

islature assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, there are over one thousand residents of the College area near Fairbanks, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the International Airport is situate approximately two (2) miles from said College area; and

WHEREAS, by reason that there are no bridges across the Chena River except in the City of Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a bridge across the Chena River at the end of University Avenue of the College area will bring the International Airport in close proximity to the University of Alaska reducing the distance to travel from said College area to the said airport from 15 miles to 2 miles; and

WHEREAS, residents traveling from the College area to the said airport are required to drive through the heavy traffic of Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the Nenana Highway which is under construction and the construction of said bridge will facilitate travel from Nenana into Fairbanks and to the airport;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in Extraordinary Session of the Twenty-second Legislature assembled, respectfully urges the construction of a bridge across the Chena River at the end of University Avenue of the College area near Fairbanks, Alaska.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 7, 1955

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 7

To the President of the United States; the Congress of the United States; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Labor; and to the Delegate to Congress from Alaska:

Your Memorialist, the House of

Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in Extraordinary Session of the Twenty-second Legislature assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, on the recommen-

dation of the President, did in 1954 create a Federal Unemployment fund for the purpose of assisting the states and territories in meeting unemployment insurance obligations; and

WHEREAS, in mid-1954 it became apparent that the unemployment benefit fund of the Territory of Alaska would, by early 1955, be exhausted and that its supplementation from said Federal loan fund would be necessary for continued payment of benefits; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor, as early as October 4, 1954, and repeatedly thereafter, urged the Alaska Employment Security Commission and the Governor of Alaska to apply for an advance of funds from said Federal Unemployment Account in contemplation of early exhaustion of Alaska's benefit payment fund, which total depletion has now occurred, together with the discontinuance of payments; and

WHEREAS, in January, 1955, the Alaska Employment Security Commission was reported to have requested the Honorable Governor B. Frank Heintzleman to seek such an advance in order to avoid interruption in payment of Alaskan unemployment insurance claims; and

WHEREAS, by law, application for such Federal loan may be made only by the Governors of the several states and territories; and

WHEREAS, the House of Repre-

sentatives of the Territorial Legislature did in 22nd Session regularly assembled urge the Governor of Alaska by resolution adopted on the 28th day of January, 1955, that he make immediate formal application for such Federal loan; and

WHEREAS, it had long been abundantly obvious that absentee controlled financial interests which operate in Alaska and which were opposed to employment security were adamant in their opposition to such an advance and to the continued payment of unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska chose to disregard said House Resolution and the need of Alaska's unemployed and destitute citizens, supporting thereby the aforementioned financial interests; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska has sought at the expense of Alaska's unemployed to encroach upon the authority of an elected legislature and has for political advantage attempted to embarrass the Legislature and has by coercion, delay and deliberate direction sought to exert his will upon the elected Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Governor did on the 26th day of March, 1955, call a Special Session of the Territorial Legislature and did therein, in contravention of an opinion of the Territorial Attorney General, attempt to limit the deliberations of the legislators as to both subject

matter and time; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 1955, the Governor did advise the Legislature that he would not seek a loan from the United States unless and until he was given control of the Alaska Employment Security program by power of appointment of the administrative board thereof and until one million dollars was advanced from the Territorial General Fund to the Employment Security Commission fund; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Alaska in an opinion dated January 8, 1955, had held that in establishing the Federal Unemployment Account the Congress of the United States had clearly intended its use and availability to Alaska, and that there was no legal obstacle to the Governor's making application for such loan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in disregard of said opinion of the Attorney General of Alaska, 2½ months ago sought and has since obtained an opinion from the Attorney General of the United States and did advise the Legislature on March 31, 1955, that under such opinion the Territory could not obtain a loan from the United States with which to meet unemployment benefit claims; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the Attorney General of the United States to render an opinion throughout the period the Legislature was in Regular Session makes it clear that

his course of action was politically motivated and calculated to support the Governor in his attempt to intimidate the Alaska Legislature, and to force it to enact an employment security program which would deprive the Territory of the program's customary economic support; and

WHEREAS, in the interim the Legislature has passed and sent to the Governor, a prospectively workable and sound Employment Security Act designed to meet the needs of Alaska's unemployed and to restore the Employment Security Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governor stated in a message read to the Legislature on April 6, 1955, that he "will now complete the request for the loan", yet in reliance on the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States, suggested that such application would be ineffective without further legislation by the Congress; and

WHEREAS, it is clear to the Legislature that only a Governor who is not answerable to the people may for political purposes so completely disregard the people's welfare;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in Extraordinary Session of the Twenty-second Legislature assembled, earnestly petitions the Congress of the United States to make clear to the Attorney General of the

United States, by special enactment, its already known intent that Alaska, like other jurisdictions, is entitled to make application for, and to receive the benefits of, Title XII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

In full confidence that the Congress will so make clear to the Attorney General of the United States that Alaska was intended to participate in said Title XII, along with the rest of the United States, the Territorial Legislature has authorized a temporary advance of \$2 million from its General Fund to meet immediate need for payments to those of Alaska's workers who are now unemployed.

And it is further requested that

the facts above recited be examined by the Congress in terms of their bearing on Statehood for Alaska and the right of a free citizenry to elect a Governor who will be responsible to their needs, interests, wishes and welfare.

And it is further requested that the Congress investigate the flagrant abuse of the power and prestige of the Attorney General of the United States and of the Governor of Alaska for deliberate political purposes at the expense of Alaska's people and economy, to accommodate absentee-controlled interests, and to intimidate and harass elected representatives of resident Alaskans.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 7, 1955