

## Senate Joint Memorials

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### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1.

To the Honorable  
The Congress of the United States.

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in regular session assembled, respectfully reports that

WHEREAS, the inhabitants of the coastal regions of South-eastern and Southwestern Alaska have heretofore derived their livelihood almost solely from the taking and selling of salmon and halibut and the manufacture of fish products; and

WHEREAS, the inhabitants of this region are suffering from severe adverse economic conditions to such an extent that want and destitution are common; and

WHEREAS, the care and sustenance of the destitute and needy inhabitants of said regions has and is placing a staggering burden on the Territory of Alaska, the municipal governments, and the property owners of said region; and

WHEREAS, want and destitution are particularly prevalent among the native wards of the United States inhabiting said regions; and

WHEREAS, this condition of want and suffering is traceable directly to the unstable condition of the salmon and halibut fishing industry in said region; and

WHEREAS, said industry is practically paralyzed and unable to operate, thereby creating unemployment among those dependent upon it; and

WHEREAS, the chaotic condition of said halibut and salmon industry has been created by the demoralization of its market by reason of the importation of halibut and salmon products from foreign countries, now off the gold standard and whose currencies are greatly depreciated on the foreign exchange; and

WHEREAS, by reason of such depreciated currencies Japanese importers can sell pink salmon at greatly reduced prices on the American market and realize a substantial profit from their oper-

ation, due to the fact that the value of the American funds received in payment of their product is greatly enhanced in Japan because of the great depreciation of Japanese currency; and

WHEREAS, producers of canned salmon in the Territory of Alaska by use of the most modern methods and by payment of a low and insufficient wage scale and an extremely low and insufficient price for the raw product, have been placing their product on the wholesale market at a price below the cost of production; which said price leaves no margin or profit, and in some instance results in a substantial operating deficit, even when fixed charges such as interest payments, depreciation, etc., are disregarded; and

WHEREAS, this same situation exists with reference to the halibut industry, Alaskan halibut fishermen being thrown in direct competition with Canadian halibut fishermen, who outfit their vessels and maintain their homes in the province of British Columbia, where Canadian currency is accepted at face value and has a purchasing power equal to or greater than American currency expended in the Territory of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, said Canadian halibut fishermen import their catches into the United States and receive in payment therefor, American funds, the value of which is enhanced greatly upon the same being transferred into the Province of B. C.; and

WHEREAS, not only the volume of Canadian and Japanese imports of halibut and salmon have demoralized the American market, but said market is further demoralized by the potential menace of imports in greatly increased volume; and

WHEREAS, because of the condition above set forth, those interested in the halibut and salmon industry, particularly the latter, are unwilling and afraid to make the costly investments necessary to prepare for operation during the season of 1933; and

WHEREAS, it appears certain that the salmon canneries of Southeastern and Southwestern Alaska, or a major portion of them, will not operate during the coming season, unless the owners of such plants receive some assurance of future protection from unfair competition by the importation of canned salmon from Japan or other countries operating with depreciated currency; and

WHEREAS, in the event of failure of such plants to operate, want and destitution will be greatly increased and whole communities will be left to face a long and severe winter entirely without resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, your memorialist, the Legislature of Alaska, respectfully prays that immediate steps be taken to enact emergency legislation along the lines set forth in the Depreciated Currency Bill, sometimes called the Hill Bill (H. R. 13999) to meet this condition, asking only that the competitive status prevailing prior to the injection of the depreciated currency element, be restored.

And your memorialist will ever pray.

Passed by the Senate March 9, 1933.

Passed by the House March 15, 1933.

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## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2.

TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND TO THE HONORABLE A. J. DIMOND, DELEGATE TO  
CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialists respectfully show:

1. That the crab fisheries of Japan have furnished to the United States several million dollars of canned crab each year which product has been taken from the Pacific Ocean in waters adjacent to Japan and Siberia; That in recent years the depletion of the supply of crab in home waters has caused the Japanese government to send exploratory expeditions into the waters adjacent to Alaska and especially into Bering Sea where it has been determined that vast quantities of spider crabs make their habitat; That as a result of such information large ships are being sent to Bering Sea each year where hundreds of thousands of cases of crab are taken, packed and shipped to Japan and from thence to the United States, to the detriment of American labor and to the depletion of resources of this country.

II. That the present halibut and cod banks are being rapidly depleted and it is now necessary for our fishermen to go great distances to secure a catch, many in fact entering the Bering Sea; and,

III. That it is a generally known fact that there are extensive banks of halibut, cod and other food fish in the Bering Sea, Kotzebue Sound and Arctic waters, but concerning which there is no reliable data now available; and,

IV. That for many years this Legislature has petitioned your Department for an adequate survey of the fish resources of the