

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA; AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represents:

WHEREAS, The Congress passed HR 4497, an Act creating the Indian Claims Commission, under the terms of which all Indian Tribes were given five years from August 13, 1946, the date the President signed the bill, in which to file their claims against the Government; and

WHEREAS, said time will expire on August 13, 1951; and

WHEREAS, Many Indian Tribes will not be able to file their claims within that time due to their lack of understanding of the terms of the bill and due to the fact that the Indian Department has been slow in approving contracts between Indian Tribes and their attorneys, and if said time is not extended, many tribes who might have meritorious claims against the Government will be deprived of their day in Court; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of Alaska's population are Natives, and Alaskans are vitally interested in its Native People and believe it would be to the best interest not only to its Native citizens but throughout the nation that said time be extended; and

WHEREAS, The third meeting of the Governors' Interstate Council on Indian Affairs composed of representatives from sixteen states having Indian population passed a resolution on the 7th day of December, 1950, pointing out that due to the inability of many tribes to employ counsel and the failure of the Indian Bureau to approve contracts between tribes and their attorneys promptly, that approximately one-half of the tribes of the United States have been thus far unable to complete the preliminary work preparatory to filing their lawsuits, and that it will be physically impossible for many tribes to complete their arrangements before the deadline, August 13, 1951.

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, respectfully prays that you speedily enact legislation to extend the time within which to file claims before the Claims Commission for a period of at least two years from August 13, 1951.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House February 24, 1951.

Passed by the Senate March 1, 1951.

Approved by the Governor March 5, 1951.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND HON. E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twentieth Session assembled, respectfully represents:

That because of the geographical location of the Territory of Alaska and the possibility that it could be the scene of hostile military activity, investors are reluctant to make investments in the Territory of Alaska by building or equipping plants required to develop the natural resources of the Territory, the tourist industry, transportation facilities or other destructible properties;

That the municipalities and school districts in the Territory are fearful that investors will not buy their municipal or school bonds as a result of fear of such destruction;

That contractors are hesitant to bid on construction projects or to obligate themselves to more than a limited amount of such work in Alaska, although the Congress of the United States has authorized expenditures of vast sums on construction in Alaska while municipalities and school districts are trying to construct and rehabilitate their public facilities under the Alaska Public Works Program;