

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. VON DER HEYDT

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 19

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
6 STATES; HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM
7 ALASKA; HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING AND WILLIAM EGAN, SENATORS-
8 ELECT FROM ALASKA; AND RALPH RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT FROM
9 ALASKA.

10 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska,
11 in Twenty-third Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits
12 that:

13 WHEREAS, Section 27 of the Jones Act (Merchant Marine Act
14 of 1921, 46 U.S.C.A., Sections 861-889) is grossly discriminatory
15 against the Territory of Alaska in that it requires all shipments
16 originating in the Eastern United States and carried westward
17 across the continent by Canadian railway to be carried north in
18 American flagships, although similar shipments destined for
19 Pacific Coast ports of the United States may be hauled south
20 in Canadian ships; and

21 WHEREAS, the professed original purpose to protect Puget
22 Sound shipping interests to foster an American coastwise merchant
23 marine as "necessary for the National Defense" has been clearly
24 superseded by the great development of Alaska and the present
25 position of the Territory in the scope of National Defense; and

26 WHEREAS, the strategic importance of Alaska has been amply
27 demonstrated by the events of World War II and developments
28 subsequent thereto, and it is apparent that the growth of Alaska
29 into a strong buffer state is now indispensable to the national

1 interest, and that the Territory can not become a bulwark of
2 strength unless its development be treated without prejudice
3 as a matter of national policy; and

4 WHEREAS, the wording of the Jones Act is openly discriminatory
5 and seriously hinders the development of Alaska in that it
6 guarantees to single shipping interests the monopolistic right
7 of northern trade which is derogatory to the development of
8 the Territory in the best interests of national security; and

9 WHEREAS, high freight rates have obstructed Alaska's
10 development for over thirty years and the effect of the Jones
11 Act has been to substantially increase the power of present
12 West Coast American shipping monopolies at the further and
13 discriminatory expense of the industry and commerce of Alaska,
14 and at great sacrifice to the development of the Territory,
15 which development is of paramount importance to the Nation as
16 a whole; and

17 WHEREAS, freight rates under free competition would open up
18 hauling of cargo from Eastern United States to ports on the
19 West Coast of Canada, and thence by Canadian ships to Alaska
20 coastal points at approximately two-thirds the now existing
21 rates from Seattle; and

22 WHEREAS, it is not a principle of the government of the
23 United States to favor discriminately one segment or group of
24 citizens to the detriment of another,

25 NOW, THEREFORE, we, your Memorialists, the Legislature of the
26 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-third Regular Session assembled,
27 do respectfully pray that Section 27 of the Jones Act be amended
28 to remove the present discrimination therein contained against
29 the Territory of Alaska.

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AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY,