

SCR

45

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

2/18/80

FURTHER: None

Date: 3-17-80

Mr. President:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had SCR 45

research and support activities by the Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

Do Pass

Introduced 2-18-80

Logged 2-19-80

Referred NONE

Comm. meeting 3-17-80

" returned passed and rec. taken Senate Secy 3-18-80 9:30 AM.

SCR 45 "Research & Support Activities
By Roddy at the Arctic Research Laboratory
Et Barrow". SHEST 79-80

Notify J. Chris. Noah - 465-3510
Executive Dir.
Ch. Council on Science notified 3-13-80.
Notified Gov's Office 3-13-80
" Spear Roddy - 3-13-80



J. CHRISTOPHER NOAH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALASKA COUNCIL ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
POUCH AV
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

OFFICE (907) 465-3510
Res. (907) 789-2035

Caretaker status by 1982. This would
give state time to react to closure.

March 17, 1980

Testimony of J. Christopher Noah

on SCR 45

"Relating to Research and Support Activities by the
Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow"

Senate Concurrent Resolution 45 does a good job briefly outlining the situation with regard to the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL). SCR 45 parallels the thinking of most people involved in arctic research in that it acknowledges the need for such a unique research facility. However, most also agreed that NARL has had difficulties of such magnitude that it cannot continue to function without addressing these problems.

Although there has been concern over the closing of the NARL and there are many examples as to what NARL has accomplished in the past and how present programs would be affected, with its closure insufficient study has gone into how NARL relates to the ever changing research needs of the state and nation.

Experts have recommended that money and personnel are needed to keep NARL afloat but have not devised a plan which would clearly explain what the scientific research function of the installation should be. Neither has a study been proposed as to what the economic effects of closure on Barrow and Fairbanks would be.

The federal government and the University of Alaska have a good start on this question, especially in the document entitled "THE NAVAL ARCTIC RESEARCH LABORATORY IN CHANGING TIMES - Report and Recommendations", January 1980. However, more needs to be done, not on what activities should be undertaken at NARL - but the basic purposes and functions of a far north research laboratory.

The impetus behind SCR 45 is that:

- 1) with NARL on the verge of being dismantled, to look into the effects this would have on research and arctic policy in Alaska and the economic ramifications associated with closure; and
- 2) if indeed, NARL should be kept open, what changes need to be instituted to insure that it continues as a viable research facility; well attuned to the needs of the state and nation.

Building on the good work of the past, additional questions need to be addressed concerning:

- 1) Who will manage the facility?
- 2) What is its value to Alaska?
- 3) What is the role of the facility in state research?
- 4) How does the facility fit into the overall national arctic policy? and finally
- 5) If there is no well defined arctic policy, then how can one be developed?

SCR 45 would not only give Alaska a chance to determine the function and "being" of NARL, but to begin to determine what Alaskans think should be the United States' research priorities in the arctic; policies which have been heretofore nonexistent.

It is also a chance to show that the United States through Alaska can be a leader in research in the circumpolar region.

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