Introduced: 4/2/71
Referred: Resources

IN THE SENATE BY JOSEPHSON

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

Requesting issuance of an environmental impact statement.

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

WHEREAS the federal government is weighing the environmental impact of the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline under the National Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS this Act has various purposes, including the purpose "to declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man"; and

WHEREAS the earth's ecosystem is a closed system in which whatever happens in one corner of the world, affecting the environment there, inevitably influences the environment everywhere; and

WHEREAS the Herbicide Assessment Commission of the American Association for the Advancement of Science reports that United States military operations in Vietnam have resulted in destroying 530,000 acres of cropland between 1962 and 1969 and the spraying of 4 million acres of forest, and this destruction is of great concern to Alaskans as members of the human family, as American citizens whose nation has allegedly implemented policies with such a devastating effect, and as Alaskans who care about our own environment and who recognize the closed nature of the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS there is a need to recapture at the national level a sense of proportion about the conduct of national affairs, and a true national commitment to environmental values requires an earnest appraisal of the effects

of federal policy in Southeast Asia;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to cause the issuance by the Department of Defense of an environmental impact statement regarding its operations in Vietnam since 1962, and the effects thereof, the statement to be issued as if required by the National Environmental Policy Act and in the detail and form required by that Act.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of the Department of Defense; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.