

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR JONES

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 22

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

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TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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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

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33,000 Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos who constitute over twenty

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percent of the total population of the Territory; and

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WHEREAS, the economic condition of these people is almost

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universally poor; and

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WHEREAS, during the long winter months there are few, if

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any, opportunities for employment for the Indians, Aleuts and

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Eskimos which will permit them to provide themselves with the

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necessities of life; and

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WHEREAS, the sole source of potential income for a great

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number of such people is from the sale of curios and jewelry

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which they carve by hand from ivory; and

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WHEREAS, the Federal wartime retailers' excise tax of 20%

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on jewelry includes such jewelry made by the Indians, Aleuts and

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Eskimos from ivory; and

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WHEREAS, this tax adds so much to the retail price of such

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articles that the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos are unable to

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realize from their excellent but arduous work the income to

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which they are justly entitled and which they so desperately

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need; and

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WHEREAS, the elimination of such 20% excise tax would lower

1 the cost of those ivory products to a point where the consumers'  
2 demand for them would increase tremendously and would thus  
3 provide for the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos a real incentive and  
4 opportunity to earn a decent living and provide themselves with  
5 necessary food, clothing and shelter;

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

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