

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 48

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND TO THE DELEGATE IN CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Service and its predecessor agencies within the Department of the Interior have been operating in Alaska since before the time of Alaska's organization as an incorporated territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Service has built up a staff of Federal employees running into the hundreds whose salaries and expenses constitute a heavy drain upon the Federal Treasury including the portion thereof derived from Alaska taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the Native residents of Alaska—Eskimo, Indian and Aleut—has despite these expenditures shown no material improvement throughout the period the Alaska Native Service and its predecessor agencies have been operating, but on the contrary has steadily declined; and

WHEREAS, the policies and activities of the Alaska Native Service appear to be directed more toward the growth and perpetuation of a Federal bureaucracy than the improvement of the condition of Alaska's Native people; and

WHEREAS, the really useful function which the Alaska Native Service could provide of furnishing educational facilities for Alaska's Native residents is being progressively abdicated by that agency as is illustrated by the failure ever to provide schooling for thousands of Native children living in remote sections of Alaska, and by the Alaska Native Service's abandoning more than thirty Indian schools over the past few years and throwing the burden of educating the affected children without warning on the Territorial government; and

WHEREAS, despite this withdrawal from its responsibilities, the Alaska Native Service has been spending more and more millions of dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, the large amount of Federal funds now going to pay the salaries and overhead of the numerous employees of the Alaska Native Service could achieve real results if it reached the Native residents of Alaska instead of going to the aforesaid Federal bureaucrats.

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully prays that the Alaska Native Service be abolished and that Federal funds in sums consistent with what has heretofore been spent to maintain that agency be turned over annually by the Federal Government to the Territorial Treasury for use in improving the condition of Alaska's Native residents and placing them on a plane of absolute and actual equality with the rest of the citizens of Alaska.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House, March 13, 1951.

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 50

TO: CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; AND THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in Twentieth Regular Session assembled, respectfully represents:

WHEREAS, the Public Welfare laws of the Territory of Alaska, in providing for general relief for indigent and destitute residents of the Territory, prohibit the granting of any relief to Indian or or Eskimo residents of the Territory who are provided for by the Department of the Interior out of the funds of the Treasury of the United States; and