

U. S. Government a definite value returned for their money, which at present under the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration in most cases they do not; and

WHEREAS, the mining economy so much needed in Alaska would be given a definite incentive and boost by such a program;

NOW THEREFORE, your Me-

morialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully urges that a United States ore purchasing program be set up in Alaska whereby a substantial partial payment may be made to producers of small lots of strategic minerals at point of production.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Passed by the Senate, January 28, 1955

Approved by the Governor, February 7, 1955

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

To the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States; to the Honorable John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State; to the United States Tariff Commission; to the Committee for Reciprocity Information; and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett, Delegate to Congress from Alaska:

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

WHEREAS, the State Department of the United States of America has stated its intention of negotiating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with Japan and other member countries; and

WHEREAS, a possible reduction

in the tariff of 22 1/2% ad valorem on canned crabmeat and 15% ad valorem on fresh or frozen crabmeat is to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the cost of production in the Alaska crab industry is high due to costly capital outlays for boats; fishing gear such as nets, trawls and pots; canneries; freezing plants both ashore and afloat; and the necessary high cost of skilled labor which includes fishermen and cannery workers essential for the proper functioning of this industry; and

WHEREAS, this skilled force of workers must command wages commensurate with the high cost of living in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the profit margin per

case of crabmeat at present quoted prices has permitted the Alaska crab industry to become established and over a period of years, has permitted them to expand their operations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska crab industry expansion in the five years from 1949 to 1953 has amounted to an increase in the value of the crab landings to the fishermen from \$153,133.00 to \$866,352.00; and

WHEREAS, the value of the finished products has increased from \$622,598.00 to \$2,098,883.00 during this same period; and

WHEREAS, the development of the crab industry has assisted materially in augmenting the low income of the fishermen caused by the decline in salmon abundance; and

WHEREAS, the crab fisheries provides year around employment to fishermen and cannery workers—an extremely healthy economic condition; and

WHEREAS, the king crab industry of Alaska is in direct competition with Japanese fishermen and processors in Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska crab in-

dustry is extremely vulnerable to imported crab products from areas of low labor and other production costs; and

WHEREAS, any reductions in the crabmeat tariff would deal a fatal blow to the crab industry in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, reductions in the present crabmeat tariff would wipe out the Alaska crab fisheries and would give Japan the incentive to greatly expand their crab operations; presumably right up to the three-mile limit; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese could then take full advantage of the large reserves of unexploited dungeness, king and tanner crabs off the shores of Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist respectfully prays that the Honorable John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, and the United States Tariff Commission make a finding that the current crabmeat tariffs constitute the peril point and that no reduction be made in the crabmeat tariffs.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Passed by the Senate, February 2, 1955

Passed by the House, February 10, 1955