

SCR

21



Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

Official Business

SENATOR VIRGINIA COLLINS

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Concurrent Resolution 21

Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, "Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace," sets up a task force to create a model workplace safety program for the State of Alaska.

The primary focus of the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace would be on prevention of injuries rather than trying to remedy problems after the accident, fatality, or illness has occurred. The task force would create a model workplace safety program with that emphasis on prevention.

Nationally, Alaska has one of the highest workplace accident rates and the highest workplace fatality rate.

Workplace injuries burden the Alaska economy. Both the worker and the employer are negatively affected. In addition to physical and emotional effects, the worker suffers financially due to significant wage losses. The employer suffers in lost production time, higher insurance premiums which increase operation costs, and equipment damage.

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), passed in 1970, was to "assure...so far as possible, every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources."

Yet the tragic toll taken in the workplace in lives, safety, and health persists. In Alaska, and on the federal level, many safety standards have not been updated for over 20 years. Consequently, many of our laws are in need of revision. As an unfortunate result, Alaska has a piecemeal workplace safety program.

The task force would examine Alaska's past workplace safety record, determine causes of the state's high rate of injuries, review current laws, consult with workplace safety institutes, and propose legislation to implement the program.

The task force would report its findings and recommendations to the legislature in January of 1993.

I would appreciate your support of this resolution.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: SCR 21

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing a Task Force on Safety
in the Workplace.
Sponsor: Senator Collins
Requestor: Senator Collins

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Legis Operating Budget
Component: Council & Subcommittees
Session Expenses & Legis Oper Budget

..COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 783

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 92 | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 53.2 | 26.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TRAVEL | 16.0 | 8.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CONTRACTUAL | 28.0 | 14.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUPPLIES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EQUIPMENT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 97.2 | 48.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPITAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| GENERAL FUND | 97.2 | 48.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 97.2 | 48.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

POSITIONS:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The following is requested to adequately support the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace:

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Pamela Stoops

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 4/9/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Warren Endicott

Date: 4/9/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Staff is requested as follows to assist the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|------|
| Researcher - Range 17A | | | |
| \$3,156 x 12 months = | \$37,872 | | |
| \$37,872 x 40% benefits = | <u>\$15,322</u> | | |
| | \$53,194 | | 53.2 |

TRAVEL

It is anticipated there will be 2 meetings of the 11 member Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|------|
| 2 meetings x 11 members = 22 airfares | | | |
| 22 airfares x \$436 = \$9,592 | | | |
| 2 days per diem x 22 = 44 | | | |
| 44 days x \$100 = 4,400 | | | 14.0 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-----|
| Staff Travel - \$2,000 | | | 2.0 |
|------------------------|--|--|-----|

CONTRACTUAL

| | | | |
|---|--|--|------|
| Advertising - advertising of public notice of meetings; Professional Services - \$28,000. | | | 26.0 |
|---|--|--|------|

SUPPLIES

Supply needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO : SCR 21

Revision Date: _____
 Title: " Establishing a Task Force on
 Safety in the Workplace."
 Sponsor: Senator Collins
 Requestor: Senate Labor & Commerce

Department Affected: Labor
 BRU: Labor Standards & Safety
 Component: Occupational Safety & Health
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 970

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 92 | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | | | | | | |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | | | | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| LAND&STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS,CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | | | |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | | | |
| OTHER | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

POSITIONS:

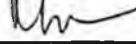
| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME | | | | | | |
| PART-TIME | | | | | | |
| TEMPORARY | | | | | | |

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note assumes the Department of Labor would not be responsible for providing funding for the task force.

Prepared by: Bob Libbey, Director Phone : 264-2452
 Division: Labor Standards & Safety Date : 4/8/91

Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usera 
 Agency: Department of Labor Date: 4/8/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

FATALITY RATES 1983 - 1989

| | United States | Alaska |
|------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1983 | 5.6 | 15.3 |
| 1984 | 6.4 | 14.7 |
| 1985 | 6.2 | 16.1 |
| 1986 | 5.9 | 14.8 |
| 1987 | 5.4 | 16.0 |
| 1988 | 4.4 | 15.4 |
| 1989 | - | 3.3 |

ILLNESS RATES USING A BASE OF 10,000 WORKERS

| | United States | Alaska |
|------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1984 | 18.4 | 21.4 |
| 1985 | 18.0 | 28.7 |
| 1986 | 19.2 | 23.2 |
| 1987 | 26.4 | 38.6 |
| 1988 | 32.2 | 31.2 |
| 1989 | - | 53.7 |

Tragedy and activism

Families demand answers in fatal work accident

Hard lessons came out of a fatal on the job accident in Indiana. One was that occupational safety in specters can't be everywhere. Another, that workers compensation may cover no more than funeral costs. This is the second part of an AP series, "Danger at Work."

By SHARON COHEN
Associated Press Writer

AUBURN, Ind. When tragedy tore apart Linda Link's life, she struggled with anguish. Then anger. Finally, she turned her emotions into something else—activism.

She took up the fight for worker safety. It's little solace for the loss of her son, Jeff, who died in an on-the-job accident, but she's devoted to the cause. So are her comrades who share her sorrow.

There's Edna Freeze. Her son, Bill, died trying to save Jeff. And Bob Hensinger. His son, Larry, also was killed in the rescue attempt.

And Sue Irish. Her son, Barney, died, too, rushing to help the others. And Brenda Fogle. Her son, Craig, the last man to come to his co-workers' aid, died last. After two days in a coma, his respirator was turned off.

Five families buried sons, their futures unfulfilled, their fate bound in tragedy. Now, more than a year after the young men—ages 19 to 29—died in a toxic-fume accident at Bastian Plating Co., their parents are writing letters, calling lawmakers, rallying—and pleading, "Never again."

"If we can do any good, it gives us the satisfaction to know that the boys didn't die in vain," Mrs. Link said. "We can't bring them back, but in their name, we can maybe help make it so these things don't happen ever again. And it gives us something to think about other than the tragedy."

"You're hoping you'll change things... you'll get people to listen," Hensinger said. "It's always



worth a try. Only a fool sits back and does nothing."

The families' goals are modest. No sweeping changes. Just a little more caution and a lot more accountability from employers.

"Even if one factory would be really safe, that would make us feel good," Mrs. Freeze said.

Toxic gas in tank

The campaigners were brought together by the June 28, 1988, tragedy at Bastian when Jeff was overcome by hydrogen cyanide fumes while cleaning a holding tank. Bill, a plant worker just four weeks, and Larry, climbed in to help, investigators were told.

Barney, once Bill's schoolmate, valiantly tried to save them, according to reports. Then Craig, the last rescuer, slid down the side of the tank, hitting his head, his mother said.

The workers didn't know zinc cyanide residue was in the 5 by 4 by 5 tank, said David Bear, spokesman for the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Muriatic acid, a dilute form of hydrochloric acid, was used for the cleaning, he said, and the mixture produced the toxic gas.

OSHA fined Bastian \$41,700, claiming it hadn't provided adequate training, respirators or rescue equipment—such as a lifeline to pull workers out—nor conducted air tests in the tank before anyone entered.

Bastian has contested the "know-

ing" violations and paid the remainder, totaling \$1,700. It has declined further comment since releasing a statement shortly after the accident saying, "We are sorry that it took a tragedy of these proportions to focus attention on the issue of industrial safety."

'Job's going to kill me'

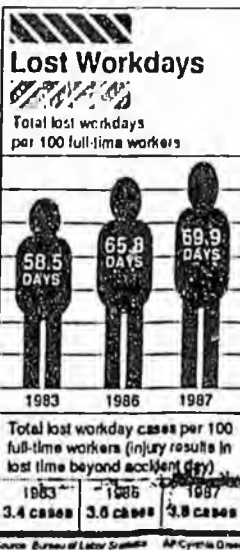
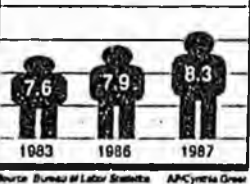
The parents say they knew the job could be hazardous, then sons came home with arm or leg injuries. Larry even told his ex-wife, "If I don't get out, the job's going to kill me," his father said. "I took it as a figure of speech."

After the accident, the families say Bastian made a terrible situation worse by not telling them what happened.

"We need answers," Irish said. "A lot of them."

DeKalb County Prosecutor Monte Brown has been asked by a worker safety watchdog group to convene a grand jury probe of the accident, but has declined comment pending a report from the state Department of Environmental Management.

"Five guys went to work and expected to return home," said Bill Groth, the watchdog group's co-founder. "They didn't. Something went drastically wrong."



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, AP/Cynthia Owe

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, AP/Cynthia Owe



SAFETY CRUSADE—The families of five young men who were killed last year in an on the job accident at the Bastian Plating Co. in Auburn, Ind., are pushing for worker safety. Surviving family members pictured here are, from left, Bobby and Bob Hensinger, Brenda Fogle, Bob and Linda Link, and Edna and Jack Freeze.

Disasters underscore need for flood, quake insurance

By CAROLE GOULD
The New York Times
NEW YORK—The financial aftershocks from last month's California earthquake and Hurricane Hugo in September are still being felt.

Those people actually caught up in the disasters are, of course, still trying to put the pieces of their lives back together.

But many others around the country have been affected too, shaken by all the scenes of destruction.

Some have begun to reevaluate their own flood or earthquake insurance, which is not included in regular homeowners' policies.

And some have become much more aware of how the federal government can foot part of the bill with tax deductions for all types of casualty losses.

What follows is a primer on how to minimize losses from natural disasters.

Flood coverage

Nearly 80 percent of the \$5 billion of damage caused by Hurricane Hugo was insured, in part by the federal government.

Personal Finance

agreed to follow federal land-use guidelines.

The coverage is offered directly from the federal government or through private insurers.

The terms of the policies, whether private or federal, are nearly identical. Premiums vary, depending on the age and construction of the building, as well as its use and location.

The average annual premium for \$80,000 of coverage is \$275, said David L. Cobb, a spokesman for the Federal Insurance Administration, a unit of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The question for consumers is whether insurance is necessary. Coverage is now required by the government in high risk areas on buildings financed by the gov-

Organization in Alexandria, Va. Nonetheless, he advises all homeowners who are at risk to buy coverage. To determine risk, find your home on a "flood plain" map, available at local government offices. The map shows the likelihood of a flood occurring on an annual percentage basis; he recommends insurance whenever the annual "risk" rate is 1 percent or more.

Does it matter whether you purchase coverage from the government or privately?

The premiums are the same, but Cobb says private insurers should be used, "because they have much more experience and knowledge about paying claims than an agency of the federal government."

For information on federal policies, call 800 638 6820.

Earthquake insurance

While most of the damage caused by Hugo will be taken care of by insurance, only 20 percent of those affected by the earthquake in California were similarly protected.

Homeowners who are not required

Feds make key move in land politics

The Japanese play a board game called Go, a pastime so simple that it can be taught to a child in a few minutes, but with strategy so subtle that players study at special schools for

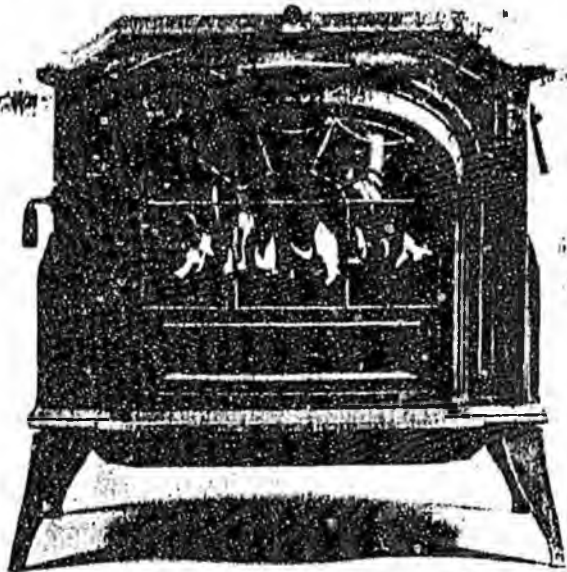
al government and closed to public entry or state land selections. The corridor is managed by the Bureau of Land Management as an energy transportation corridor.

This is potentially valuable property, right along the pipeline and well within the North Slope oil province.

However, 13 areas would be delineated as part of the

government is suddenly so concerned about the environment here. The land contains a trans-Alaska pipeline construction camp that was the site of the first major spill of the pipe-

sequels that's better than the original.



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WORK: Hard lessons

(Continued from Page D-1)
pensation is the exclusive remedy for on-the-job accidents.

Kendall says the families have been "radicalized by the experience."

At the same time, they've learned a hard civics lesson, discovering that government moves slowly, its agencies hamstrung by rules, laws and dollars.

Slaps in the face

"I always thought OSHA inspected every place every year," Mrs. Freeze said. "They don't have the money or the inspectors to do everything. It's going to have to be the employer that's going to have to look out for his employees."

"You get so many slaps in the face, all the things you find out," Mrs. Link said.

Workers compensation, for one.

Jeff "being a single person, all we got was \$2,000 for funeral ex-

penses. They don't give you any compensation for the love you lost," Mrs. Link said. "Not that any amount of money can bring him back."

Now five families live with memories.

Of Barney, who stopped by each morning to tell his mother he loved her.

Of Craig, who had a twinkle in his eye and a passion for music.

Of Bill, who tinkered with cars and hoped to become a diesel mechanic.

Of Jeff, who loved the mountains. His parents plan to etch scenes of Wyoming on his gravestone.

And of Larry, whose tombstone reads: "He gave his life for a comrade."

"You've got to go on," his father said, "or it will eat you up."

The families are trying to do that, confident their sons would be proud of their crusade.

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Alaska's oil reserves slip away

In 1991, during an oil industry boom fueled by the Iranian revolution, Alaska oil employment jumped by one third, while that of Texas, the nation's next-largest oil producer, rose by only a little more than one fifth.

In 1986, in the midst of an oil industry recession caused by international crude oil price wars, Alaska oil employment fell by about 5 percent, the least of the five leading U.S. oil states and only half the loss suffered by the next best performer, Texas. In 1987 Alaska's oil patch job loss was about the same, while Texas plunged nearly 30 percent and two other states lost more than 10 percent.

In 1988, with oil industry jobs on a slight rebound, Alaska led



Fred Pratt

the way, with a percentage growth outdistancing the other leading producers by a 2 to-1 margin.

That's among a number of interesting facts in an updated review of our state's oil industry by three Alaska Department of Labor staffers. The article is published in the November issue of the department's statistical report, "Alaska Economic Trends."

The authors stress that Alaska produces far more oil per well and per employee than the other states, a fact that decides how Alaska weathers the ups and downs of the industry.

The average Alaska oil well produced 899,000 barrels last year, compared with the average Texas well's yield of only 2,000 barrels. That goes a long way to explaining why there are 30 times as many oil field workers and almost 200 times as many oil wells in Texas as there are in Alaska.

Alaska oil jobs are primarily in production and transportation from large fields owned by major companies, so our state hasn't suffered as much as others from big swings in oil employment.

Most of us know our state is the top oil producer in the United States, making up one-quarter of the national total last year. Most don't know that we are

Workers collect pain with their paychecks

By SHARON COHEN
Associated Press Writer

In 1985 years in a meatpacking plant, Dave Kellen's wages have helped build his house, put food on the table and raise two daughters. But, he says, he has paid a terrible price: the use of his hands.

Kellen's hands are too weak to chop wood, much less twist open a bottle. He blames it on years of such jobs as tearing gobs of fat from hogs, repeating the same few steps, struggling to keep pace with hundreds of carcasses an hour.

His employer, John Morrell & Co., says plant safety is improving and is contesting a \$4.3 million government fine for allegedly allowing dangerous work conditions. Meanwhile, Kellen, 41, who has endured surgery twice on each hand, now sweeps floors at the Sioux Falls, S.D., plant. And he's worried.

"I'm sitting here with my hands 37 percent crippled. They're howl got to make my living for the next 20 years," he said. "Is Morrell going to be there? Are my hands going to get worse? I don't know who'd be willing to hire me. That's what's got me scared. It's like going blind slowly."

Such problems go beyond one man, one company or one occupation.

Many union, safety and academic experts say Kellen is an

example of an insidious trend in American industry. Companies are producing more, cutting payrolls, modernizing, computerizing—and creating a more hazardous workplace.

"People are getting hurt more than they ever were," argues Joseph Kinney, director of the National Safe Workplace Institute. "They're under more pressure to produce than they ever were. A lot of companies that once were using seven workers to do a job are now asking five to do it."

"The new fat free American



business syndrome is asking those who are left to do too damn much."

Similar concerns have surfaced from congressional hearings to union organizing drives, in auto, meatpacking, construction, steel and other industries. Experts say automation, competition and the changing business landscape play a role.

We live in a time of corporate downsizing, mergers and acquisitions and leveraged buyouts that end or greatly diminish many of the modest safety and health programs that exist," said a September report by the workplace institute. "The raiders and downsizers are unwitting participants in our industrial carnage."

While most workers no longer confront sweatshop horrors and archaic equipment, some experts say a new trend in which technology allows experienced employees to be replaced by those with less training has contributed to increasing dangers.

Others disagree, noting large investments that companies, including the big Three automakers, are making to improve plant designs. They also cite giant government penalties against lead, paper, meatpacking, construction and other firms that are serving as a deterrent.

"I think workplaces are generally safer," said Herriet Zettler, deputy director of compliance programs at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Kinney's group says OSHA has improved, but he cites government numbers: the average number of workdays lost due to on the job accidents for each 100 workers rose from 58.5 days in 1983 to 69.5 days in 1987.

And the National Safety Council says permanent work-related disabilities rose from 60,000 in 1986 to 70,000 in 1987.

Safety experts speculate conditions may be even grimmer because companies unreported injuries to avoid OSHA inspections. In fact, the government has cited Union Carbide Corp., USX Corp and others for alleged recordkeeping violations.

Overtime, worker turnover Ironically, some trace rising injuries to economic prosperity, especially in steel. One steelworker's local says its injury rate nearly doubled when overtime peaked. "When you're tired and you work in a dangerous operation, fatigue is



Associated Press

FRUITS OF HIS LABOR—Repetitive injuries suffered on the job at the John Morrell & Co. meatpacking plant in Sioux City, S.D., have left worker Dave Kellen with disabled hands.

going to lead to accidents," said Mike Wright, the United Steelworkers of America's health and safety director.

A 1988 University of Texas study found nearly 93 percent of injury increases in durable goods industries could be explained by overtime and employee turnover.

"These aren't the only culprits. Automation is increasing and the workers who performed a variety of the jobs are being replaced by machinery," said Bob Hall, research director at the Institute for Southern Studies in North Carolina.

"The jobs that are left are not as complicated (and) increasingly treat people as robots (and treat) arms and hands like they're part of a machine. But you can't oil a person's arm or hand."

Workers who cut, chop or pull thousands of times daily have de-

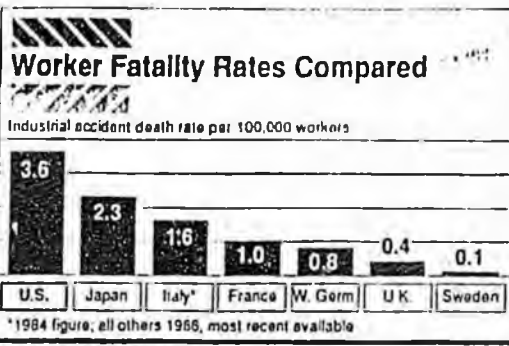
veloped painful and sometimes disabling hand, arm and wrist ailments, known as repetitive trauma disorders. The most severe form is called carpal tunnel syndrome, a thickening or swelling of tendons in the wrist.

Repetitive trauma disorder cases—including hearing loss—soared from 26,700 to 72,340 from 1983 to 1987, the government says, though some attribute part of that to heightened awareness.

Much publicity has focused on meatpacking where, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union says, production jumped nearly 20 percent in the last five years while production employees dropped by almost 10,000.

"When line speeds are increased and the workforce is decreased in the name of efficiency, injuries go

(See DANGER, Page D5)



Worker Injuries

One of every 11 U.S. workers will be seriously injured or killed at work...



A U.S. worker is injured every 16 seconds...

One of every six U.S. workers will die from occupational related diseases...



DANGER: Companies push workers harder and create a more hazardous workplace

(Continued from Page D 1)
up," said Debbie Berkowitz, the union's health and safety director.

Meat packers' injuries

Meat and poultry workers, some of whom have testified before Congress, have complained about treacherously fast production lines, where meat flies off damaged conveyor belts and blood splatters in their faces. They have described cysts, infections and crippling hand and back pain, that make it hard to

lift their children, comb their hair or hold a glass.

Former poultry employee Lillie Watson worked as a packer and leg cutter for nearly a decade, making thousands of cuts a day. She had surgery three times on her hands, has arthritic legs and says she can't scrub floors or lift heavy pots.

"I feel bitter and angry," she said. "Ain't no job I can get where I can use my hands occasionally."

Workers such as Watson often don't have many options, either to

change of the scarcity of job opportunities or limited education.

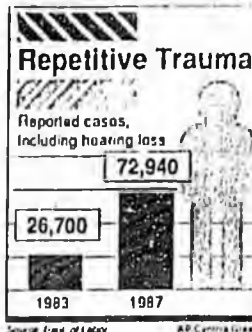
Another injured worker, Bev Whaley, said she had surgery on her right hand because of her job at the Morrell plant in Sioux Falls. She said a doctor told her she'd have to "learn to live with it. I wanted to take a baseball bat and smash his hands and tell him he'd have to learn to live with it."

Her union local claims assembly line speeds have increased in many areas, for example, in the beef kill department—where the animal is knocked out, its throat slit, the hide pulled off and the body split in half—the hourly rate jumped from 10¢ an hour in 1979 to 19¢ in 1986.

Said co-worker Kellen, "You're just pushed to the limit."

But companies dispute the charges. Poultry producer Perdue Farms Inc. recently estimated repetitive trauma disorders at its plants at less than 1 percent.

And though OSHA contends Morrell knew conditions were causing injuries but did nothing, company spokesman Raoul Baxter said safety improvement efforts were being made and the agency reviewed re-



Source: Dept. of Labor. AP/Copywrite

records during an atypical time—a period that included a strike.

In 11 months, records showed 800 of 2,000 workers sustained repetitive strain injuries. Baxter said there are no quick fix programs for such injuries. "It's going to take a lot of hard work," he said. "Our progress has been dramatic."

Morrell says injuries at Sioux Falls fell per 100 workers from 70.5 in January 1988 to 13.48 in July 1989. Baxter attributed the high injury

rate to the hiring of replacements and other strike effects, for the decline, he credited outside consultants, workers and supervisors.

But Jim Lyon, union local president, said he hasn't seen any safety progress and said company numbers are "totally inaccurate." He also contends a program providing prizes for injury-free records encourages people not to report them.

Morrell isn't the only meatpacker to come under government scrutiny.

OSHA also fined the nation's largest meatpacker, IBP Inc., but a \$5.7 million penalty was reduced to \$975,000 after the company agreed to conduct a three-year safety program to reduce motion injuries.

OSHA lowers fines

A recent workplace institute study of several large penalties found OSHA had bargained fines down from \$29.3 million to \$9.5 million.

And in cases where OSHA fines are smaller—in the thousands of dollars—the agency "is not effective in providing the stimulus employers need to properly deal with safety and health," said John

Moran, a former official of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "The bottom line in business is the dollar bill."

OSHA's Zettler said his agency usually doesn't reduce penalties by more than half. In IBP's case, he said, "we believe the significant reduction was justified by what we were getting back."

Zettler also conceded OSHA doesn't have staff to inspect all hazardous places annually and it may cost more to comply than pay a penalty. "If it takes us 15 years to get there, the guy has saved that investment for 15 years," he said.

But he says his agency has increased safety awareness and most major companies have health experts. Many also have hired safety design experts.

One is the University of Michigan's Center for Ergonomics.

Director Don Chaffin believes it's simplistic to blame productivity alone for increased injuries and says corporations are paying more attention to these concerns.

But one union local disagrees. At the Allegheny Ludlum Corp. plant in Braekentridge, Pa., maintenance division injuries jumped from 27 percent to 45.47 percent during four heavy overtime months in 1988, said Carol Mochlak, USW local 1196's safety chairman.

"People tend to overlook a lot of safety procedures," he said. "They're lax in wearing safety equipment. All they want to do is get the job done as quickly as possible."

Cost-cutting pressures

Productivity also has been an issue in construction, said Moran, the former NIOSH official who now works at a firm that trains hazardous waste cleanup workers.

"It's been getting worse for the last several years—the economic pressures, the greater and greater emphasis on cutting costs," he said.

"It's 'Get it done faster.' If you're laying a pipeline, you save money as a contractor by not putting in proper shoring or shoring in the trench."

He said in 96 percent of trench cave-in deaths he studied at NIOSH, there was no shoring or sloping.

Shortcuts in the name of efficiency are ultimately uneconomical, said Berkowitz of the United Food and Commercial Workers. "Any gains made by pushing people will be made up by high turnover and worker compensation."

As for Kellen, he has agreed to a

PRATT:

(Continued from Page D 1)
of IBP operating in Alaska, is cutting its seven layers of management down to four. Texaco is cutting 11 layers of management down to five.

The Economist article explains that most of the recent "savings" claimed by oil companies were the result of leaner management but rather a price war among the smaller oil field contractors who do most of their work. As crude oil prices plunged in the past few years, market prices for refined products remained fairly stable and the large integrated oil companies made out fairly well.

This is coming to an untidy end, the article notes, and the crude oil exploration and production subsidiaries are having to learn to stand or fall on their own profitability.

That's not good news for Alaska, which is primarily an exploration and production state. We seem to have come out quite well in recent years by our two largest players, BP and Atlantic Richfield, but our thin oil reserves base and high costs mean we can't automatically assume we'll be among the heavyweights forever.

And what are our political leaders doing? They halted all state oil lease sales six months ago and bet our future on the vain hope of persuading Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a move that promises meager benefits for Alaskans at best.

Someone needs to take a new look at this.

Free lance journalist Fred Pratt has been covering Alaska business and politics for the past 18 years.

NEST EGG:

(Continued from Page D 1)
Purchasing cash value life insurance and participating in dividend reinvestment plans are more traditional ways of imposing the discipline of saving upon yourself.

But Downey, the financial planner, frowns on purchasing insurance as a savings vehicle, instead of purchasing just the insurance you need for adequate coverage.

She also doesn't like automatic transfers to a credit union, bank or savings and loan account.

"I've seen many customers who constantly tap those accounts, so that the savings plan becomes meaningless."

Yet those who have stuck to a self-imposed savings plan report emotional benefits from the steady

North Ranch Limited

d/b/a

The Bull's Eye

located at

1470 Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks
is applying for transfer of corporate stock

to

North Ranch Limited

d/b/a

The Bull's Eye

located at

1470 Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks

** Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

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SAY UNCLE

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

A much-maligned OSHA confronts rising demands with a reduced budget

By CATHY TROST

WASHINGTON—Comedian Rodney Dangerfield's lament—"I don't get no respect"—has its echoes in the corridors of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a watchdog that might as well be named The Agency Nobody Loves.

Labor? OSHA's a creampuff, says David LeGrande, health and safety director of the Communications Workers of America. "OSHA has almost been the Department of Commerce under the Reagan administration. Basically it's done nothing for workers."

Industry? OSHA is biased and punitive, complains William Haggett, chairman of Bath Iron Works Corp. He's smarting over a \$4.2 million fine OSHA levied late last year against the company for alleged health and safety violations. The charges, he says, were "replete with overstatements and exaggeration" and "just blew our minds."

Congress? OSHA is full of fumbler, many feel. Responding to a recent proposal for a new OSHA-type agency to deal specifically with the construction industry, Rep. Paul Henry, a Michigan Republican, says wearily: "You'd still have the same bozo running it."

Who's right? In some respects, they all are—but the blame doesn't rest on OSHA's shoulders alone. The agency has come under fire for doing too much—or too little—from the day its doors opened on Constitution Avenue 17 years ago. The reality is that OSHA's effectiveness has been pinched by budget and staff cuts and its grasp on business loosened by the Reagan administration's deregulatory shock troops.

And now, against a backdrop of national anxiety over the chemical nightmare of Bhopal, India, the agency confronts enormous new workplace health and safety challenges from new processes and products. Among these: a spate of hazardous chemicals and such evolving workplace technologies as video-display terminals and computer-chip production.

Some wonder if OSHA has enough resources—and muscle—for the job. Indeed, they argue that OSHA should be scuttled and replaced with a watchdog with sharper teeth. At the least, they say, local and state authorities should expand their regulatory powers.

Agency critics cite Pymn Thermometer Corp., a Brooklyn, N.Y., company where, they claim, OSHA knew of high levels of mercury for more than a decade, yet took no action. Last year, a New York jury found the company and two of its executives guilty in the mercury poisoning of a worker (but the judge set aside the verdict on jurisdictional grounds). OSHA officials conceded mishandling the case.

Ms. Trost is a staff reporter in The Wall Street Journal's Washington Bureau.

Still, "we think we're firm but fair," insists John Pendergrass, President Reagan's third OSHA chief. He maintains the agency has used its power to correct problems in many workplaces, but he notes that according to federal law it's the employers responsibility to provide a safe workplace. "The law doesn't say we're supposed to be the safety director of every plant."

The agency's reputation improved substantially during the recent two-year tenure of Labor Secretary William Brock. Under his direction, OSHA launched a campaign against some of the nation's biggest corporations, imposing a string of record-breaking fines for failure to properly keep essential injury and illness records.

In one of his first actions, Mr. Brock (who subsequently left to run the ill-fated presidential cam-

proposed amount, was a bombastic gimmick that did little to attack the root problems of workplace illness and injury. "When you don't use criminal penalties, when you settle fines at a fraction of .10 dollar and when you have a policy that basically is an invitation to cheat, you certainly don't have vigorous enforcement of safety standards at the workplace," asserts Rep. Tom Lantos, a California Democrat who held hearings last year on safety conditions in the meatpacking industry.

OSHA later levied a \$2.6 million fine against Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s IRP unit, charging that the nation's largest meatpacker deliberately concealed worker injuries and illnesses. (IRP has contested the case.)

The agency uses company-kept injury records to target inspections to work sites where injuries are most likely to occur, a system that Rep. Lantos contends provides irresponsible firms "a premium for cheating," but that OSHA believes is the most effective use of its resources. OSHA officials also argue that totting up the dollar signs on fines obscures the agency's bigger accomplishments in getting companies to correct hazards that often involve many more workers than the one cited—a phenomenon Mr. Pendergrass calls "the multiplier effect."

Richard Boggs, vice president of Organization Resources Consultants, a corporate consultant, agrees that "more has been done for worker health and safety during the Reagan administration than the comparable eight years before." Last year, for instance, the agency issued a variety of rules governing farm-worker sanitation, grain dust, benzene and formaldehyde, covering more than 32 million workers.

But many rules came after years of legal pressure and court directives. And several were criticized as too weak, bolstering charges that the agency's regulating pace is glacially slow.

OSHA faces a far more pressing challenge, however. It must set more standards for exposure to hazardous chemicals and expand its inspection force, outsiders maintain. The recent spate of big fines "was only the tip of the iceberg," argues Philip Landrigan, director of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine's environmental and occupational medicine division. He contends that there are "serious overexposures to chemical substances occurring very commonly in workplaces across the country." Among these: excessive levels of silica exposure in 43% of U.S. ferrous foundries and excessive levels of lead in more than half the air samples OSHA has taken in New York factories.

New regulations aside, OSHA can't even enforce its current rules unless it increases its inspection force, Mr. Landrigan and others argue. OSHA currently has 1,125 inspectors, enough to inspect only about 2% of the nation's 3.4 million work forces covered by federal law.

OSHA officials argue that the agency does about
Please turn to page 16R

The Largest Penalties in OSHA's History

Initially proposed penalties and settlements as of March 1, 1988

| DATE | COMPANY | REASON FOR PENALTY | PENALTY/SETTLEMENT (In thousands of dollars) |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 2/11/88 | Doe Run ¹ | Safety/health violation | \$3,700/not settled |
| 1/1/88 | | Record keeping | \$2,000/not settled |
| 11/4/87 | Bath Iron Works | Safety/health violation | \$4,200/not settled |
| 10/22/87 | TPM/Macomber ² | Building collapse | \$2,000/not settled |
| 9/25/87 | Scott Paper | Record keeping | \$813/3475 |
| 7/31/87 | IBP ³ | Record keeping | \$2,000/not settled |
| 7/6/87 | Chrysler (Newark, Delaware) | Safety/health violation | \$1,576/not settled |
| 11/5/86 | Chrysler (Belvidere, Illinois) | Record keeping | \$1,576/1409 |
| 4/1/86 | Union Carbide | Record keeping | \$1,573/1409 |
| 2/23/86 | Howport News Shipbuilding | Safety/health violation | \$854/32 |

¹A joint venture of St. Joe Minerals and Housatonic Mining

²A joint venture of TPM International and George B.H. Macomber

³Joint contractors involved in a building collapse

⁴A unit of Occidental Petroleum

Source: OSHA

paigned by Sen. Robert Dole) slammed Union Carbide Corp. with a \$1.4 million fine and likened the plight of some of its employees to the canaries once used to sniff deadly gases in coal mines. (Union Carbide contested the fine and eventually settled for \$408,500 without admitting guilt.)

For a time, the OSHA news releases rolled off the presses with regularity. The list of accused included some of the most prominent names in American business: Chrysler Corp., General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Dynamics Corp. and Caterpillar Inc. In all, OSHA proposed a total \$24.7 million in fines against companies for health and safety violations in fiscal 1987, an amount nearly five times the \$5.5 million proposed in 1982. To date this fiscal year, more than \$16 million in fines have been proposed.

But critics complain that the blitz of big fines, which generally are settled for half or less of the

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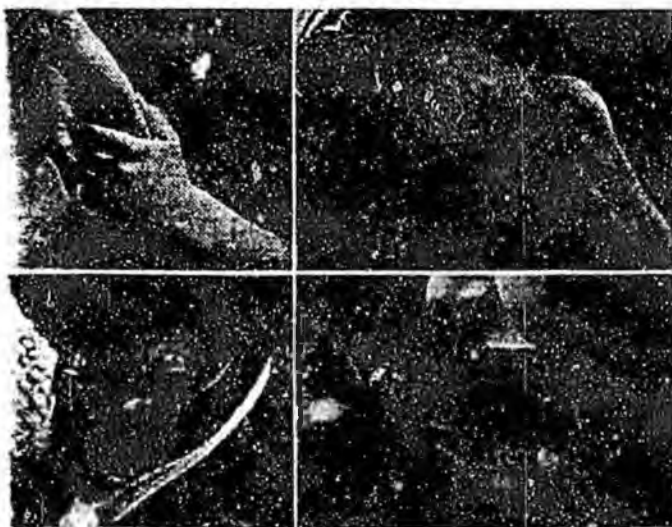
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Walter Kunz,
President,
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59½ and still going strong

YWATCH.



HAZARD

Continued from page 25R

70,000 inspections annually—twice as many as the IRS—and increasing the staff may be prohibitively expensive. "If we were to inspect every plant once a year, we'd have to have 125,000 inspectors at a cost of about \$13.8 billion," says Mr. Pendergrass.

Budget cuts outside OSHA's control already have hobbled government safety research. Consider the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the government's occupational research arm: Its budget this fiscal year was less than half [in 1980 dollars] what it was eight years ago, notes Dr. Landrigan, a former official there.

Yet OSHA's burden in the future is likely to grow more complex, as emerging technologies trigger new safety and health hazards. The new work force is losing manufacturing to technology jobs and includes growing numbers of women. Fears persist about possible health effects from video-display terminals, especially on jobs that require lots of repetitive hand motions, such as computer keying and grocery scanning.

Disorders of the hand, wrist, shoulder and back due to repetitive movements have reached "epidemic proportions," says Deborah Berkowitz, health and safety director of the AFL-CIO's Food and Allied Service Trades division. She contends such problems afflict 25% of telephone workers, 60% of cashiers using grocery laser scanners, and nearly 50% of meatpackers. OSHA hasn't yet ruled on disorders such as carpal tunnel syndrome, a wrist disease, but the agency has addressed that problem by citing several companies

under its "general duty" powers, including Kroger Corp., Chrysler Corp. and U.S. West Inc.'s Mountain Bell unit in Denver.

The Communications Workers union's Mr. LeGrande calls the situation at Mountain Bell "truly catastrophic," with some directory-assistance operators becoming medically disabled from carpal tunnel syndrome. He says the company branded the cases "mass hysteria."

For its part, Mountain Bell says its medical department has seen 140 employees from two Denver offices during the last two years who complained of repetitive motion symptoms, but that only "a couple of dozen" people continue to receive medical treatment. Officials say the number of symptoms in Denver compared with other offices is "highly unusual."

A spokeswoman says the company's medical director had suggested "there may be some mass psychological hysteria involved," and that other medical problems like obesity, arthritis and pregnancy could contribute to the reported symptoms. The company is "rigorously" contesting the OSHA citation.

The spotlight has turned, too, to chemicals used in the semiconductor industry. After a study last year found an unusual number of miscarriages among women employed at a semiconductor plant, some companies removed all pregnant women from computer-chip production jobs.

OSHA has begun considering a rule for solvents used in the electronics industry, but that process could take years. "If the people at OSHA had ovaries they might do things a little differently," Eula Bingham, who ran OSHA under President Carter, complained at a recent meeting. ■

RISKY BUSINESS

Some jobs have high murder rates

Mill worker dies

The Associated Press

SITKA — A worker died early Wednesday in an accident at the Alaska Pulp Corp. mill, the company reported.

Joseph E. Lau, 28, of Sitka was killed at 6 a.m. as he was changing a 18-foot-wide pulp roll. Police said Lau was killed when he fell or got caught on rollers.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and two children.

ADA 10/10/89

Pilot, mill worker die in separate accidents

By BARBARA ROGERS
Times Writer

9/28/89 - Times

Separate accidents killed two men as an Anchorage pilot in a homebuilt airplane crashed in Palmer and a sawmill employee was crushed in a Ketchikan industrial accident Wednesday.

The pilot, whose name was not released this morning pending notification of his family, took off from Anchorage International Airport about 8 p.m. Wednesday en route to the Birchwood Airstrip, Palmer and then back to Anchorage, said Paul Steucke of the Federal Aviation Administration.

He was reported overdue by his wife at 10 p.m. and a helicopter search was begun by Alaska State Troopers this morning, Steucke said.

The wreckage of his homebuilt Long-Eze was found spread over a swampy area of the Matanuska River Park about 8:30 a.m. today after searchers picked up a signal from the aircraft's emergency locator transmitter, said Palmer Police Department Sgt. Greg Carpenter.

The body of the pilot was found in the cockpit of the single-seater, Carpenter said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

In Ketchikan, a 60-year-old man died Wednesday afternoon when he was crushed between a gate and an upper structural bar at Ketchikan Sawmill, troopers report.

Dead is Francis K. Glover, who was leaning on a hydraulically operated gate when the gate lifted him, crushing his body, troopers and a Ketchikan Pulp Co. spokesman said.

Also Wednesday, in a traffic accident on Minnesota Drive just south of Tudor Road, two small boys were injured when the station wagon they were riding in was struck from the rear by another car.

Michael Nichols, 5, was in fair condition this morning while Justin Bushre, 7, was in serious condition at Providence Hospital, a spokeswoman said today. Both received head injuries in the accident, said Sgt. Greg Stewart of the Anchorage Police Department.

Stewart said the station wagon was southbound on Minnesota Drive when its engine quit as the car was about halfway up the bridge over the Alaska Railroad tracks.

Driver Terry Risinger, 32, turned on the emergency flashers and was trying to restart the car when it was struck from behind by a car driven by Afualo Uatisona, Stewart said.

The force of the accident collapsed the rear of the station wagon, pinning the seatbelted boys inside, Stewart said. Rescue workers got them from the car and took them to the hospital, where they originally were listed in critical condition.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: CSSCR 21(L & C)

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing a Task Force on Safety
in the Workplace.
Sponsor: Senator Collins
Requestor: Senate Labor & Commerce

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Legislative Operating Budget
Component: Council & Subcommittees
Session Expenses & Legis Oper Budget
COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 783

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 92 | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 53.2 | 26.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TRAVEL | 17.3 | 8.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CONTRACTUAL | 28.0 | 14.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUPPLIES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EQUIPMENT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 98.5 | 49.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPITAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| GENERAL FUND | 98.5 | 49.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 98.5 | 49.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

POSITIONS:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Estimate current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The following is requested to adequately support the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace:

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director *Pamela Stoops* Phone: 465-3850
Division: Administrative Services Date: 4/10/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director *Warren Endicott*
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 4/10/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Staff is requested as follows to assist the Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| Researcher - Range 17A | | | |
| \$3,156 x 12 months = | | \$37,872 | |
| \$37,872 x 40% benefits = | | \$15,322 | |
| | | <u>\$53,194</u> | 53.2 |

TRAVEL

It is anticipated there will be 2 meetings of the 12 member Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|------|
| 2 meetings x 12 members = 24 airfares | | | |
| 24 airfares x \$436 = \$10,464 | | | |
| 2 days per diem x 24 = 48 | | | |
| 48 days x \$100 = 4,800 | | | 15.3 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-----|
| Staff Travel - \$2,000 | | | 2.0 |
|------------------------|--|--|-----|

CONTRACTUAL

| | | | |
|---|--|--|------|
| Advertising - advertising of public notice of meetings; Professional Services - \$28,000. | | | 28.0 |
|---|--|--|------|

SUPPLIES

Supply needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment needs will be absorbed within the existing Legislative Operating & Session budgets.

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
BILL FILE

BILL NUMBER: SCR 21
BILL TITLE: WORKPLACE SAFETY TASK FORCE

SPONSOR: COLLINS RECEIVED: 3/27/94

WRITTEN REQUEST TO SCHEDULE: DATE _____ FROM _____
SECTIONAL ANALYSIS RECEIVED: DATE _____ FROM _____
FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED: DATE _____ FROM _____
FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED: DATE _____ FROM _____
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FISCAL NOTE CS RECEIVED: DATE _____ FROM _____

FIVE DAY NOTICE GIVEN:
COMMITTEES OF REFERRAL: FIRST: _____ SECOND: _____ THIRD: _____

| DATE | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|-------|------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

HEARING NOTIFICATION LIST

1. SPONSOR
2. AGENCY
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

1 represents businesses with over 25 employees, one person who represents organized labor, one safety
2 engineer, one medical professional, and one member of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, all of whom
3 are appointed by the members listed in (1) - (3) of this resolve;

4 (5) at the option of the members listed in (1) - (4) of this resolve and appointed by them,
5 one person who represents the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, within funds made available for the purpose, the task force may
7 hire staff, contract for services under the procurement procedures adopted by the Alaska Legislative
8 Council with approval of the council, and cover other expenses; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
10 the Governor and the legislature by the day of the convening of the First Regular Session of the
11 Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature, and that the task force is terminated on that same day at 11:59 p.m.

*Further Resolved that the taskforce shall report its
initial findings an rec. to the Gov. + legislature by
the 1st day sec. session of the 17th Legislature.*

TAM WILL

*DD
4/10*

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21 ()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR COLLINS

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a Task Force on Safety in the Workplace.

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

3 WHEREAS the social and economic consequences of workplace injuries are enormous, estimated
4 by the National Safety Council to have been \$42,400,000,000 in 1987 nationwide; and

5 WHEREAS many Alaskans are involved in industries that traditionally have high accident rates;
6 and

7 WHEREAS the state has one of the highest workplace accident rates of any state and has the
8 highest fatality rate of any state attributable to accidents in the workplace, approximately 34 fatalities
9 per 100,000 workers; and

10 WHEREAS for over 10 years approximately one out of every 11 Alaskan workers in private
11 industry suffered a recordable injury or illness during employment; and

12 WHEREAS in the state the total estimated lost workdays due to job related injury or illness in
13 the private sector in 1987 amounted to the equivalent of a full year of work for 337 employees at a cost
14 equal to nearly \$9,000,000, and in the public sector total estimated lost work days amounted to the
15 equivalent of 58 employee years at a cost equal to approximately \$1,800,000; and

16 WHEREAS occupational injuries and illnesses impose a real burden upon the Alaskan economy

1 since, for the worker, being absent from work due to an accident may represent a significant wage loss
2 and, for the employer, accidents result in lost production time, increased operating costs from higher
3 insurance premiums, and equipment damage; and

4 **WHEREAS** the best way to control these costs is through an effective safety program; and

5 **WHEREAS** when the United States Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act
6 (OSHA) in 1970 it was to "assure . . . so far as possible, every working man and woman in the Nation
7 safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources"; and

8 **WHEREAS** despite the lofty objective of OSHA the tragic toll taken in the workplace in lives
9 and health continues; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed by the Congress last year, sets out
11 standards that the state must address; and

12 **WHEREAS** in the state many safety standards have not been updated since they were originally
13 developed and laws related to safety standards are in need of revision; and

14 **WHEREAS** a unified effort is needed to update safety standards with input coming from
15 management and labor;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force on Safety in the
17 Workplace is established with the primary purpose of creating a model workplace safety program for
18 the state with emphasis on prevention of injuries in the workplace, and that in creating the program the
19 task force may

20 (1) examine the historical workplace safety record of the state;

21 (2) determine the causes for the state's high rate of injuries;

22 (3) review the state's current workplace safety laws and OSHA;

23 (4) consult with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and with the
24 American National Standards Institute;

25 (5) propose legislation to implement the program; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following members:

27 (1) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom
28 shall be designated by the president as co-chair;

29 (2) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House,
30 one of whom shall be designated by the speaker as co-chair;

31 (3) one employee of the Department of Labor appointed by the Governor;

32 (4) one person who represents businesses with 25 or fewer employees, one person who

1 represents businesses with over 25 employees, one person who represents organized labor, one safety
2 engineer, one medical professional, and one member of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, all of whom
3 are appointed by the members listed in (1) - (3) of this resolve;

4 (5) at the option of the members listed in (1) - (4) of this resolve and appointed by them,
5 one person who represents the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, within funds made available for the purpose, the task force may
7 hire staff, contract for services under the procurement procedures adopted by the Alaska Legislative
8 Council with approval of the council, and cover other expenses; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
10 the Governor and the legislature by the day of the convening of the First Regular Session of the
11 Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature, and that the task force is terminated on that same day at 11:59 p.m.

FURTHER RESOLVED

The proposed CS for SCR 21 makes the following changes:

Page 2, line 32:

"management" is deleted and replaced with:

"businesses with 25 or fewer employees, one person who represents businesses with over 25 employees"

"organized" is inserted before "labor"