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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BRINE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the settling and develop-
6 ment of Western and Northern Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS economic development is the most pressing need of Alaska today;
9 and

10 WHEREAS people form the basis of any economic development; there being no
11 need for economic development without people; and

12 WHEREAS the greatest resource of any nation is its people; this being
13 especially true in America where the 45 million immigrants in its 200-year
14 history gathered from all parts of the world, from all races and all creeds,
15 freedom lovers all, to forge from a wilderness the greatest nation in the
16 history of the world; and

17 WHEREAS the United States is currently spending hundreds of millions of
18 dollars annually on foreign aid to feed and care for people in other lands,
19 such aid producing a major dollar drain on the U. S. Treasury, a negative
20 balance of payments, and an outflow of gold from this country; and

21 WHEREAS the Governor calls for priority legislation to develop the
22 western and northern parts of Alaska through the creation of a Commission for
23 Northern Operations of Rail Transportation and Highways; and

24 WHEREAS President Johnson in his Executive Order #11182, October 2, 1964,
25 established federal machinery for long range economic and development planning
26 in Alaska and provided for cooperative, coordinated action without the govern-
27 ment of the State of Alaska in the development and execution of the plans; and

28 WHEREAS the first report by the chairmen of these Presidential Committee
29 for the development planning in Alaska, was made September 14, 1966, entitled

HCR 71

1 "Economic Development in Alaska, a Report to the President", such report
2 offering the estimate that Alaska can be developed, can significantly contri-
3 bute to the total national growth, and that a unique opportunity for State-
4 Federal partnership in economic enhancement is possible, and further such
5 committees conclude that a successful pattern for State and Federal joint
6 economic and coordinated resource planning is emerging; and

7 WHEREAS Western and Northern Alaska is very sparsely populated although
8 a vast area rich in natural resources, the total population of our state in
9 1900 being only 60,000 people while today it is only 275,000, and yet the
10 land area of Alaska is larger than the original 13 colonies with their three
11 million peoples at the time of independence; and

12 WHEREAS unlimited immigration policies in for more than the first 100
13 years of existence of this great nation permitted the rapid settlement and
14 economic development of the west making the United States the greatest power
15 in the world under a system of government serving liberty and justice for
16 all; and

17 WHEREAS the settlement of Western and Northern Alaska through immigra-
18 tion would again serve the purposes of freedom, and also act as a major
19 catalyst for the economic development of our state, creating a new American
20 West; and

21 WHEREAS the immigrant peoples are an ambitious, hardworking and far-
22 sighted class, historically making fine citizens, it being true that most of
23 the members of the Alaska Legislature today are the sons or grandsons of
24 immigrants; and

25 WHEREAS the State of Florida is enjoying unprecedented prosperity as a
26 result of opening its arms and its heart to the unfortunate Cuban refugee
27 immigrants approximately one-half million of whom have settled there in the
28 past five years; and

29 WHEREAS the settlement of the Matanuska Valley in 1935 in a forward

1 looking combination of Federal and Territorial enterprise provided the
2 foundation on which the present economic development of Southcentral Alaska
3 derived its impetus, and furnishes us with a successful example of settle-
4 ment benefits; the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation being the Federal
5 Corporation organized for this purpose and funded with five million dollars
6 and providing transportation to Alaska of the settlers, and loans too for
7 subsistence and development as well as building streets, sewers, schools,
8 hospitals and utilities; and

9 WHEREAS opening Alaska to immigration in this Centennial Year cele-
10 brating 100 years under the American Flag would gain Alaska national and
11 international recognition and force the attention of the world on America
12 and Alaska as still representing the land of opportunity; and

13 WHEREAS the settlement of Western Alaska would aid in the development
14 of the rural areas by bringing people and skills of various types to the
15 rural areas which would aid immeasurably in the advancement of our Native
16 peoples, permit construction and utilization of improved schools and hos-
17 pitals, reduce the costs of goods and services in the rural areas, make
18 feasible the development of cheap river transportation through the deep sea
19 port of Bethel, throughout the Kuskokwim River Valley, and by means of the
20 proposed Fritz Canal connecting the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers, thence
21 throughout the vast Yukon River area; and

22 WHEREAS the settlement of Western Alaska through immigration with the
23 building of new communities, would create substantial economic activity
24 involving all of the present resources of the state including labor which
25 would be hard pressed to meet the demands of the regular construction not
26 to mention the new construction requested; and

27 WHEREAS virtually an unlimited source of food exists in the many
28 thousands of Alaskan lakes and rivers, sufficient to support large popula-
29 tions, other food sources being the caribou and reindeer as well as domestic

1 animals, and good agricultural lands in abundance, the USSR having demon-
2 strated the productivity of the Siberian areas, which are similar to Alaska,
3 by settling many hundreds of thousands of its citizens there and developing
4 successful agricultural programs; and

5 WHEREAS the settlement of one million selected immigrants in Western
6 and Northern Alaska could be accomplished as proposed in the following plan;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to put the
8 following ideas into effect as part of a general plan and to petition the
9 Alaska delegation in Congress to enact the necessary laws on the national
10 level

11 FIRST - urge all voluntary organizations and individuals, including
12 churches, to sponsor immigrants to Alaska, such immigrants being among
13 those 350,000 who are permitted into the United States each year under
14 present law, and helping to locate these peoples in Western Alaska. Great
15 emphasis must and should be placed on the churches of Alaska and other non-
16 profit groups, the so-called independent sector of our economy, to get the
17 job started fast. The State and Federal Government action would follow.

18 SECOND - establish a public agency which might be called the Alaska
19 Immigration Agency, a joint Federal-State venture, a partnership in progress,
20 administered by the State of Alaska, funded by the United States primarily, or
21 a 90-10 Federal-State matching basis, the original capital contribution being
22 100 million dollars.

23 THIRD - create an Immigration Advisory Council composed of 25 citizens
24 from all walks of life, and representing all ethnic groups and cultures,
25 whose purpose would be to study and advise the Governor on all facets of
26 this historical movement, including perhaps setting limits of 10-20 per cent
27 on any single racial group, requiring the oath of allegiance to this country,
28 and setting up other regulations such as a 5-10 year residency requirement
29 in the original townsite or area.

1 **FOURTH** - a special act of the U.S. Congress permitting the settlement
2 of Western and Northern Alaska by one million immigrants meeting the present
3 requirements of law, but these one million being over and above the number
4 of immigrants permitted under present quotas.

5 **FIFTH** - select and lay out a townsite with reference to the most abund-
6 ant natural resources available, especially food, to the need for labor to
7 construct the ARR to the west, to the need of labor to develop the mineral
8 resources, road building requirements, etc. of this great state.

9 **SIXTH** - develop an areawide plan with initial minimal construction of
10 an airport, roads, a school, community mass housing and kitchen facilities,
11 sewer and water facilities, followed by the sale of land in the new city to
12 private enterprise to develop the community and provide a tax base and
13 revenue.

14 **SEVENTH** - this initial development should take one year, and be followed
15 by the admission and settlement of the first 5,000 immigrants who would con-
16 tinue the physical development of the community, gradually blend in with the
17 resident Alaskan who developed the original townsites, and prepare for the
18 steady inflow of an estimated 10,000 immigrants annually.

19 **EIGHTH** - create a monetary policy under which each immigrant family
20 would receive a minimum guaranteed subsistence wage until permanent employ-
21 ment was secured. Congress could grant tax credits to those Alaskans who
22 chose to pay into the immigration corporation fund in lieu of payment of
23 Federal income taxes thus providing a permanent source of funding for this
24 historical project. The various and special agencies of the Federal and
25 State Governments could work together to provide for business loans, agri-
26 cultural loans and others to aid economic development. The original 100
27 million of capital could be used as a revolving fund, loaned out to the
28 qualifying immigrants, and the sale of land alone to both immigrants and
29 businessmen would keep this fund permanently solvent.

1 **COPIES** of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B.
2 Johnson, President of the United States, the Honorable John T. Connor,
3 Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce and Chairman of the President's Review
4 Committee for Development Planning in Alaska; Mr. Joseph H. Fitzgerald,
5 Chairman, Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska; and
6 the Honorable E.L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U.S. Senators,
7 and the Honorable Howard W. Follock, U.S. Representative, members of the
8 Alaska delegation in Congress.

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