

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 HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

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STATES; THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; THE HONORABLE JOHN

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FOSTER DULLES, SECRETARY OF STATE; THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY,

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SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT,

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DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

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Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska,

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in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully represents:

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WHEREAD, a new and ominous threat to the fishery resources of

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Bristol Bay 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 Bristol Bay waters for

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the purpose of fishing for an expected catch of one million, <sup>6</sup>

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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 "Tekei 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 Bristol Bay fishing grounds by the

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

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and

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WHEREAS, this fishery is in an area now being fished by

1 American fishermen under United States Government restrictions  
2 but which will now be exploited by other nations under terms of a  
3 treaty between the United States, Canada and Japan as proposed in  
4 1952, whereby the people of Japan agreed not to fish for salmon  
5 and halibut in the Pacific Ocean east of 175° West Longitude and  
6 for herring south of the Aleutian Islands, but are allowed to fish  
7 for bottom fish, crab and other shellfish in the Bering Sea and  
8 Gulf of Alaska; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the salmon fisheries of Alaska have become  
19 seriously depleted, and this Japanese operation threatens to  
20 exterminate the Bristol Bay crab fisheries with resultant  
21 irreparable damage to the economy and well-being of an American  
22 industry; and

23 WHEREAS, king crab fishing has been an established enterprise  
24 for a considerable number of years and has contributed to the  
25 national wealth; and

26 NOW, THEREFORE, YOUR Memorialist, the Legislature of the  
27 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respect-  
28 fully prays, on behalf of the people of Alaska and of the United  
29 States, that immediate and positive action be taken by the

1 Government of the United States to investigate and prevent the  
2 threatened destruction of the salmon and crab fisheries of  
3 Western Alaska which contribute vitally to its economic well-  
4 being; that immediate steps be taken to implement the treaty by  
5 enactment of legislation providing for U. S. participation in  
6 research and management of this fishery before it becomes depleted  
7 by over-exploitation, and to protect the rights of citizens of  
8 the United States who engage in fishing in this area.

9       And your Memorialist further prays that the Congress of the  
10 United States or its appropriate agency take immediate steps to  
11 define Territorial waters and historic bays over which the United  
12 States may exercise jurisdiction in order to prevent entry in  
13 such waters by foreign fishing fleets.

14       AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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