

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FEDERAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 61

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
6 STATES; THE HONORABLE SAM RAYBURN, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
7 THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. NIXON, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; THE HONORABLE WILBUR D. MILLS, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE WAYS AND
8 MEANS COMMITTEE; THE HONORABLE HARRY FLOOD BYRD, CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE
9 ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

13 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
14 First Legislature, Second Session assembled respectfully submits
15 that:

16 WHEREAS, because of the admitted need of the federal government for augmented revenue during World War II, the Congress not
17 only increased many existing federal taxes but also imposed a
18 variety of additional taxes as temporary emergency measures; and

20 WHEREAS, one of these temporary emergency measures was a 10
21 percent tax on local telephone service; and

22 WHEREAS, this tax has remained in effect and now costs telephone subscribers in the United States an estimated \$800,000,000
23 a year; and

25 WHEREAS, unless extended by the definite, affirmative action
26 of the Congress, the present emergency federal tax on telephone
27 service will expire on June 30, 1960; and

28 WHEREAS, continuation of the telephone tax in the federal tax
29 structure is not required for budget balancing but to aid in

1 increasing the federal surplus during the fiscal year commencing
2 July 1, 1960, in excess of the revenue which would be produced by
3 continuing the telephone tax; and

4 WHEREAS, release by the federal government of this source of
5 revenue would reduce the general tax burden borne by the citizens
6 of the several states; and

7 WHEREAS, an informal poll taken by the Executive Committee of
8 the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders disclosed
9 that the overwhelming majority of these leaders were opposed to
10 the extension of the emergency federal telephone tax;

11 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that the Congress vote
12 against the reimposition of the federal telephone tax beyond
13 June 30, 1960.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

HJM #61