

Introduced: 1/28/70
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BLODGETT

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 77

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to communications in the
6 remote areas of Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the lack of communications facilities in the remote areas,
9 small rural towns and villages of Alaska poses a great threat to the eco-
10 nomic development of the state, to the health, safety, educational level and
11 general well-being of the residents of those areas, and to trade and commerce;
12 and

13 WHEREAS this very serious handicap is an immediate and substantial
14 factor retarding the people and the economy of the whole state; and

15 WHEREAS with the tremendous advances in all facets of communications
16 in recent years, expertise, equipment and funds are available to fill the
17 state's needs; and

18 WHEREAS the state Departments of Economic Development and Public Works,
19 the Alaska Public Service Commission, the communications industry and the
20 Rural Electrification Administration have all failed to cope with the
21 serious communications problems of rural Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature seeks by this Resolution to provide a
23 catalyst for action to resolve the communications problems of the remote
24 areas of the state;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Air Force Communications Service (ACS) is
26 requested, in carrying out its present program of installing VHF radio-
27 telephone communications facilities in 75 rural Alaska villages, to insure
28 that these VHF radios will be compatible with fully automatic unattended
29 telephone switchboards with direct distance dialing capabilities to allow

1 for future expansion and integration of these facilities into an all-Alaska
2 communications system; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Village Electrical Coop. Inc. is
4 requested to make application for Rural Electrification Administration loan
5 funds with a viewpoint to establishing R.E.A. cooperative telephone systems
6 in each of the 75 rural villages that are embraced in the ACS VHF radio-
7 telephone installation program.

8 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Melvin R.
9 Laird, Secretary of Defense; Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., Secretary of the
10 Air Force; Colonel Jack C. O'Dell, Commander of the Air Force Communications
11 Service; the Honorable Dean Burch, Chairman of the Federal Communications
12 Commission; the Honorable David A. Harnil, Administrator of the Rural
13 Electrification Administration; the Honorable Willard Rhodes, Manager of
14 Alaska Village Electrical Coop., Inc.; the Honorable Harold D. Strandberg,
15 Commissioner of Public Works; the Honorable Donald E. Hall, Executive
16 Director of the Alaska Public Service Commission; and to the Honorable Ted
17 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable
18 Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
19 in Congress.
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