

Original sponsors: Beirne and Miller

Offered: 3/24/82
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82 (State Affairs)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the plight of the Siberian
6 Pentecostals refuged in the U.S.
7 Embassy in Moscow.

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

9 WHEREAS there are two Siberian families, the Vashchenkos and the
10 Chmykhalovs, who have been refuged in the United States Embassy in Moscow
11 since June 27, 1978, in an attempt to get American help in their campaign to
12 leave the Soviet Union for America to enjoy the exercise of religious freedom
13 as members of the Pentecostal faith; and

14 WHEREAS the efforts of the United States Embassy officials and the
15 federal administration have been unsuccessful to date in securing Soviet
16 permission for the emigration of the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs; and

17 WHEREAS Lydia Vashchenko and her mother, Augustina Vashchenko, underwent
18 a painful and health-threatening hunger strike late in 1981 and early in
19 1982, to bring attention to their plight in order to effect a speedy resolu-
20 tion of their dilemma by the Soviet Union; and

21 WHEREAS the courage and determination displayed by the Vashchenkos and
22 the Chmykalovs in their struggle to obtain freedom is an inspiration to all
23 who value religious freedom and individual human rights; and

24 WHEREAS the failure of the Soviet Union to allow the emigration of these
25 two families is a violation of the Helsinki Accords and the 1948 Declaration
26 of Human Rights, both of which were signed by the USSR;

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the people of the
28 State of Alaska reaffirm their belief that these truths set forth in the
29 American Declaration of Independence are still self-evident -- that all men

1 are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain un-
2 alienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
3 happiness; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal administration and Congress are urged
5 to make every reasonable effort to secure an expeditious resolution of the
6 emigration requests of the Vashchenkos and Chmykalovs to reaffirm the self-
7 evident truths upon which the United States of America was founded and con-
8 tinues to symbolize for all people who cherish those truths; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that President Reagan is asked to communicate to
10 American delegates and other delegates to the May 1982 International Peace
11 Conference in Moscow his hope that the plight of the "Siberian Seven" will be
12 voiced and explored during the process of the conference.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
14 President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of
15 the United States and President of the Senate; the Honorable Thomas P.
16 O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives; His Excellency Anatoly
17 Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States; and to the Honorable Ted
18 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
19 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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