



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

CSSJR 103

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Opposing the establishment of a "nerve gas" storage depot in Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA :

WHEREAS "nerve gas" is one of the most lethal and least understood agents developed by the United States; and

WHEREAS storage of this lethal agent is with some attendant risk wherever the site is located; and

WHEREAS the federal government has announced a plan to store a large quantity of nerve gas on Kodiak Island in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Kodiak Island is one of the most prone areas in the United States to have devastating earthquakes; and

WHEREAS the population center of Kodiak Island, the City of Kodiak, is on the north end of the island and the only potential storage area for nerve gas is in some area to the south of the city; and

WHEREAS the prevailing wind on Kodiak Island is southwestern thus placing the City of Kodiak downwind from any storage site; and

WHEREAS such agents of chemical and biological warfare are universally deplored and have no utility for a civilized, humane nation; and

WHEREAS since the storage of nerve gas relates to national defense, it is appropriate and prudent for the Department of Defense to conduct public hearings throughout Alaska to consider all aspects relating to this vital issue;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixth State Legislature urges that any action presently being taken to store nerve gas on Kodiak

Island or anywhere else in Alaska be immediately rescinded; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to direct the Secretary of Defense to investigate the need for storing nerve gas and to conduct public hearings throughout the State of Alaska, providing information and taking testimony (assuring all interested persons ample time and opportunity to be heard) on the following issues, among others: (1) whether nerve gas is a legitimate weapon of war, thereby justifying its retention; (2) whether it would be wiser to simply destroy it; (3) what the danger of its storage is and what the effects of that storage may be; (4) why it was believed advisable to store it in Alaska.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Melvin R. Laird, Secretary, Department of Defense; the Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee; the Honorable L. Mendell Rivers, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.