

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. JARVELA

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to protection of Alaska's fish-
6 eries against incursions by foreign fish-
7 ing vessels.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS, the urgent need to protect Alaska's ocean fisheries
10 has been manifested by numerous incidents during the past year off
11 both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, in which Russian and Japan-
12 ese vessels have engaged in fishing activities within our terri-
13 torial waters or exploited resources of our continental shelf; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to trawling for king crab in internation-
15 al waters near Kodiak Island, Russians navigating fleets of modern
16 fast vessels have ruthlessly moved through waters already occupied
17 by Alaskan fishermen and ostensibly on purpose damaged or des-
18 troyed their gear, consisting of crab pots with buoys, which rough
19 action has created an explosive situation leading toward the de-
20 pletion of the great Alaska king crab fishery upon our continental
21 shelf, concurrently with driving Alaskans from one of their
22 traditional fishing grounds and thereby, unless brought to a stop,
23 ruining their means of earning a livelihood; and

24 WHEREAS, our government presently lacks statutory authority
25 to adequately protect our territorial waters within the three-mile
26 limit and to protect the resources upon our continental shelf,
27 finding itself, through use of its own vessels and authorized
28 agents, entitled under existing federal law to merely board foreign
29 vessels trespassing within our three-mile limit and politely

1 requesting them to leave; and

2 WHEREAS, Russia has already established a twelve-mile fishing
3 zone along its coasts, and Canada has announced its intention of
4 doing likewise; and

5 WHEREAS, the International Convention on the Continental
6 Shelf entered into at Geneva in 1958 and already signed by 21 na-
7 tions, including the United States and the Soviet Union, will,
8 upon ratification by one more nation, become effective and entitle
9 the United States in conformance with international law to assert
10 and enforce its claim to ownership and control over the resources
11 under the ocean within the bounds of and upon or attached to our
12 continental shelf; and

13 WHEREAS, S. 1988, introduced in the Senate by the senior
14 senator from Alaska, Mr. Bartlett, and sponsored through a com-
15 panion bill in the House of Representatives by Alaska's repre-
16 sentative, Ralph J. Rivers, defines violations and authorizes im-
17 poundments and forfeitures and prescribes penalties with regard to
18 violations of our territorial waters by foreign fishing vessels
19 and with regard to harvesting by foreign fishermen of the re-
20 sources of our continental shelf; and

21 WHEREAS, this legislation has passed the Senate and will be
22 in line for House action in 1964, and is deemed to be necessary
23 and advisable as an implementation of United States power and
24 sovereignty in the process of protecting and perpetuating
25 America's offshore fisheries resources for harvest by American
26 fishermen;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that S. 1988, now pending in the U. S. House
28 of Representatives, is unqualifiedly endorsed and its passage and
29 approval strongly urged by the Legislature of the State of Alaska;

1 and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the United States is
3 respectfully urged to intensify executive studies now in progress
4 as to the advisability of establishing a twelve-mile fishing zone,
5 and to be prepared to assert the claim of the United States over
6 the marine resources upon or attached to our continental shelf; as
7 soon as possible after the ratification of the above referenced
8 International Convention on the Continental Shelf by one more
9 nation, which event is expected to occur presently; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to
11 the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States;
12 the Honorable Carl Hayden, President pro-tem of the United States
13 Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the United
14 States House of Representatives; the Honorable Herbert C. Bonner,
15 Chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries;
16 and to the Alaska Delegation in Congress.

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