

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. DUFFIELD

2

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 14

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN

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AFFAIRS; THE TERRITORIAL COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE

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DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

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Your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the

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Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Regular Session assembled,

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respectfully represents:

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WHEREAS, the second Judicial Division of the Territory of

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Alaska is virtually without industry; and

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WHEREAS, approximately 13,000 native Eskimo people inhabit

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this area; and

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WHEREAS, Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 is now being aban-

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doned, thus creating complete unemployment in the Point Barrow

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area, and the completion of military contracts has created a

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like situation in the Kotzebue, Nome and Unalaklett areas; and

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WHEREAS, the normal progression of these fine people has

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turned to disgression due to their increasing dependency upon

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territorial and U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs welfare funds, as

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well as the already depleted reindeer herds and natural food

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resources; and

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WHEREAS, there is an "open market" for leather goods made

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from the skins of the native's "food animal" hides, and all

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native arts and crafts, and although this market has been touched

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upon there has been no effort made to instruct in the art of

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tanning and manufacture of leather goods, other than replicas

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of the Eskimos natural clothing, which has a limited market;

1 NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist respectfully prays that
2 the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, in joint venture with the
3 Territorial Department of Education, establish a vocational
4 training school and factory in the second Judicial Division for
5 the natives of Northwestern Alaska, wherein the arts of tanning,
6 manufacturing, ivory carving, painting, basketry, jade work,
7 studies of the use of by-products from seal, walrus, and whale,
8 and reindeer husbandry shall be taught, so that the rapidly
9 dying native crafts will be preserved and a sound economy may
10 come to these people whose future at present is "The next welfare
11 check."

12 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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