

1 IN THE HOUSE BY MRS. FISCHER AND MR. DEVEAU

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE FRED A. SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE
6 HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING,
7 SENATORS FROM ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

9 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
10 First Legislature, First Session assembled, respectfully
11 represents:

12 WHEREAS, by virtue of the provisions of the Act of February
13 26, 1944 (58 Stat 100; 16 U.S.C., secs. 631a - 631q), as confirmed
14 by Public Law 85-508, "an Act to provide for the admission of the
15 State of Alaska into the Union", the Secretary of the Interior
16 is granted the authority to permit sealing on the Pribilof
17 Islands and to supervise the sale of the sealskins so taken on
18 these islands which are part of the State of Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS, as a part of this general supervision of the
20 Pribilof seal industry, the Secretary has permitted only the most
21 basic processing of these sealskins -- a resource of Alaska with
22 annual revenues approaching a million dollars -- to be accomplished
23 within the state, the finish processing taking place in St. Louis,
24 Missouri, also the site of the annual sealskin sale; and

25 WHEREAS, if these Alaska sealskins were processed to the
26 point of sale in Alaska itself, the following benefits would
27 thereby arise:

28 (1) The economy of the State would be materially aided
29 by the local employment created in such new sealskin processing

1 industry;

2 (2) The revenue to the United States and to Alaska
3 derived from the sale of sealskins would be considerably raised
4 by cutting down the present processing cost arising out of the
5 necessity of shipping the unfinished sealskins such a distance
6 prior to their final processing and sale;

7 (3) The quality of the sealskins sold would rise due
8 to the location of the finishing site close to the harvesting
9 grounds thereby minimizing losses arising out of long distance
10 shipments and increasing the control of the finishers over the
11 methods of the harvesters;

12 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State
13 of Alaska, on behalf of the people of Alaska, respectfully
14 urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the
15 United States to remove the site of the sealskin finishing
16 industry to the State of Alaska and to thereafter direct that
17 the sale of such Alaska product be held within the State of
18 Alaska.

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