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IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. CASHEL AND
MR. DEVEAU

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. NIXON, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; THE HONORABLE SAM RAYBURN, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, First Legislature, First Session assembled, respectfully represents:

WHEREAS, there is now raging an international conflict over the extent to which any nation may claim jurisdiction over its surrounding waters; and

WHEREAS, the United States has traditionally taken the view that the territorial limits of any nation extend only three miles from its shore; and

WHEREAS, the United States, acting by and through its Department of State, has attempted to persuade the other nations of the world that the traditional three mile limit is the proper limit for territorial jurisdiction and should be universally recognized; and

WHEREAS, in so presenting its stand, the United States is ignoring the interests of the states of the union whose economy is largely dependent on the natural resources to be found in the surrounding territorial waters, and whose livelihood has been threatened by the inroads of foreign vessels fishing with impunity

1 outside the traditional three mile limit who in so doing destroy
2 the fishing economy of the nearby state; and

3 WHEREAS, this problem is particularly critical in Alaska
4 where by virtue of the increased and aggressive depredations of
5 the Japanese fishing vessels many fisheries in the state waters,
6 particularly those of Bristol Bay, have been virtually destroyed
7 by such activity barely without the three mile limit and which
8 activity promises to increase considerably; and

9 WHEREAS, Japanese fishing interests have already indicated
10 their intention to establish a fleet of fishing vessels in
11 neighboring British Columbia, the purpose of which is to utilize
12 fishing grounds adjacent to our West Coast; and

13 WHEREAS, this whole issue is one of extreme emotional concern
14 to those nations which rely on fishing, as is evidenced by the
15 conflict in the waters off Iceland in which the British insisted
16 on their rights to fish up to three miles off Iceland, and as
17 evidenced by other incidents arising off South America in which
18 South American nations have attempted to extend their territorial
19 waters; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States in insisting on the three mile
21 limit is threatening the fishing resources not only of other
22 nations but also of some of its own states, including Alaska;

23 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State
24 of Alaska, respectfully urges that the territorial waters of the
25 United States be extended from the present three mile limit to
26 twelve miles, in line with that desired by other nations of the
27 world with fish resources, or in the alternative, that the three
28 mile limit be maintained but that a nine mile restricted fishing
29 zone be established.

HJM # 20