

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR JONES

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 22

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; AND THE 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 that:

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WHEREAS, there are in the Territory of Alaska approximately
10 16,000 Eskimos who constitute over twelve percent of the total
11 population of the Territory; and

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WHEREAS, the economic condition of these people is almost
13 universally poor; and

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WHEREAS, during the long winter months there are few, if
15 any, opportunities for employment for the Eskimos which will
16 permit them to provide themselves with the necessities of life;
17 and

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WHEREAS, the sole source of potential income for the
19 majority of such people is from the sale of curios and jewelry
20 which they carve by hand from ivory; and

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WHEREAS, the Federal wartime retailers' excise tax of 20%
22 on jewelry includes such jewelry made by the Eskimos from ivory;
23 and

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WHEREAS, this tax adds so much to the retail price of such
25 articles that the Eskimos are unable to realize from their
26 excellent but arduous work the income to which they are justly
27 entitled and which they so desperately need; and

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WHEREAS, the elimination of such 20% excise tax would lower
29 the cost of those ivory products to a point where the consumers'

1 demand for them would increase tremendously and would thus
2 provide for the Eskimos a real incentive and opportunity to
3 earn a decent living and provide themselves with necessary food,
4 clothing and shelter;

5 NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist prays that appropriate
6 legislative action be taken at the earliest opportunity to
7 exclude from the 20% retailers' excise tax on jewelry articles
8 made from ivory by the Eskimos of Alaska.

9 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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