

Senate Joint Memorials

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE U. S. MARITIME COMMISSION, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Eighteenth Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has studied Delegate Bartlett's telegraphic report relating to the Alaska Shipping situation; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Steamship Company and the Northland Transportation Company have challenged Alaska by threatening to discontinue operation of ships from Seattle on March 1, 1947, if the Territory opposes their recent proposal, by taking same to the Maritime Commission for hearing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed overall 35% increase would cover passenger fares as well as freight rates, and in practice constitutes an average increase in freight rates of about 45% over present levels, which levels already include a 16% wartime surcharge, which would be ruinous to the Territory's economy; and,

WHEREAS, previous stoppages of service of said carriers have resulted in groundwork having been laid for establishing other means of transportation, such as an operation by Briggs Steamship Company from Prince Rupert to Southeastern Alaska at 20% below present freight rates, and service by Portland interests to Westward Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, emergency transportation could be obtained during the threatened shutdown, including possible amendment of Sec. 27 of the Jones Act to permanently remove discrimination against Alaska, or temporary suspension thereof, making Canadian service available; and,

WHEREAS, it is not believed that Seattle distributors and attendant interests would permit any sustained discontinuance of service by carriers headquartered in their city; and,

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska into a strong buffer state is of paramount importance to the national security, which should be safeguarded by unstinting relief with insistence on efficiency measures, to solve this transportation problem, with the view that added development would soon increase freight business to the point where operators could reduce their rates below the present high level, rendering adequate federal assistance but a temporary burden, in the nature of a sound investment.

THEREFORE, your memorialist accepts the challenge laid down by the carriers, and directs its administrative officers to fight any increase in waterborne freight rates with every means at their disposal, and hereby urges Federal authorities to lend support to the Territory in this matter of national concern.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate February 4, 1947.

Passed by the House February 5, 1947.

Approved by the Governor, February 10, 1947.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

TO THE HIGHWAY ENGINEER:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Eighteenth Session assembled, respectfully submits that: