

**HOUSE AND SENATE
JOINT JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT**

February 15, 1996

Thursday

No. 18

ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE TED STEVENS

U.S. SENATOR

BEFORE A JOINT SESSION

OF THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE

NINETEENTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

February 15, 1996

Juneau, Alaska

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The following speech was submitted to the Chief Clerk's office for publication:

Statement of Senator Ted Stevens Alaska State Legislature February 15, 1996

MADAME SPEAKER, MADAME PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE 19TH ALASKA LEGISLATURE, AND FELLOW ALASKANS.

ALASKANS HAVE REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT ARE TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.. EVERY MEMBER OF OUR DELEGATION IS A FULL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN -- WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED. THOSE POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCE WON'T GUARANTEE VICTORIES FOR ALASKA ON EVERY ISSUE, BUT NOW WE ARE PLAYING OFFENSE INSTEAD OF DEFENSE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEBATE OVER ANWR USED TO BE WHETHER IT WOULD BE LOCKED AWAY FOREVER AS WILDERNESS. NOW, ALASKA'S TEAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING THE QUESTION: WHEN WILL ANWR BE OPENED FOR RESPONSIBLE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

ALASKANS HAVE WELCOMED THE CHANGE THAT IS OCCURRING IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL -- BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR CHANGE FOR SOME TIME.

THE FREEDOM AND EQUAL STATUS THAT ALASKA WAS PROMISED IN OUR STATEHOOD COMPACT HAS BEEN A DREAM DEFERRED.

BUT NOW, WITH OUR UNIFIED, EXPERIENCED, CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ALASKA HAS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY SINCE THEN TO ACHIEVE OUR RIGHTS AS AN EQUAL PARTNER IN OUR FEDERAL UNION.

THIS PAST YEAR, WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU AND GOVERNOR KNOWLES, FRANK, DON AND I MADE A SIGNIFICANT DOWN PAYMENT ON FULFILLING THAT DREAM. WE OBTAINED PASSAGE OF A BILL TO REMOVE THE SHACKLES OF A TWO-DECADES-OLD, UNJUST, UNCONSTITUTIONAL BAN ON THE EXPORT OF ALASKAN OIL. AND, BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS GAVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL PLAIN OF ANWR.

WE'VE ACHIEVED AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO FURTHER PROTECT OUR STRADDLING FISH STOCKS THAT OVERLAP INTERNATIONAL WATERS; WE'VE PASSED LEGISLATION TO REIMBURSE FISHERMEN WHO WERE FORCED TO PAY AN ILLEGAL CANADIAN TRANSIT FEE; AND WON A MORATORIUM FROM THE IMPOSITION OF INSULTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED VIRTUALLY ALL CLAIMS OF TRADITIONAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS FEDERAL LAND AND BELITTLED STATES' RIGHTS.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE HAS NOW INCORPORATED THE WETLANDS BILL I INTRODUCED INTO A LARGER MEASURE -- AND WE BELIEVE IT WILL NOW GO TO THE SENATE FLOOR.

ALASKA'S TEAM STOOD FIRM WITH THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO BALANCING OUR FEDERAL BOOKS AND WORKING TO REDUCE THE CRUSHING DEBT THAT LOOMS OVER THE NEXT GENERATION OF ALASKANS. SADLY, WE REMAIN DIVIDED HERE IN ALASKA OVER THE FUTURE OF TIMBER HARVESTS IN THE TONGASS. CONGRESS WILL NOT RESOLVE THAT DISPUTE BETWEEN OURSELVES.

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LETS TURN FROM THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT TO THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE FUTURE. JUST LAST WEEK, THE PRESIDENT SIGNED LANDMARK LEGISLATION THAT MY STAFF AND I, PRINCIPALLY EARL COMSTOCK, HELPED WRITE OVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST FIVE YEARS.

THIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996 WILL LITERALLY CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE. IT UNLEASHES MARKET FORCES THAT WILL BRING NEW CONCEPTS TO COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, ENTERTAINMENT AND COMMERCE. MILLIONS OF NEW JOBS WILL BE CREATED AND MOST IMPORTANTLY ALASKA WILL NOT BE RELEGATED TO A DIRT TRAIL OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.

AT MY INSISTENCE, THE ACT ENSURES THAT ALASKA IS A FULL PARTNER IN THE INFORMATION AGE WHICH WE ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND. IN THE LEGISLATION, AN AMENDMENT OF MINE ENSURES THAT ALL INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS MUST CHARGE THE SAME RATES TO CUSTOMERS IN EACH STATE THEY SERVE, THUS ENSURING THAT ALASKANS WILL NOT PAY HIGHER RATES FOR SERVICES THAN CUSTOMERS IN THE LOWER 48.

ALASKA'S REMOTE DISTANCES AND HARSH CLIMATE ARE OFTEN FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES. THEY ARE NO IMPEDIMENT TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS THAT THIS NEW LAW ENCOURAGES. THE ECHO WE HEAR WHEN CALLING RURAL ALASKA VILLAGES SOON WILL BE A DISTANT MEMORY. LONG DISTANCE CARRIERS IN OUR STATE ARE SPENDING TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO UPGRADE BUSH EARTH STATIONS. THROUGH DAMA (DEMAND ASSIGNED MULTIPLE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY) OUR TELEPHONE CALLS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO SATELLITES AND BE BEAMED TO SHISHMAREF OR KAKTOVIK WITHOUT MAKING INTERMEDIATE TERRESTRIAL HOPS THAT CREATE THE DISTORTION WE NOW HEAR.

HEALTH CARE THROUGHOUT ALASKA WILL ALSO LEAP FORWARD. SPURRED BY THIS NEW LEGISLATION, TELEMEDICINE WILL BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN STATE OF THE ART HOSPITALS IN OUR CITIES, AND TOWNS OR VILLAGES WITH LIMITED OR NO MEDICAL SERVICES. VIA SATELLITE, DOCTORS IN ANCHORAGE WILL READ THE X-RAY OF A FISHERMAN WITH A BROKEN ARM IN DUTCH HARBOR OR MONITOR CHEST PAINS OF A TEACHER IN KLAWOCK. I ENVISION A DAY WHEN VETERANS WILL STAY IN KENAI AND HAVE THEIR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED OR AN EKG REVIEWED WITH THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY, WITHOUT DRIVING TO ANCHORAGE.

OUR NEW LAW ALSO MANDATES V-CHIPS FOR NEW TELEVISION SETS TO ENABLE PARENTS TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN BY SCREENING OUT OBJECTIONABLE PROGRAMS. A STUDY RELEASED JUST LAST WEEK, FUNDED BY THE CABLE INDUSTRY, CONCLUDES THAT THE VIOLENCE OUR CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO ON TELEVISION CAN HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS AND MAY BE A FACTOR IN THE INCREASED VIOLENCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS.

AND WHILE ALASKA AND THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES ENJOYS THE BENEFITS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION, WE'VE ALSO FOUND A WAY TO USE THE GROWTH OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TO CUT OUR FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT. RATHER THAN GIVING AWAY THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM THAT EMERGING INDUSTRIES LIKE CELLULAR SERVICES AND PAGERS USE, THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED MY PROPCAL TO AUCTION THAT SPECTRUM. THIS PLAN, WHICH CONGRESS APPROVED IN 1993, RESULTED IN MORE THAN \$13 BILLION BEING PAID IN 1995 TO THE

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TREASURY. THE FINAL TOTAL COULD BE MORE THAN \$70 BILLION -- ALMOST HALF OF OUR CURRENT FEDERAL DEFICIT.

MY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, EARL COMSTOCK, WILL BE HERE ON FEBRUARY 20TH TO BRIEF YOU, YOUR STAFF AND THE GOVERNOR'S PEOPLE ON THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996.

LATER TODAY HERE IN JUNEAU, I WILL CHAIR A HEARING OF THE SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE LAST IN A SERIES OF ALASKA HEARINGS, THE GOAL OF WHICH IS TO LISTEN TO ALASKANS' VIEWS AND TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BETTER OUR SUIT NEEDS.

I UNDERTAKE THESE SESSIONS WITH A SPECIFIC GOAL: TO PUSH FORWARD LEGISLATION THAT WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE DRAMATIC REDUCTION OF OUR FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY.

THERE ARE TOO MANY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS OFTEN OVERLAP. TODAY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS THE POWER TO VETO A WETLANDS PERMIT ISSUED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, EVEN THOUGH THE CORPS MUST FOLLOW THE SAME ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AS THE EPA. THIS IS THE TYPE OF INEFFICIENCY AND REDUNDANCY THAT WE MUST PULL UP BY THE ROOTS.

I HOPE TO SET IN MOTION A PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE WHOLE DEPARTMENTS AND CONSOLIDATE THE FUNCTIONS OF OTHERS.

WITH THE REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT, WE PLAN ALSO TO ELIMINATE THE REDUNDANT FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT ARE COMING SO FAST FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION THAT THEY RIVAL THE BLIZZARD OF '96 WHICH COVERED WASHINGTON LAST MONTH.

IN 1995 ALONE, THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH ISSUED 67,500 PAGES OF REGULATIONS, AND I GUARANTEE YOU THAT FEW, IF ANY, MADE UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL LANDS IN ALASKA EASIER OR PROTECTED ALASKANS' FREEDOM.

OBTAINING GREATER FREEDOM FOR ALASKANS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT GOAL FOR OUR STATE IN CONGRESS. SOMETIMES WE SUCCEED, SUCH AS IN THE ADOPTION OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT OFF OUR SHORES OR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE. OTHER BATTLES REMAIN, BUT THE RECENT ELECTION HAS FINALLY GIVEN ALASKA'S TEAM A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE OUR STATE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON, D.C.

I BELIEVE ONE SENTENCE SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD GIVING ALASKA, AND THE REST OF THE STATES, THE POWER TO DO JUST THAT.

THE SENTENCE IS FOUND IN THE TENTH AMENDMENT OF OUR FEDERAL CONSTITUTION: "THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE."

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, I INTEND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE THE 10TH AMENDMENT AND MAKE CLEAR THAT FEDERAL LAWS MAY NOT, BY INFERENCE, INTERFERE WITH STATE OR LOCAL POWERS. UNDER MY BILL, THE COURTS WOULD ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO INTERPRET FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT INTERFERE WITH STATE POWERS WITH A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOR OF STATE AUTHORITY.

IN THE WEEKS TO COME, I'LL BE TALKING MORE ABOUT THIS CONCEPT. IT IS NOT JUST FOR ALASKA, IT'S FOR EVERY STATE.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS THAT THE ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER. WE'RE GOING TO HOLD HIM TO HIS WORD. WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO DOWNSIZE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE GOING TO RETURN MORE POWER TO YOU IN THIS ROOM AND TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA.

ONE POWER CONGRESS WANTS TO GIVE THE STATES IS THE POWER TO REFORM A WELFARE SYSTEM THAT IS UNDERMINING OUR FISCAL INTEGRITY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE CAUGHT IN ITS CYCLE OF DEPENDENCE.

I TRAVELED ON THE YUKON AND KUSKOKWIM RIVERS LAST SUMMER AND MET WITH RESIDENTS ALONG THOSE WATERS, I HEARD THEIR CALLS FOR REFORM. THE PEOPLE I SPOKE WITH RECOGNIZED THAT THE WELFARE SYSTEM DIDN'T WORK AND NEVER WOULD.

THE WELFARE REFORM BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS AND VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT WAS A GOOD BILL. IT WOULD HAVE ENDED THE INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENT TO WELFARE AND BLOCK-GRANTED FUNDS TO THE STATES TO RUN WELFARE PROGRAMS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE REQUIRED ABLE-BODIED WELFARE RECIPIENTS TO WORK AND WOULD HAVE IMPOSED A FIVE-YEAR LIFETIME LIMIT ON BENEFITS. CONGRESS ALSO GAVE STATES THE ABILITY TO DENY INCREASED CASH ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS WHO HAVE AN ADDITIONAL CHILD WHILE THEIR FAMILY IS ON WELFARE.

BILLIONS WERE PROVIDED IN OUR BILL FOR CHILD CARE, AND PROGRAMS FOR NUTRITION AND DISABLED CHILDREN WERE RETAINED.

OUR EFFORT WAS UNDERTAKEN BECAUSE A GOVERNMENT CHECK IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A JOB. WE NEED TO GIVE THE 39,000 ALASKANS WHO SPENT TIME ON WELFARE LAST YEAR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL WORK OUT A BILL THE PRESIDENT WILL SUPPORT -- IN 1992 HE PLEDGED TO "END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT."

THE DESIRE TO REFORM OUR WELFARE SYSTEM IS BORNE OUT OF A RECOGNITION THAT THE POLICIES OF THE PAST DO NOT FIT THE PRESENT AND CANNOT WORK IN THE FUTURE; IT ALSO SPRINGS FROM A RECOGNITION THAT THE TAXPAYERS WILL SIMPLY NO LONGER SUPPORT A FAILED EXPERIMENT.

ENTITLEMENTS SUCH AS WELFARE NOW REPRESENT MORE THAN 50-PERCENT OF OUR FEDERAL BUDGET. ABSENT POLICY CHANGES, ENTITLEMENT SPENDING AND INTEREST ON THE NATIONAL DEBT WILL CONSUME ALMOST ALL FEDERAL REVENUE IN JUST 14 YEARS. FACING THOSE FACTS, CONGRESS ADOPTED A SEVEN-YEAR PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. THE PRESIDENT VETOED THAT PLAN, AND AFTER FIVE TRIES, FINALLY SUBMITTED A BALANCED BUDGET SCHEME USING REALISTIC ECONOMIC FORECASTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN DELAYS REAL DEFICIT REDUCTION UNTIL 2001 AND 2002 -- BEYOND ANY POSSIBLE SECOND-TERM AND TOO FAR INTO THE FUTURE TO BE CREDIBLE.

WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES, WE WILL RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, AND HOPEFULLY FIND AN HONORABLE SOLUTION. BUT EVEN WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT WE'RE MOVING FORWARD TO CUT SPENDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR SEVEN-YEAR TIMETABLE.

I'M CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LINE ITEM VETO LEGISLATION, AND BEFORE THIS YEAR IS OUT CONGRESS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DUE ON AN I.O.U. TO FORMER PRESIDENT REAGAN. WE WILL SEND BACK TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE A

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LINE ITEM VETO BILL AND HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE APPROVED AND SENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

UNLIKE PAST YEARS, THE LINE ITEM VETO CONCEPT WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO DEALING WITH CONTROLLABLE APPROPRIATED ACCOUNTS (JUST ABOUT 30-PERCENT OF FEDERAL SPENDING WHICH INCLUDE DEFENSE, OTHER DOMESTIC PROGRAMS AND FOREIGN AID). INSTEAD, THE LINE ITEM VETO I HAVE HELPED AUTHOR WILL GIVE THE PRESIDENT THE POWER TO CUT ANY NEW FEDERAL SPENDING, INCLUDING NEW ENTITLEMENTS AND TARGETED TAX BREAKS. IF ALL GOES WELL, NEXT YEAR I WILL ASSUME THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND WILL HAVE AN EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP BALANCE OUR FEDERAL BOOKS. THE CHAIRMAN ALLOCATES FUNDS BUDGETED FOR EACH FEDERAL DEPARTMENT.

ALASKA'S SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDS WILL LIKELY NOT INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIGHT FISCAL TIMES, BUT ALASKA WILL HAVE A SEAT AT EVERY TABLE WHEN THE FUNDING BILLS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT ARE DRAWN UP. AS FEDERAL FUNDS CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN OUR PUSH TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, I WILL DO MY BEST AS CHAIRMAN TO ENSURE THAT ALASKA PRIORITIES, SUCH AS COAST GUARD SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS OR FUNDING FOR THE FAA, WILL NOT BE UNFAIRLY TARGETED.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CAN HELP THWART POLICIES INIMICAL TO ALASKA INTERESTS. JUST LAST YEAR IN APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES WE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF OXY-FUELS IN FAIRBANKS, KEPT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF MINES IN ALASKA, AND STOPPED THE ELIMINATION OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE WHICH WOULD HAVE LEFT MANY ALASKA COMMUNITIES WITHOUT REGULAR AIR SERVICE.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR ALASKA. WETLANDS AND SUPERFUND REFORM ARE WITHIN REACH. OUR EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THIRD WORLD SANITATION CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY MANY OF ALASKA'S RURAL RESIDENTS ARE GAINING GROUND.

MY WIFE CATHERINE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SENATE WIVES ON A NUMBER OF WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES -- AND I'VE TRIED TO FOLLOW THEIR SUGGESTIONS -- WHICH INCLUDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH FOR BREAST CANCER, OSTEOPOROSIS AND LUPUS. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE SUGGESTED A NATIONAL "HOT LINE" THAT WOMEN CAN CALL TOLL-FREE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES. AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION, WHICH MY STAFF AND I ARE PURSUING.

ALASKA'S FOUR LARGE MILITARY BASES CAME THROUGH THE 1995 BASE CLOSURE ROUND UNSCATHED, AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE RESIDENTS OF DELTA JUNCTION TO ADJUST TO THE REALIGNMENT OF FORT GREELY.

THE CLOSURE OF THE ADAK NAVAL AIR FACILITY HAS ACTUALLY PRESENTED ALASKANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR ECONOMY. TOMORROW, I WILL HOST, ALONG WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE NAVY, AN "ADAK SUMMIT" DESIGNED TO BRING THE PARTIES INTERESTED IN USING ADAK'S FACILITIES TOGETHER IN ONE ROOM. WE HOPE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE USE OF THE ISLAND CAN BE DEVELOPED.

ANOTHER UNFOLDING SUCCESS STORY IS THE HIGH-FREQUENCY ACTIVE AURORAL RESEARCH PROJECT (HAARP). BY CONVERTING THE CANCELED OVER-THE-HORIZON BACKSCATTER RADAR SITE AT GAKCNA INTO A WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY, THE TAXPAYERS ARE SEEING A RETURN ON

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THEIR INVESTMENT AND 41 ALASKAN COMPANIES HAVE BENEFITTED TO THE TUNE OF \$8 MILLION OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

THE HAARP PROJECT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO FIND UNDERGROUND GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES AND I HOPE WILL BE ABLE TO DETECT SUBSURFACE MINERAL AND OIL DEPOSITS. ITS MILITARY APPLICATIONS HOLD THE PROMISE OF BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH OUR SUBMARINES AT SEA AND THE POSSIBLE DETECTION OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS AND THEIR CONTENTS.

BEFORE THIS YEAR IS OUT, DON YOUNG AND I WILL CO-CHAIR A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON ACT -- THE 200-MILE LIMIT LAW. WE WANT TO PRODUCE A BILL THAT DRAMATICALLY REDUCES WASTE AND BYCATCH IN THE NORTH PACIFIC. OUR CONFERENCE WILL REACH AGREEMENT, I BELIEVE, ON A MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TRANSFERABLE FISHING QUOTA REGIMES UNTIL CONGRESS CAN DETERMINE IF THEY ARE AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT TOOL.

I HAVE SEEN ALASKA GROW FROM A TERRITORY DOMINATED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO A FLEDGLING STATE STILL DOMINATED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. NOW, ALASKANS MUST INSIST ON EQUAL STATUS WITH OUR SISTER STATES.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA TO MAKING THAT A REALITY FOR ALASKA'S FUTURE.

THANK YOU.