

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3.

TO THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF WAR, THE SENATE, AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Seventh Regular Session assembled, do most respectfully and earnestly represent that:

WHEREAS, The War Department has always taken a leading part in the development of our frontiers and held together remote and sparsely settled communities in our Great West until such development has taken place that local interests could take over this duty, and the War Department is still performing similar functions in the Territory of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Road Commission, under the supervision of the War Department, has, during the past twenty years, worked out a comprehensive system of roads and trails, which have greatly aided development in all sections of the Territory, and has, since its reorganization in 1920, secured increased funds and more liberal legislation, so that it is now prepared to complete its program in a reasonable time, thereby permitting routes to be utilized throughout without breaking loads; and

WHEREAS, The officers of the Alaska Road Commission are also charged with handling engineering work for many other Federal and Territorial services, which they are accomplishing most efficiently and economically; and

WHEREAS, The Territory of Alaska is not in a financial position to take over the road and trail work as a part of its own interior development, nor even to maintain the existing system, but is contributing to the limit of its resources in aid of this work; and

WHEREAS, Section 301 (c) of S. 3445 and H. R. 9629 reported at the last session of the last Congress by the Joint Committee on the Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, would abolish the Alaska Road Commission, without creating another agency to take its place, but transfers direct control of the road and trail work to a Department in Washington, D. C., without providing for the other activities handled under its direction; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation is objectionable, in that it abolishes a going concern, which was specially created

for the work at hand, has grown up with the country, and has justified itself by its accomplishments; is inefficient in that it transfers direction of the work from a Board resident in the Territory, with full authority "of its own motion" to meet emergencies and to handle its business on the ground without reference to Washington, to a Department in Washington, with all the attendant delays and unbusinesslike methods that are such a conspicuous feature of the usual handling of Alaska affairs; and is uneconomical in that it recreates in Alaska the very condition it purports to relieve in the United States, by requiring the creation of at least one new organization, under a different Department, to handle only part of the work now being handled by the Alaska Road Commission, its other functions still remaining in the War Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska heartily endorse the work of the Alaska Road Commission and pray that it may continue to have the support of the War Department and of Congress to the end that its appropriations may continue to be increased, its powers broadened, and construction on its excellent and comprehensive program of road and trail building speeded up.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That it is the earnest desire of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska that the Alaska Road Commission shall continue to be composed of Officers of the Corps of Engineers of the Army serving under the supervision of the War Department, and that section 301 (c) shall be stricken from S. 3445 and H. R. 9629, or any similar provision in any new legislation proposed during the next session of Congress.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed by the Senate, April 14, 1925.

Passed by the House, April 21, 1925.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4.

TO THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

Your memorialists the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, do respectfully represent:

That the headquarters of the United States Bureau of Education, Alaska Division, is now located at Seattle, Wash-