

Senate Joint Memorials

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA.

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

That, WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by an Act approved March 4, 1915 (38 Stat 1214) reserved for the support of common schools in Alaska sections 16 and 36 in each township, said reservation to become effective upon acceptance of survey, provided said numbered sections were not of known mineral character, were not subject to prior claim or otherwise appropriated by or under the authority of any Act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, rectangular survey conducted in Alaska by the United States has proceeded so slowly during the 36 intervening years that said reservation in favor of schools has attached to less than one-half of one percent of Alaska's entitlement under said Act, with a consequent deprivation of proceeds to the permanent common school fund pending identity of, and leasing jurisdiction over, said school sections; and

WHEREAS, among the relatively few school sections surveyed to date, one in particular, namely, Section 16, Township 13 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, has proven especially valuable for the purpose reserved and, by virtue of its location, has given great promise of substantial proceeds accruing therefrom to Alaska's permanent common school fund; and

WHEREAS, said section has, since acceptance of survey, March 14, 1918, been reserved for the support of the common schools as provided by said Act; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Territory of Alaska has exercised leasing jurisdiction over said section; and

WHEREAS, the Territory's lessees occupy, altogether, the entire section, all of which lessees have constructed substantial improvements on, or are otherwise utilizing, the land; and

WHEREAS, original field notes of survey covering said section noted the presence of gravel, in effect a discovery by the United States, notwithstanding the presence of which gravel the school reservation has since applied to and included said section; and

WHEREAS, the United States, through its Alaska Road Commission; has for several years utilized gravel from said school section for road construction and maintenance needs under arrangements consented to by the Territorial lessees affected; and

WHEREAS, during November and December of 1950 private parties staked mineral claims on said section, purportedly under the mining laws of the United States, said staking being based on an alleged gravel discovery by such parties; and

WHEREAS, the United States, through its Bureau of Land Management, had under consideration at the time said staking occurred, an application for the sale of gravel, the proceeds from which would have gone to the Territorial permanent school fund, and had previously, through its Bureau of Land Management, authorized the removal and sale of gravel from said school section under applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the circumstance of said section's purported staking and the alleged discovery on which said staking was based warrant a thorough investigation and examination by the United States; and

WHEREAS, such mineral claims, if allowed, will result in direct pecuniary damage to the United States of America and to the Territory of Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska urges that prompt investigation be made of all aspects of such purported staking of said school section; and that corrective measures be taken to preserve the source of Alaska's permanent school fund against further depredation, and to insure that lands long set apart for the common school needs of Alaska's children shall not instead be subject to private exploitation and gain.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate, February 9, 1951.

Passed by the House, February 23, 1951.

Approved by the Governor February 28, 1951.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; TO THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA; TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Road Commission included in its program for construction during the fiscal year 1952 a highway from Nome, Alaska, to the Solomon River to connect with the existing highway between Solomon and Council, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, there exists on a different route, an old, inadequate and practically impassable road or trail between Nome and the Solomon River, which because of its location is exceedingly treacherous and dangerous to travel, and upon which human lives have already been lost; and

WHEREAS, the new road included in the construction program for the Alaska Road Commission would be of great economic significance to the Second Division and to the Territory of Alaska, since its construction would not only open up areas for mining, now practically inaccessible, and thus give considerable activity and impetus to the development of the mining industry in the Second Division, but would also contribute to and encourage greatly the existing mining activities at Solomon, Casa de Paga and Council, Alaska, because of the effect of lowering freight rates between Nome and Council; and