALLY CORRECT" ATTACK ON TRUMAN'S DECISION -- THE RIGHT DECISION I MIGHT ADD -- TO USE THE BOMB TO END WORLD WAR TWO.

THIS WEEK, CONGRESS IS DEBATING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE THAT ANNUAL FEDERAL BUDGETS BE BALANCED -- I WILL LIKELY SUPPORT IT.

WHEN THIS ISSUE CAME UP IN 1984 I VOTED FOR SUCH AN AMENDMENT. LAST YEAR, I VOTED AGAINST THE MEASURE BECAUSE I FELT THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE TOTALITY OF FEDERAL SPENDING; THAT IT WOULD CUT ONLY DISCRETIONARY SPENDING AND ALLOW ENTITLEMENTS TO CONTINUE TO GROW UNCHECKED.

ENTITLEMENTS ARE THE REAL DEFICIT CULPRIT. ON OUR PRESENT COURSE, BY 2012, EVERY FEDERAL TAX DOLLAR WOULD GO TOWARD ENTITLEMENTS; NO MONEY FOR DEFENSE. NO MONEY FOR SCHOOLS, HEAD START, AIRPORTS, ROADS OR RURAL SANITATION.

IF WE CUT JUST FROM DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS, DEFENSE, THE LARGEST ITEM IN THAT ACCOUNT WOULD VIRTUALLY DISAPPEAR -- AND I NEED NOT REMIND YOU DEFENSE IS A MORE THAN \$1 BILLION ALASKAN INDUSTRY.

I AM TRYING TO ASSURE THAT THIS YEAR'S AMENDMENT AND THE EXPLICIT INTENT OF CONGRESS MAKES CLEAR THAT SPENDING CUTS WILL BE FAIRLY APPLIED TO ALL EXPENDITURES. ACCORDING TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET WHILE GOVERNMENT SPENDING INCREASES 2 PERCENT PER YEAR WITHOUT TOUCHING SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE, WHILE ALLOWING MEDICAID TO GROW 5 PERCENT PER YEAR.

OF COURSE, THAT 2 PERCENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE PROJECTED RATE OF GROWTH.

IN FACT, IF THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT FAILS, SOCIAL SECURITY COULD BE IMPERILED BY THE SPIRALING INTEREST PAYMENTS ON THE NATIONAL DEBT. NET INTEREST PAYMENTS WERE \$200 BILLION IN 1993, AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$300 BILLION IN FIVE YEARS. IN SHORT, THE DEBT IS THE THREAT. UNCHECKED, INCREASED INTEREST PAYMENTS ENDANGER EVERY FEDERAL PROGRAM.

IF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT IS RATIFIED, CONGRESS MUST MAKE A REVIEW OF ALL ENTITLEMENTS AND ENSURE THAT NECESSARY PROGRAMS, SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY, REMAIN IN PLACE.

I WILL LEAVE FOR EACH OF YOU A COPY OF THE KERREY-DANFORTH COMMISSION (THE BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON ENTITLEMENT REFORM) REPORT. THEY MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS I URGE YOU TO REVIEW. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE LEADERS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIND A WAY TO CUT THE FAT OUT OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT REMOVING ITS HEART.

AFTER DEBATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, CONGRESS WILL TURN TO THE LINE-ITEM VETO, THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET, WELFARE REFORM AND TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYERS.

THERE IS MUCH IN THE "CONTRACT FOR AMERICA," WRITTEN BY THE HOUSE REPUBLICANS, WHICH WILL FIND SUPPORT IN THE SENATE. WE ARE WORKING TO GET THE COUNTRY'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER AND TRYING TO RESTORE MORE POWER TO YOU HERE, AT THE STATE LEVEL. WE ARE PROVING THE VALIDITY OF THE 10TH AMENDMENT.

LOOK FOR MORE BLOCK GRANTS FROM WASHINGTON WITH LESS RULES TO BIND YOUR DECISIONS ON HOW BEST TO TARGET LIMITED RESOURCES. ALSO, I AM COMPELLED TO SAY, LOOK FOR FEWER DOLLARS FROM THE CONGRESS AS WE CUT THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND REDEFINE ITS ROLE.

AS THIS NEW CONGRESS PROPOSES SWEEPING CHANGES NATIONALLY, OUR ALASKA DELEGATION IS STEADILY POSITIONING ALASKA ISSUES FOR ACTION.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE RECENT ELECTION HAS GIVEN DON, FRANK AND ME A GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE SOME LONG-STANDING MATTERS.

I BELIEVE THAT BEFORE THIS YEAR IS OUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO REWRITE THE MAGNUSON ACT -- WHICH WE CALL THE 200-MILE BILL -- REPEAL THE OIL EXPORT BAN, AND MAKE EXPLORATION OF THE ARCTIC PLAIN A POSITIVE NATIONAL CONCEPT.

OUR BIPARTISAN MAGNUSON PROPOSAL WOULD AUTHORIZE A DIRECT ASSAULT ON WASTE AND BYCATCH. IN THE NORTH PACIFIC, WE WILL REQUIRE THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO INCORPORATE PROVISIONS TO REDUCE BYCATCH, CUT ECONOMIC AND REGULATORY DISCARDS, SLASH PROCESSING WASTE, AND ENSURE FULL RETENTION AND FULL UTILIZATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES.

THE NEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND FISHERIES, WHICH I SUGGESTED AND NOW CHAIR, WILL HOLD HEARINGS IN MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, WASHINGTON STATE AND, OF COURSE, ALASKA ON THE MAGNUSON BILL.

WITH MORE THAN 740 MILLION POUNDS OF GROUND FISH BEING DUMPED IN THE NORTH PACIFIC ANNUALLY, WE...MUST...ACT! WE MUST ACT TO MAKE OUR FISHERIES CLEANER, TO PRESERVE AN INDUSTRY THAT IS ALASKA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, TO CONSERVE RESOURCES SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN MAKE THEIR LIVING FROM THE SEA.

OUR PROSPECTS ARE ALSO BETTER TO REPEAL THE BAN ON THE EXPORT OF ALASKA NORTH SLOPE CRUDE OIL. AN UNJUST, UNCONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION, THE BAN HAS COST ALASKA MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. IN THIS TIME OF CREATING GLOBAL MARKETS, IT IS A RELIC OF OLD-WORLD THINKING.

THERE ARE POWERFUL OPPONENTS, BUT IF WE PASS THIS BILL IN THE SENATE -- AND I BELIEVE WE CAN THIS YEAR -- DON CAN STEER IT THROUGH THE HOUSE. LIFTING THE BAN WILL GENERATE 25,000 JOBS IN THIS DECADE.

BRITISH PETROLEUM DESERVES CREDIT FOR CREATING A NEW APPROACH AND GAINING THE SUPPORT OF MARITIME UNIONS. WE ALSO WELCOME ARCO'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BACKING OF THIS EFFORT.

SINCE THE EXXON VALDEZ HIT THE ROCK IN 1989, DEVELOPMENT ON THE ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN HAS BEEN BEACHED. RATHER THAN USING THE TECHNOLOGY PERFECTED IN PRUDHOE BAY, THE WORLD'S BEST OIL FIELD, TO TAP AMERICA'S MOST PROMISING POTENTIAL PETROLEUM FIELD, ALASKANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO PLAY DEFENSE WHILE AMERICAN COMPANIES EXPLORE OVERSEAS.

WELL, NOW WE'RE THE TEAM WITH THE BALL AND IT'S TIME TO GAIN SOME GROUND. OVER THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR, DON, FRANK AND I WILL FIND WAYS TO ADVANCE ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT. HOPEFULLY WE WILL HELP CRAFT A LARGER NATIONAL PROPOSAL THAT NEEDS THE REVENUE ALASKAN OIL DEVELOPMENT WILL GENERATE TO PAY FOR INITIATIVES THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS SUPPORT.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IS STILL A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT, AS ARE THE POWERFUL LOBBIES OF THE EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT.

JUST LAST WEEK, DEPUTY ENERGY SECRETARY WILLIAM WHITE REAFFIRMED THE ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION TO ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT IN A VIDEO UPLINK TO AN ALLIANCE MEETING IN ANCHORAGE THAT SENATOR MURKOWSKI, SENATOR BOB DOLE AND I PARTICIPATED IN.

BUT MR. WHITE DID INDICATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH ALASKA TO DEVELOP FIELDS WHERE A FOOTPRINT OF DEVELOPMENT ALREADY EXISTS. THE TRANS-ALASKA GAS SYSTEM, TAGS, IS A PROJECT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SUPPORT. IT BUILDS ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND FIELDS THAT ALREADY EXIST.

TAGS WOULD CREATE 10,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND 600 PERMANENT JOBS HERE IN ALASKA. YUKON PACIFIC ALREADY HAS A MEMORANDUM OF INTENT WITH KOREA AND TAIWAN TO PURCHASE ALASKA GAS -- EXON, BP AND ARCO ARE ALL THAT ARE NEEDED TO BRING JAPAN ON BOARD AND MAKE TAGS A REALITY.

SENATOR MURKOWSKI WILL, I'M SURE, DISCUSS WITH YOU HIS PLAN TO BRING MEMBERS OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE TO ALASKA SO THAT THEY CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES WE FACE. THAT'S A GREAT IDEA. I WILL TRY TO DO THAT WITH SOME OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES I CHAIR ALSO. THOSE VISITS HELP OUR CAUSE AND COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE CLOSE VOTES WE WILL FACE.

THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING OUR NORTH SLOPE POTENTIAL HAS NEVER BEEN A SPRINT. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MARATHON. ALASKANS FOUGHT THE BATTLE FOR STATEHOOD, THE SETTLEMENT ACT, THE PIPELINE, AND THE LANDS ACT. ALASKA WON THOSE BATTLES BECAUSE WE WERE UNITED AND BECAUSE WE WERE PERSISTENT. THAT'S THE SAME REMEDY FOR SUCCESS WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING THE COASTAL PLAIN.

THE SUBSISTENCE ISSUE REMAINS A CONCERN. I HAVE TOLD THE GOVERNOR I THOUGHT IT WAS WRONG TO DROP THE SUIT, EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE THE STATE'S CHANCES OF WINNING WERE NIL.

FRANK, DON AND I WROTE THE GOVERNOR ON SUBSISTENCE AND SAID "IN OUR JUDGEMENT, CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WILL BE CONTINGENT ON A FIRM STATE CONSENSUS -- AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE AFFECTED ENTITIES IN OUR STATE, INCLUDING NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISH AND WILDLIFE INTERESTS." WE MUST HAVE CONSENSUS TO GET BACK TOTAL STATE MANAGEMENT OF ALL FISH AND WILDLIFE.

THE NEW LEADERSHIP POSITIONS THAT DON, FRANK AND I HOLD WON'T GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL WIN EVERY BATTLE FOR ALASKA. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN BOTH PARTIES WHO WANT TO SLASH SOME OF THE PROGRAMS WE NEED.

WE EXPECT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MONDAY AND RUMORS ARE FLYING THAT THE HE WILL SEEK TO END FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AND CUT SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES PROGRAM, WHICH IS OFTEN THE ONLY SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC STATIONS TO UPDATE ANTIQUATED EQUIPMENT.

FUNDING FOR COAST GUARD AND RURAL SANITATION ACTIVITIES MAY BE JEOPARDIZED AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING IS CERTAINLY DRAWING FIRE. AND, AS YOU KNOW, EVEN MORE SWEEPING PROPOSALS TO CUT FEDERAL SPENDING WILL BE OFFERED IN THE HOUSE.

MUCH OF THE WHAT IS BEING CALLED "REINVENTING GOVERNMENT" HAS MERIT. WE WORKED TO PASS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT REFORM LAST YEAR, WHICH SHOULD END THE HORROR STORIES OF TOILET SEATS COSTING THE TAXPAYERS HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS.

BUT, THE ALASKA PORTIONS OF THOSE REORGANIZATION PLANS DISTURB ME. OUR DELEGATION IS UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO MOVING THE FOREST SERVICE'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN JUNEAU TO PORTLAND. THE TONGASS IS THE LARGEST NATIONAL FOREST IN AMERICA. IF ANYTHING, THE FOREST SERVICE HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE HERE, AND NOT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!

WE HAVE HOPES OF MAKING GAINS ON OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT ALASKA. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THIS CONGRESS, ALONG WITH THE MAGNUSON BILL, SENATOR MURKOWSKI AND I INTRODUCED SENATE BILL 49 TO OVERHAUL THE WETLANDS PERMITTING PROCESS.

OUR BILL WOULD KEEP IN PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ALASKANS TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON WETLANDS. BUT IT WOULD END THE CONCEPT OF COMPENSATORY MITIGATION IN ALASKA, UNDER WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN FORCE ALASKANS TO PURCHASE WETLANDS ELSEWHERE -- EVEN IN THE LOWER 48 -- TO MAKE UP FOR ANY ESTIMATED IMPACT ON WETLANDS.

OUR MEASURE PUTS FLEXIBILITY INTO A PROCESS THAT HAS HAD A HARSH RESULT IN ALASKA. MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF LOWER 48 WETLANDS HAVE BEEN LOST; IN ALASKA WE'VE USED LESS THAN ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT. CLEARLY THE "NO NET LOSS" REMEDY FOR THE LOWER 48 IS OVERKILL IN ALASKA.

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ALL NON-MOUNTAINOUS LAND IN ALASKA IS CONSIDERED WETLANDS. ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMPENSATORY MITIGATION DOCTRINE, TO ME, WOULD SHATTER THE PROMISE OF STATEHOOD.

AT STATEHOOD, CONGRESS GRANTED ALASKA 104 MILLION ACRES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -- NATIVE CORPORATIONS RECEIVED 44 MILLION ACRES AS A RESULT OF THE SETTLEMENT ACT, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE CAN'T DEVELOP THOSE LANDS WITH A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL LOWER 48 WETLANDS SOLUTION.

THIS YEAR CONGRESS WILL ENACT A SWEEPING REFORM OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY. MY STAFF AND I ARE WORKING TO ENSURE THAT ALASKA RECEIVES THE SAME SERVICE AS THE LOWER 48 AND THAT RURAL AREAS ARE NOT LEFT OUT OF THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION. COMMUNICATIONS IS THE KEY TO PROSPERITY IN OUR RURAL AREAS.

EARLIER THIS WEEK, I HAD THE HONOR OF JOINING CHARLIE BIEDERMAN OF EAGLE IN INSTALLING AN ALASKAN DOG SLED, USED IN THE '20S AND '30S TO DELIVER MAIL IN THE UPPER YUKON REGION, IN THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM.

IT STRUCK ME HOW FAR WE'VE COME IN A SHORT TIME. WHEN I WENT TO THE SENATE, THE ARMY HANDLED OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE. CHARLIE TOLD ME HE NOW RECEIVES FAXES FROM HIS RELATIVES IN CALIFORNIA -- IT USED TO TAKE HIM TWO WEEKS TO MAKE THE ROUND-TRIP MAIL RUN TO EAGLE FROM FORT YUKON.

THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION IS BRINGING ALL ALASKANS ONE KEYSTROKE OR DIAL TONE AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. I WELCOME THE ENTRY OF AT&T INTO THE ALASKA MARKET. WITH THEIR VAST FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THEY COULD MAKE ALASKA A MODEL FOR OTHERS TRAVELING THE NEW INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.

ONE AREA WHERE WE ALREADY ARE A MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE NATION IS IN OUR DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL. THIS RECENT PERIOD OF DEFENSE CUTBACKS HAS IMPACTED ALASKA, BUT HAS ALSO REINFORCED OUR VITAL STRATEGIC POSITION.

THE REALITY OF DUAL DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN ALASKA HAS BEEN MADE MORE CONCRETE BY THE SIXTH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE'S LINKAGE WITH THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION IN FORT DRUM, NEW YORK -- MAKING THE SIXTH A TRULY GLOBAL BRIGADE.

AS WE MEET HERE TODAY, PERSONNEL OF THE SIXTH ARE DEPLOYED IN HAITI, JOINING THE 25TH LIGHT DIVISION FROM HAWAII, IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. LATER THIS YEAR, THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN AIR TRAINING RANGE WILL OPEN NEAR EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE TO SUPPORT COPE THUNDER AND GLOBAL AIR FORCE TRAINING. AIR FORCE UNITS FROM THE PACIFIC AND EUROPE ARE ALREADY TRAINING IN ALASKA.

CHANGES IN THE MILITARY STRUCTURE IN ALASKA HAVE OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO ALASKA BUSINESSES. NATIVE CORPORATIONS NOW PROVIDE THE BASE OPERATIONS SERVICES AT GALENA AIR STATION AND KING SALMON, AND WILL SOON BE AT EARECKSON AIR FORCE BASE AT SHEMYA.

DOD REGULATIONS INCLUDE A LOCAL HIRE CLAUSE, AND JUST LAST YEAR THE CONGRESS PASSED A PROVISION I AUTHORED TO REQUIRE A "LOCAL HIRE COMPLIANCE PLAN" FOR MILITARY CONTRACTS IN ALASKA.

THE 1995 BASE CLOSURE ROUND WILL INVOLVE ANOTHER CLOSE SCRUTINY OF OUR BASES. OUR BASES HAVE SURVIVED SO FAR BECAUSE CONGRESS HAS PROVIDED THE FUNDS TO MODERNIZE THE CAPABILITY OF OUR FORCES. THE EXPRESSED COMMITMENT OF THE STATE AND OUR COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR MILITARY NEIGHBORS IS ESSENTIAL TO THIS BASE CLOSURE PROCESS.

THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE, LED BY SENATOR TIM KELLY, IS WORKING IN CONCERT WITH US IN WASHINGTON, D.C., TO ENSURE THAT THE BASE CLOSURE COMMISSION UNDERSTANDS THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY MADE BY BASES IN ALASKA.

THE NEW ADJUTANT GENERAL JAKE LESTENKOFF GOT A GOOD START THIS WEEK AT THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT GENERALS MEETING IN D.C. TOGETHER WE WILL TRY TO CONTINUE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE AIR FORCE AND ARMY IN ALASKA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND OUR NEW GOVERNOR. ON SOME ISSUES WE HAVE DIFFERENCES, BUT OVERALL EACH OF US BELIEVES AND CARES ABOUT THE SAME THINGS, AND WE REPRESENT THE SAME CONSTITUENTS. MY CONTINUING GOAL IS TO ASSURE THAT PROMISES MADE TO ALASKANS WHEN WE BECAME A STATE ARE FULFILLED BY OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THERE ARE ISSUES THAT I HAVEN'T TOUCHED ON TODAY. SOME ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO OUR STATE; OTHERS GO BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS ARE BOSNIA, THE MEXICAN PESO, THE INCLUSION OF FORMER SOVIET STATES IN NATO, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH PACIFIC RIM NATIONS.

NATIONALLY, WE ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF ENTIRE AGENCIES -- LIKE EDUCATION, HUD, AND AGRICULTURE; OR THE CONSOLIDATION OF SOME INTO MEGA-DEPARTMENTS, WITH SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

JUST YESTERDAY A REORGANIZATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT WAS PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THERE WILL BE MORE TO COME.

TITLE IX -- THE LAW THAT PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN ALL SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS -- IS UNDER SIEGE BY THE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION. THE COACHES WANT TO ELIMINATE SOME NON-REVENUE PRODUCING SPORTS SO THAT THERE WILL BE MORE MONEY FOR THEIR FOOTBALL TEAMS.

I INTEND TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE AMATEUR SPORTS ACT, WHICH I AUTHORED IN 1978, DURING WHICH WE WILL REVIEW TITLE IX TO ENSURE THAT THE GUARANTEES FOR WOMEN TO HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO SPORTS PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE WEAKENED. WHAT THE COACHES CALL "MINOR SPORTS" -- LIKE SWIMMING, TRACK, CROSS-COUNTRY, AND GYMNASTICS -- SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE YOUNG ATHLETES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

IN ALASKA, TELEMEDICINE AND TELE-EDUCATION, RURAL SANITATION PROBLEMS, THE ADAK CARIBOU HERD, HEALTH AND WELFARE REFORM, AND OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS ARE ISSUES THAT ARE ON PEOPLE'S MINDS.

I ASSUME YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON SOME OF THOSE ISSUES. I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU WHICH ONES YOU WANT TO DISCUSS TODAY.

MY THANKS, AGAIN, FOR ALLOWING ME TO APPEAR HERE TODAY.