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IN THE HOUSE

BY MESSRS TAYLOR,
DEVEAU AND BLODGETT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.53

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Relating to Bureau of Indian
Affairs statements concerning
the Vocational Education School
at Nome.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN
SECOND LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION ASSEMBLED:

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Legislature that
the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, has
informed the State of Alaska that it will not participate in the
construction or operation of the proposed state vocational edu-
cation school at Nome; and

WHEREAS, an official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is
quoted as labeling the construction of the school as a mere poli-
tical move by the state which does not merit BIA participation;
and

WHEREAS, this is a gratuitous insult to the people of Alaska
who voted overwhelmingly by referendum to bond themselves for
\$1,500,000 to construct this desperately needed facility; and

WHEREAS, the vocational school at Nome was programmed and
overwhelmingly voted for as evidence of the concern of the people
of Alaska for the educational needs of its citizenry in Northwest
Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the school is intended to assist the federal
government, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in
carrying out the obligations it assumed long ago to provide a

1 useful education to the Native citizens of Alaska; and

2 WHEREAS, the people of Alaska voted to place the burden of
3 the cost of the vocational school at Nome on themselves with the
4 knowledge that the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska had
5 approved the project and was willing to cooperate with the State
6 in the project; and

7 WHEREAS, in addition to labeling the effort of the people of
8 Alaska as a "pork barrel" legislation, the BIA official is also
9 quoted as stating that the state program for the school interferes
10 with the Bureau's prerogative in the education of the Native
11 citizenry of the area; and

12 WHEREAS, rather than an interference with a prerogative
13 which the Bureau has not always used to the full extent of its
14 capabilities and the needs of the people concerned, the action by
15 the people of the State was intended rather to assist the Bureau
16 in carrying out its assignment;

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
18 Second Legislature, Second Session assembled, that the Legislature
19 expresses hereby to the President of the United States and the
20 Secretary of the Interior its amazement and chagrin that such dis-
21 honest, unwarranted and impolitic accusations and insults should
22 be directed to the people of the State of Alaska in their efforts
23 to realize a dream of long standing to bring a practical education
24 to the youth of Northwestern Alaska in cooperation with the agency
25 of the Department of the Interior charged with that primary respon-
26 sibility; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Interior is
28 respectfully requested to take immediate and firm action to direct
29 his subordinate in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to re-examine his

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1 manners as well as the facts of the case; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
3 the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President of the United States;
4 the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the
5 Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the members of the
6 Alaska Delegation in Congress.

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