

SJR

71

STATE OF ALASKA



MEMBER

TENTH ALASKA LEGISLATURE
ELEVENTH ALASKA LEGISLATURE
TWELFTH ALASKA LEGISLATURE

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 463-3822

283 MULDOON ROAD
STATION BOX 76
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
(907) 337-6071

SENATOR TIM KELLY

March 2, 1982

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you for a minute about a problem all federal employees in Alaska, both civilian and military, are experiencing. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government, in an effort to cut costs, has, during the last few years, changed the formula used to determine the cost-of-living allowance given federal employees in Alaska. The COLA is the government's way of insuring that an employee in Alaska, working the same job as an employee in Louisiana, for example, receives equivalent compensation by compensating for the increased cost-of-living up here. The result in the government's change to the COLA formula has been to reduce compensation for federal employees in Anchorage from 25% to 17.5% and reduce the living wage and lifestyle of our federal employees, both civilian and military.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that living in Alaska is more expensive than living almost anywhere else in the country. Just the basics of housing and food are constant reminders to all of us of the financial price we pay for living in Alaska. Our state is one of the most important to the future welfare of this country. Not only strategically, as is exemplified by the presence of large and vital military installations throughout the state, but also our proven natural resources may provide the key to the future economic independence of the United States. The decisions made by the federal government as to how our natural resources are developed and the mental and physical preparedness of our armed forces throughout the state, is in large part determined by the quality of the people making decisions. If those people can make more money elsewhere, then some will choose to go elsewhere. If the U.S. Government and the State of Alaska are to continue to depend on the high caliber of workers we now enjoy, we must maintain competitiveness with other areas of the nation. Federal COLA is just one example but it is an important example. It simply makes no sense to lower the compensation of these people making decisions vital to our future. I think the federal government should take another closer look at the federal COLA formula for Alaska and re-adjust it to more accurately reflect reality.

I would ask this committee to favorably act on this Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS (Senate)

N. Pacific
Chinook
Salmon

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 70, by Senator Ziegler. Resolution states that since 1977, "the fishery management plan and amendments implemented by the Secretary of Commerce under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 have resulted in substantial reductions in the harvest of chinook salmon in the fishery conservation zone on the coast of Southeast Alaska . . . and . . . in 1981, Alaska commercial fishermen suffered more than a 10 percent reduction from the 1980 allowable harvest of chinook salmon." States that at the January meeting of the NPFMC it was tentatively decided to direct the Nat. Marine Fisheries Office, Alaska Region, to manage the Yakutat-S.E. Alaska chinook salmon fishery at the lower end of the 1981 optimum yield range and that Canadian commercial fishermen have not experienced a comparable reduction.

Requests the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to direct the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, to manage the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery at the upper end of the 1981 optimum yield range. Requests the President to direct the Sec. of Commerce to disapprove amendments to the fishery management plan submitted by the NPFMC if the amendments reduce the harvest of chinook salmon in the Yakutat-S.E. Alaska Regional below the 1981 level. Also requests the President to direct American participants in salmon interception treaty negotiations with Canada to erect a speedy resolution of North Pacific salmon fishery issues.

Provides that copies be sent to the President, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the N. Pacific Fishery Mgmt. Council, and to the members of the Alaska Delegation in Congress.

Introduced February 15 and referred to Resources.

Federal
C-O-L-A

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71, by Senators Kelly, Fischer, Ferguson, Bradley, Rodey, Stimson, Sturgulewski and Ziegler.

Urgently and respectfully requests the President to direct the Office of Personnel Management to obtain cost-of-living information from affected federal employees in Alaska and, based on that information, to recalculate the reductions in the cost-of-living allowance recommended over the past two years, so that the former level of allowance might be restored, thus allowing federal employees in Alaska to receive a more equitable and adequate cost-of-living allowance than they now receive. Provides that copies be sent to the President and to members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Introduced February 16 and referred to State Affairs.

WW II Arti-
facts
(removal from
state)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 72, by Senator Bradley. Requests the federal government not to remove World War II artifacts from Alaska and to make them available for preservation in museums in the state. Also requests Congress to make it illegal to remove World War II artifacts from Alaska. Provides that copies be sent to George Bush, Vice President; Thomas O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House; the Secretaries of the Air Force, Navy, and Army; and to the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress. (See SB 740, page 181--same subject.)

Introd. 2-16 + referred State Affrs