

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR BELTZ

2 SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
6 STATES; THE HONORABLE FRED A. SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR;
7 THE HONORABLE JAMES E. HAWKINS, ALASKA NATIVE SERVICE; THE HONOR-
8 ABLE E. L. BARTLETT, THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM
9 ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM
10 ALASKA:

11 Your Memorialist, the Senate of the State of Alaska, in First
12 Legislature, First Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

13 WHEREAS, there are approximately 173 school-age children in
14 Unalakleet, Alaska, which school population is likely to increase
15 in the next several years due to the operation and maintenance of
16 a "White Alice" communications site, an AC & W radar site, and a
17 Civil Aeronautics Administration installation in the area and the
18 influx of personnel to man said installations; and

19 WHEREAS, Unalakleet is the postal distribution center for the
20 Lower Yukon Valley causing an additional increase in the school-
21 age population; and

22 WHEREAS, there are no public educational facilities for chil-
23 dren in Unalakleet beyond the eighth grade although there is a
24 great need and desire for secondary education as evidenced by the
25 fact that almost all of the school children in the Unalakleet area
26 choose to continue their education beyond the eighth grade by at-
27 tending school at Mt. Edgecumbe, approximately 1,000 miles distant
28 from their home; and

29 WHEREAS, education at Mt. Edgecumbe removes Unalakleet chil-

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1 dren from the conditions and circumstances whereunder said chil-
2 dren will later have to apply their education in the earning of a
3 livelihood; and

4 WHEREAS, it causes great sacrifices in the maintenance of
5 family life to separate children from their parents, thus depriv-
6 ing both children and parents of the security and advantages of
7 family life and of the beneficial effects that family life have
8 upon learning; and

9 WHEREAS, Unalakleet as the population, transportation and
10 communication center for its area presents unusual advantages for
11 location of a school in that it has adequate port facilities and
12 a large airstrip where mail planes land six times a week for the
13 distribution and collection of mail to and from Unalakleet and the
14 Lower Yukon Valley; and

15 WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Service originally planned to
16 commence construction of secondary school facilities in Unalakleet
17 during 1957; and

18 WHEREAS, despite the great need for these facilities, con-
19 struction has been postponed for lack of funds until sometime
20 between 1960 and 1963 or even later; and

21 WHEREAS, it is manifestly unfair to deprive children of an
22 opportunity for education beyond the eighth grade in their home
23 community equal to that enjoyed by other Americans;

24 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that Congress appropri-
25 ate funds for the immediate construction of school facilities for
26 children in the Unalakleet area for education beyond the eighth
27 grade and further prays that the Department of the Interior and
28 the Alaska Native Service urge upon the Administration the great
29 necessity for reviewing its proposed budget for the coming fiscal

1 year in order to provide for such immediate construction.
2 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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