

Senate Memorials

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1

TO THE HONORABLE HARRY S. TRUMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES: TO THE HONORABLE JULIUS KRUG, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

Your Memorialist, the Senate of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in the Extraordinary Session of the Seventeenth Session assembled, does most respectfully represent:

WHEREAS, the present chief executive of Alaska, Governor Ernest Gruening, responsible to the Federal Government and not to the people of Alaska because he is a Federally-appointed employee has seen fit to attempt to use his Federal office for political purposes; and

WHEREAS, the present Governor has done so by writing official letters from the Office of the Governor to members of the electorate soliciting their votes for certain candidates in purely local elections; and

WHEREAS, the present Governor has also used Federal funds as well as Territorial funds under his control for the purpose of printing and distributing booklets attacking certain members of the Legislature for their actions as representatives legally elected by and responsible to the people, distributing these booklets in Federal franked envelopes; and has also used his appointive powers for political purposes; and

WHEREAS, the present Governor, during the past three regular sessions of the Territorial Legislature, has attempted to wrest the control of the Legislature from the people and place it in the hands of his office, and by so doing has disrupted cooperation and brought about stalemates between the two Houses of our Territorial Legislature and his office; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature finds it increasingly difficult to mold legislative policies in freedom from executive dictation; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, under Alaska's Organic Act, has the power of vetoing any and all legislation passed by the Legislature, whether or not it pertains to Federal functions; and

WHEREAS, the present Governor has abused his privilege by vetoing bills of purely local concern for political purposes; and

WHEREAS, no other Governor of Alaska, whether he was a resident of Alaska or a former citizen of some State has been unable or unwilling to cooperate fully with the Legislative body,

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Senate of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, does respectfully pray that the present Governor be removed from office with all possible dispatch.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate March 29, 1946.