

*Comm. & Ord.*

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR EGAN

2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
6 STATES; TO THE HONORABLE JOHN FOSTER DULLES, SECRETARY OF STATE;  
7 TO THE UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION; TO THE COMMITTEE FOR  
8 RECIPROCITY INFORMATION; AND TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT,  
9 DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

10 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska,  
11 in Twenty-second Session assembled, respectfully represents that:

12 WHEREAS, the State Department of the United States of America  
13 has stated its intention of negotiating the General Agreement on  
14 Tariffs and Trade with Japan and other member countries; and

15 WHEREAS, a possible reduction in the tariff of 22½% ad  
16 valorem on canned crabmeat and 15% ad valorem on fresh or frozen  
17 crabmeat is to be considered; and

18 WHEREAS, the cost of production in the Alaska crab industry  
19 is high due to costly capital outlays for boats; fishing gear  
20 such as nets, trawls and pots; canneries; freezing plants both  
21 ashore and afloat; and the necessary high cost of skilled labor  
22 which includes fishermen and cannery workers essential for the  
23 proper functioning of this industry; and

24 WHEREAS, this skilled force of workers must command wages  
25 commensurate with the high cost of living in Alaska; and

26 WHEREAS, the profit margin per case of crabmeat at present  
27 quoted prices has permitted the Alaska crab industry to become  
28 established and over a period of years, has permitted them to  
29 expand their operations; and

1           WHEREAS, the Alaska crab industry expansion in the five years  
2 from 1949 to 1953 has amounted to an increase in the value of the  
3 crab landings to the fishermen from \$153,133.00 to \$866,352.00;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, the value of the finished products has increased  
6 from \$622,598.00 to \$2,098,883.00 during this same period; and

7           WHEREAS, the development of the crab industry has assisted  
8 materially in augmenting the low income of the fishermen caused  
9 by the decline in salmon abundance; and

10           WHEREAS, the crab fisheries provides year around employment  
11 to fishermen and cannery workers - an extremely healthy economic  
12 condition; and

13           WHEREAS, the king crab industry of Alaska is in direct  
14 competition with Japanese fishermen and processors in Bering Sea;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, the Alaska crab industry is extremely vulnerable to  
17 imported crab products from areas of low labor and other pro-  
18 duction costs; and

19           WHEREAS, any reductions in the crabmeat tariff would deal  
20 a fatal blow to the crab industry in Alaska; and

21           WHEREAS, reductions in the present crabmeat tariff would  
22 wipe out the Alaska crab fisheries and would give Japan the  
23 incentive to greatly expand their crab operations, presumably  
24 right up to the three mile limit; and

25           WHEREAS, the Japanese could then take full advantage of the  
26 large reserves of unexploited dungeness, king and tanner crabs  
27 off the shores of Alaska;

28           NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist respectfully prays that the  
29 Honorable John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, and the United

1 States Tariff Commission make a finding that the current crabmeat  
2 tariffs constitute the peril point and that no reductions be made  
3 in the crabmeat tariffs.

4 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30