

Senate Joint Memorials

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1.

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

Your memorialists, the Legislators 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, Washington, a considerable distance from the Indians and Eskimos for whose welfare it is working in the Territory of Alaska, and by reason of the distance of said headquarters from the Territory of Alaska obstacles are created, which greatly interfere with the efficient and economical operations of the Bureau;

That neither regular nor sufficient means of transportation are now available to reach the many outlying native settlements which are in most cases separated by great distances;

That when complications arise, especially in case of sickness, in the native schools and villages considerable time must necessarily elapse before the required action can be taken, and in many cases by reason of such delay suffering and sometimes death is caused to those involved;

That the location of said headquarters in the Territory of Alaska, your memorialists believe, would permit the officials in charge of said Bureau to keep in closer touch with all of the work being carried on by the Bureau in the Territory of Alaska, and thus enable them to administer its affairs more efficiently and with greater benefit to the native people;

That the conditions among many of the Indians in the native settlements in the interior of Alaska are deplorable; there are Indians, men, women and children, without medical attendance, and many Indian children are left to grow up without any school advantage;

That the Indian villages at Mento, Tolovana and Cross-jacket have about 15, 8 and 20 school children, respectively. These villages are situated on the Tanana River about 28, 50 and 56 miles, respectively, down said river from the city

of Nenana. These children are growing up in gross ignorance and are sadly in need of a native school as well as medical attention;

That even the school at Koyukuk Station, situated at the mouth of the Koyukuk River, has been suspended for the winter term of 1926-1927;

That schools are badly needed in these localities, and the teachers for such schools should be able to render first medical aid in case of sickness;

That the location in the Territory of Alaska of the Federal Bureau of Education would facilitate a fuller measure of harmonious cooperation between the Bureau of Education and the Territorial Department of Education, and thus generally better serve the cause of education for all of the people of the Territory.

WHEREFORE, your memorialists respectfully urge that the Bureau of Education, Alaska Division, now located at Seattle, Washington, be removed to some convenient location in the Territory of Alaska.

That a copy of this memorial be sent to the Hon. Dan Sutherland, Delegate from Alaska, and to Jonathan Wagner, Superintendent of the Bureau of Education for Alaska.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed the Senate, March 29, 1927.

Passed the House, April 13, 1927.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF WAR OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in eighth biennial session assembled, respectfully represents:

That the mouth of the Tanana River, where it empties into the Yukon, forms a delta which is so badly cut up and divided into small channels, that it is not only difficult, but in fact dangerous for the steamers and small boats operating between Nenana and Tanana to traverse the route covered by them;