

House Joint Memorials

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represents that:

WHEREAS: the population of the Territory is composed of Whites and Natives about equally divided in number; and

WHEREAS: the Bureau of Education of the Interior Department of the United States is in charge of the education, health and welfare of the Natives of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: much progress has been made under said Bureau in the betterment of social, moral and material welfare among said natives; and

WHEREAS, by reason of inadequate appropriations from the Congress of the United States conditions among many of the natives are still far from satisfactory and especially in the following particulars:

In that records of vital statistics of the Territory show that more than five hundred out of a thousand deaths are directly attributable to tuberculosis while reputable physicians of the Territory state that at least seventy per cent of the natives suffer from this disease in a greater or less degree; this in the face of a recent statement made in the American Medical Journal to the effect that during the past twenty years deaths from this cause in the United States proper have decreased from seventy in a thousand to seventeen in the thousand. That there is but one institution in the Territory whose purpose it is to care for tubercular patients, this at Fort Gibbon on the Yukon River and while the work done at said institution is highly beneficial in so far as it goes, yet its location is so remote and its force and accommodations so limited as to be of little use to the Territory as a whole. In that the native of Alaska is peculiarly fitted for pursuits calling for skill in handicraft; the boys make good boat builders, carpenters, wood workers, operators of gas engines, sailors and fishermen, while the girls with some training become neat housewives and skilled needleworkers; That there are but

two schools operated by the Bureau in the Territory designed to teach manual training to the natives while dozens of such schools should be maintained;

In that the Alaskan native is in many ways a child; He is inclined to be improvident spending the money earned in the fishing season in a short time and meeting the severe winters utterly unprepared as to food or clothing. The game laws require them to take out licenses to trap and forbid them to kill game out of season. As a consequence every community in Alaska is met with the problem of taking care of these wards of the Government for whom the Government does not provide, a burden which falls heavily upon the resident Alaskan in most cases none too well provided with funds, himself.

WHEREFORE: Your memorialist prays:

I.

That the insufficient force of doctors and nurses in the Territory be at least doubled;

II.

That hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis be established at Nome, Anchorage, Juneau and Ketchikan.

III.

That the number of manual training schools be increased to at least twenty and that manual training be made a major part of the curriculum of every school operated by the Bureau of Education.

IV.

That the Government provide funds sufficient to take care of indigent natives.

And your memorialist will ever pray.

Passed the House, March 26, 1929.

Passed the Senate, April 27, 1929.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of Alaska, respectfully represents:

That Yukon River affords the most convenient and economical means of transportation throughout the entire length of the Interior of Alaska, and its navigability is indispensable to the development of the Territory.