

Introduced: 2/13/69
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ORBECK

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the downgrading in status
6 of the Fairbanks area, the Alaska
7 region of the Federal Aviation Agency

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

9 WHEREAS, because of the huge size of Alaska, the isolated nature of its
10 populated areas, and the resulting lack of ground transportation facilities,
11 the people, business and industry of the state must rely almost solely on
12 air transportation; and

13 WHEREAS most of the air traffic of the state is centered around Anchor-
14 age and Fairbanks; and

15 WHEREAS polar flights and Arctic flights are increasing in number,
16 especially from the oil-rich North Slope of Alaska; and

17 WHEREAS the reduction of the Fairbanks control zone, after the 1967
18 flood, from coverage of half the state to an area with a 150-mile radius,
19 reduced the area covered by surveillance radar making radar control of the
20 Arctic impossible; and

21 WHEREAS the Anchorage control zone of the Federal Aviation Agency is
22 being upgraded to the point that the effect will be that Fairbanks will be-
23 come a subsector of Anchorage F.A.A. even though radar surveillance of the
24 Arctic with present equipment is impossible from Anchorage; and

25 WHEREAS one of the justifications for upgrading Anchorage and a basis
26 for faster promotions and higher grade levels and pay schedules is the high
27 traffic count in that area which is due in part to the fact that planes
28 coming over the pole pass into the Anchorage control zone, then into the
29 Fairbanks control zone, and again into the Anchorage zone as they proceed

1 south, enabling one plane to be counted twice; and

2 WHEREAS the downgrading of Fairbanks has the inequitable effect of
3 making grade levels and pay schedules higher in Anchorage than in Fairbanks
4 for the same jobs;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that, because much of the downgrading of the Fairbanks
6 area of the Alaska region of the F.A.A. is based on not entirely reasonable
7 considerations, because it has inequitable effects on the personnel in
8 Fairbanks, because of the great expense in equipping Anchorage with a
9 sophisticated computer system to cover the area previously covered by
10 Fairbanks and because this new system is far from being operational, the
11 Legislature of the State of Alaska respectfully requests the Federal Aviation
12 Agency to reconsider the downgrading of the Fairbanks area of the Alaska
13 region of the F.A.A. in favor of a more practical, more equitable, and
14 safer course of action.

15 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable D. D. Thomas,
16 Federal Aviation Agency Administrator; the Honorable Lyle Brown, Alaskan
17 Regional F.A.A. Director; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
18 Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and to the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.