

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. DIMOCK

2

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 29

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

5

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE CONGRESS OF THE

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UNITED STATES; THE SECRETARY OF STATE; THE SECRETARY OF THE

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INTERIOR, AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

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Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of

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Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully

10 represents:

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WHEREAS, a new and ominous threat to the fishery resources

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of Alaskan waters has appeared; and

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WHEREAS, an Embassy dispatch from the United States Embassy

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in Tokyo, dated February 16, 1953, advises that the Japanese

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fishing fleet will, this year, enter Alaskan coastal waters for

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the purpose of fishing for an expected catch of one million,

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one hundred thousand king crab during a five month period, exten-

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ding from the last of April through September; and

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WHEREAS, the dispatch further advises that a five thousand

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ton mother ship the "Tekel Maru", equipped with a two-line crab

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cannery capable of producing three hundred cases per day, to-

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gether with twelve catcher boats carrying with them approximately

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four thousand miles of tangle net gear and twenty-five sets of

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trawl gear and crews of approximately four hundred and twenty-one

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Japanese fishermen, will enter Alaskan waters by the end of

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April, 1953 and over which the United States has no control; and

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WHEREAS, this new entry upon the fishing waters of Alaska

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is possible under the terms of a treaty between the United

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States, Canada and Japan as proposed in 1952, whereby the people

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H. J. N. No. 29 as amended

1 of Japan were denied the right to fish for salmon and halibut
2 in the Pacific Ocean east of 175° West Longitude and for herring
3 south of the Aleutian Islands, but were not prohibited from enter-
4 ing Alaskan coastal waters for the purpose of fishing for bottom
5 fish, crab and other shellfish; and

6 WHEREAS, in the absence of restrictions under existing pro-
7 visions of the proposed treaty, the Japanese crab fishermen are
8 allowed to use equipment, gear and methods in Alaskan waters
9 which are currently prohibited by the Japanese government in
10 Japanese Waters; and

11 WHEREAS, during the 1952 fishing season the Japanese
12 fishing fleet in the area west of the 175th meridian and in
13 Alaskan waters caught 2,102,787 salmon, of which 673,503 were
14 red salmon, some of which were undoubtedly destined for the
15 fisheries of the Bristol Bay; and

16 WHEREAS, the salmon fisheries of Alaska have become
17 seriously depleted, and this Japanese operation threatens to
18 exterminate the crab fisheries of the Territory with resultant
19 irreparable damage to the economy and well-being of the Territory
20 and its residents; and

21 WHEREAS, king crab fishing has been a lucrative enterprise
22 for a considerable number of years and has added greatly to the
23 wealth of the Territory; and

24 WHEREAS, the people of Alaska were not given proper repres-
25 entation at the negotiations which resulted in formation of the
26 aforesaid proposed treaty with Japan;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, YOUR Memorialist, the Legislature of the
28 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respect-
29 fully prays, on behalf of the people of Alaska and of the United

1 States, that immediate and positive action be taken by the
2 Government of the United States to investigate and prevent the
3 threatened destruction of the salmon and crab fisheries of
4 Western Alaska which contribute vitally to its economic well-
5 being; that immediate steps be taken to revise the terms of the
6 proposed treaty, or that a new agreement be entered into with
7 the Empire of Japan to protect and safeguard the great fisheries
8 of Alaska from further entry by foreign fishing fleets, and to
9 protect the rights of citizens of the United States who engage
10 in fishing in Alaskan waters.

11 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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