

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 21

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Session assembled, respectfully represents that:

WHEREAS, the people of Alaska are generally in sympathy with the security provisions of the McCarran Immigration Law, and keenly realize the need for close scrutiny of all persons entering the United States and for strict security regulations pertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS, the McCarran Immigration Law actually weakens the national security by applying restrictions on aliens only when they leave Alaska thus tending to confine them in the Territory where the United States has many secret and vital defense installations and should have only the most loyal and devoted citizens near them; and

WHEREAS, during World War II the military officials applied travel controls which permitted easy egress from Alaska but subjected those who sought to enter Alaska to desirability tests to exclude those who were for any reason deemed undesirable security risks; and

WHEREAS, under existing provisions of the law, anyone having attained entry into the United States by any means whatever has free access to Alaska, regardless of the Un-American political philosophy or of being an undesirable security risk; and

WHEREAS, the McCarran Immigration Law notwithstanding, aliens cannot enter Alaska legally without undergoing Immigration inspection; and

WHEREAS, we American citizen residents of Alaska in quest of Statehood and equal civil, political, economic and related rights, protest the unintended use of Alaska as a collecting point for undesirables; and

WHEREAS, the McCarran Immigration Law provisions create undue hardship on physically and mentally ill American citizens residing in Alaska who, with their attendants, must enter the zone of the Interior for medical treatment or confinement; and

WHEREAS, the procedures adopted by United States Immigration officials at terminal points in the United States, while not haphazard nor inefficient, are carried out without consideration of the best interests or convenience of those persons entering or re-entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, study should be made of methods of expediting the clearance process for those persons traveling to and from Alaska who have adequate identification, possibly accomplishing this end by deputizing specific members of the transportation company crew or staff so that clearance may be accomplished by them enroute;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully prays that the Congress of the United States, at its present Session, adopt adequate measures to provide security clearance for people both entering and leaving Alaska and to expedite the clearance procedures of the United States Immigration.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House, February 25, 1953.

Passed by the Senate, March 6, 1953.