

Legislature, the bar, and the public. At these conferences, frank and constructive discussions should be encouraged in order that all points of view be brought to bear on improving the workings of our criminal justice system. We further recommend that either the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Criminal Justice or the Judicial Council, or both, arrange and coordinate these conferences.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to express the sincere thanks of the entire Alaska Court System for the opportunity to report to you on these matters. As I view it, the quest for justice is never ending, one that calls for long hard hours of work, equally hard and skillful thought, and an overriding commitment to making our system of constitutional government work. You must understand that under Alaska's Constitution the Judiciary is called upon to insure that all Alaskans are accorded equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law. We who have the privilege of serving in Alaska's Judiciary are fully cognizant of the uniqueness of life in Alaska and of the opportunity granted us to achieve a quality of excellence in our government and life styles which unfortunately is already unattainable in many of our sister states. It is my belief that the achievements of the Judicial Branch of Alaska in the relatively short fifteen years since we attained statehood have been outstanding and should be a source of pride for all Alaskans.

March 25, 1974

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE

No. 4

THE HONORABLE DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
BEFORE THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
MARCH 25, 1974

GOVERNOR EGAN, PRESIDENT MILLER, SPEAKER FINK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE: IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE BACK IN JUNEAU.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE AFFORDED ME THE TRADITIONAL
PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING A JOINT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE SO MUCH IMPORTANT WORK TO DO -- BILL RAY
WANTING ANOTHER BRIDGE AND ALL -- I'LL TRY TO TAKE AS LITTLE OF
YOUR TIME AS POSSIBLE.

I'VE BEEN ALASKA'S CONGRESSMAN FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR, NOW,
DURING A PERIOD OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN TREMENDOUSLY
EXCITING AND IMPORTANT, BOTH FOR OUR NATION AND OUR STATE.

CONGRESS CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE PIPELINE AFTER A LONG, HARD FIGHT.
I'M PROUD TO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN WINNING THAT FIGHT, BUT I COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE SOLID BACKING AND HELP THAT ALASKANS
GAVE ME, THE GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO CAME
TO WASHINGTON TO HELP ME PRESENT ALASKA'S CASE, THE ALASKANS
WHO TALKED ABOUT ALASKA AND THE PIPELINE DURING THEIR TRAVELS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE ALASKANS WHO WROTE LETTERS TO FRIENDS
WHEN I CAME TO CONGRESS, THE ODDS WERE DECIDEDLY AGAINST THE
ALASKA PIPELINE.

BUT ALASKA OVERCAME THOSE ODDS, AND WORK ON THE PIPELINE WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING. WHILE THIS IS TREMENDOUSLY ENCOURAGING, I AM COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT THE PIPELINE WILL NOT BE DELIVERING OIL -- OR ROYALTY MONEY TO THE STATE TREASURY -- UNTIL SOMETIME IN 1977.

THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND CHANGING RELATIONS WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED THE NATION'S ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PIPELINE AND ALASKA.

YOU'VE ALL SEEN PICTURES OF THE MILES-LONG LINES OF MOTORISTS QUEUING UP AT GAS STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. YOU'VE ALL READ REPORTS THAT THE SOMETIMES CHAOTIC SITUATION WAS CAUSED BY AN OIL SHORTFALL OF 2.2 MILLION BARRELS A DAY -- THE AMOUNT THE ARAB STATES WITHHELD FROM DELIVERY TO THE UNITED STATES. YOU'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE FACT THAT THE ALASKA PIPELINE IS DESIGNED TO MOVE 2 MILLION BARRELS A DAY FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO VALDEZ AND THEN ON SOUTH TO REFINERIES AND MARKETS ON THE WEST COAST.

I THINK THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR. IF WORK ON THE ALASKA PIPELINE HAD BEGUN AS SCHEDULED, THE ARAB BLACKMAIL WOULD HAVE BACKFIRED ON OUR GOOD FRIENDS THE SHIEKS. THE ALASKA PIPELINE IS NOW THE AMERICAN PIPELINE IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE.

GETTING IT BUILT AND OPERATING IS NOW THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY ITEM IN THIS NATION'S PLAN TO BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT FOR ITS ENERGY NEEDS.

TO DO THE JOB, ALASKA WILL HAVE TO GET AS MUCH FUEL AS IT NEEDS. THIS IS THE POINT I STRESSED RECENTLY WITH WILLIAM SIMON, THE NATION'S ENERGY CZAR, AND FRED CHIEL, THE NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE ALASKA FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE. BOTH AGREED WITH ME. I THINK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALASKAN OFFICE -- THE ONLY SINGLE STATE OFFICE IN THE NATION -- IS PROOF OF THE PIPELINE'S PRIORITY.

IT MAY SOUND STRANGE TO SAY, BUT WE SHOULD PUT THE PIPELINE INTO THE PAST TENSE. SAY TO YOURSELF "IT'S DONE," AND MOVE ON TO OTHER THINGS.

IF YOU THOUGHT THE PIPELINE WAS IMPORTANT, THINK OF THE THINGS TO COME.

CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT LEGISLATION PENDING IN THE CONGRESS AND THE PLANS BEING MADE FOR ALASKA.

THERE ARE BILLS THAT WOULD PUSH OUR FISHERY ZONE OUT TO 200 MILES.

THERE ARE OTHERS THAT WOULD GIVE THE U.S. CONTROL OVER THE INTERNATIONAL HARVEST OF ALASKA'S SALMON.

THERE ARE BILLS THAT WOULD PUT US ALL INTO THE LAND USE PLANNING BUSINESS, AND OTHERS -- LIKE THE STRIP MINING BILL -- THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY PREVENT US FROM USING OUR LAND.

THERE ARE BILLS THAT WOULD OPEN PET 4 TO OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION -- A MOVE THAT WOULD MAKE STATE-OWNED OIL LANDS VALUELESS -- AND THERE ARE BILLS THAT WOULD MAKE ALASKA'S RICHEST LANDS FEDERAL RESERVES.

THERE ARE BILLS THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM AT DEVIL'S CANYON, AND OTHERS THAT WOULD MAKE MUCH OF ALASKA OFF LIMITS TO ALASKANS.

THE CONGRESS IS A FLURRY OF PAPER AND TALK, SO MUCH SO THAT SOME MEMBER WILL SOON INTRODUCE THE 14,000TH BILL OF THIS CONGRESS WHILE WE ARE STILL CONSIDERING H.R. 69, A MASSIVE EDUCATION MEASURE THAT WOULD INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ALASKA.

SO FAR, ONLY 253 HAVE BECOME LAW.

WE'RE AT A PIVOTAL TIME IN ALASKA'S HISTORY. DEVELOPERS AND PRESERVATIONISTS ARE JUMPING ON OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SEE-SAW CLAMORING FOR US TO OPEN UP THIS OR LOCK AWAY THAT.

THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA, I THINK, SIT SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE.

THEY'RE WAITING, THEY'RE WATCHING. I THINK THEY'RE PRAYING WE DO OUR JOBS RIGHT AND TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION AND NOT JUST LISTEN TO THE LOUDEST VOICES OF THE DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS.

WE'LL BE DETERMINING THE FUTURE COURSE OF ALASKA IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, YOU IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, AND ME AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF ALASKA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON.

WHAT DO WE WANT, WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

ALASKA IS RICH ALMOST BEYOND MEASURE WITH ENERGY RESOURCES: OIL, GAS, COAL AND POTENTIAL HYDROELECTRIC SITES.

WHETHER WE ALLOW THOSE RESOURCES TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALASKANS OR EXPLOITED FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOMEONE ELSE IS UP TO US. THERE'S A LOT OF FINE PRINT IN LEGISLATION. WE MUST SCRUTINIZE IT CAREFULLY TO STRIKE THE BEST BALANCE, THE BEST BARGAIN FOR ALASKA.

"ENERGY CRISIS" IS A HOUSEHOLD PHRASE THESE DAYS. HOW MANY PEOPLE, HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, IN CONGRESS, OR IN HOMES AROUND THE NATION, REALIZE THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT UP IN A "MINERAL CRISIS" THAT THREATENS TO BE MORE DISRUPTIVE TO OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY THAN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS.

THE ENERGY CRISIS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO GET TO WORK. IN A MINERALS CRISIS, THEY MAY NOT HAVE ANY WORK TO DO IF THE NATION'S FACTORIES CANNOT GET THE RAW MATERIALS THEY NEED TO MAKE THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

JUST AS ALASKA HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH BILLIONS OF BARRELS OF OIL, SO, TOO, ARE WE WELL STOCKED WITH VITALLY NEEDED MINERALS. THEY'VE BEEN UNDEVELOPED UNTIL NOW FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH: THINGS LIKE WORLD PRICES, A LACK OF TRANSPORTATION IN ALASKA, THE JONES ACT.

BUT JUST AS THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES HAVE HAD TO LOOK FARTHER AFIELD AND DRILL DEEPER IN THEIR QUEST FOR OIL, SO, TOO, WILL ALASKA'S DAY COME AS AN IMPORTANT MINERAL SUPPLIER FOR THE NATION.

THAT DAY WILL COME IF, AND ONLY IF, WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN COMING CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES OVER THE OWNERSHIP OF ALASKA'S LANDS. INTERIOR SECRETARY MORTON WANTS TO LOCK AWAY MORE THAN 80 MILLION ACRES FOR PARKS AND FORESTS AND THE LIKE. THE SIERRA CLUB AND THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH WOULD LIKE TO DOUBLE THAT FIGURE IF THEY COULD.

IN JUST ONE CASE, WE HAVE THE MINERS ARGUING ON ONE SIDE, AND THE PRESERVATIONISTS ON THE OTHER. THE MINERS SAY THE PRESERVATIONISTS WANT TO RUIN THEM ECONOMICALLY AND THE PRESERVATIONISTS SAY THE MINERS WANT TO RUN IN PELL MELL AND DIG UP THE WILDERNESS.

BOTH SIDES HAVE IMPORTANT POINTS TO MAKE. BOTH SIDES HAVE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE TO OUR SOCIETY.

IT'S STUPID TO RIP UP THE LAND FOR MINERALS IF ONE END RESULT IS MINE WASTE THAT DESTROYS A FISHERY, BUT IT'S EQUALLY ABSURD TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY JUST IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A MILLION SQUARE MILES OF PICTURE POSTCARD SCENERY, SAY, RATHER THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND.

WE ALL KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR FISHERIES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONVINCED THE INTERNATIONAL BALANCE OF TRADE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A FEW ALASKANS OUT IN BRISTOL BAY. I SINCERELY HOPE WE HAVE NOT TRADED THE RICHEST FISHERY IN NORTH AMERICA FOR A FEW CARS AND TELEVISION SETS.

I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ALASKA'S FUTURE. I THINK WE WILL SEE SOLUTIONS TO THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

JUST A WEEK FROM NOW, A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE HERE IN ANCHORAGE TO CONDUCT A HEARING ON FISHERIES MATTERS. THIS SUMMER'S LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE MAY WELL BRING US A 200 MILE LIMIT. AND WHILE THAT IN ITSELF WOULD BE NO ABSOLUTE PROTECTION FOR OUR SALMON FISHERY, IT WOULD GIVE US A MUCH STRONGER HAND. THE JAPANESE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE MUCH MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CATCHING POLLOCK THAN SALMON. AND THE POLLOCK, UNLIKE ALASKA'S SALMON, ARE MOSTLY CONFINED TO NEAR-SHORE WATERS LESS THAN 200 MILES OFF OUR COASTS.

IF THE JAPANESE WANT TO CONTINUE FISHING FOR POLLOCK -- A SPECIES THAT IS VIRTUALLY UNUSED BY AMERICAN FISHERMEN -- THEY WILL HAVE TO COME TO US FOR PERMISSION TO FISH INSIDE THE 200 MILE LIMIT. HOPEFULLY FOR ALASKA, THE PRICE OF THAT PERMISSION WOULD BE THE COMPLETE ABANDONMENT, OR AT LEAST A SEVERE CURTAILMENT, OF THE JAPANESE HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHERY.

MUCH THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF ALASKA'S LANDS -- AN ISSUE I BELIEVE TO BE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO THE LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE THAN THE PIPELINE.

CONGRESS HAS FIVE YEARS IN WHICH TO ACT ON THE LAND PROPOSALS. A LOT CAN, AND PROBABLY WILL, HAPPEN IN THAT TIME.

THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE WILL GO ON STREAM.

A GAS PIPELINE WILL BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

WORK SHOULD BEGIN ON THE DAM AT DEVIL'S CANYON.

OUR FISHERIES SHOULD BE REPLENISHING THEIR STOCKS.

OUR WIDELY SCATTERED CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES SHOULD BE LINKED BY ORBITING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES.

NEW TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, USING THE LAND, THE SEA AND THE AIR, WILL MAKE ALASKA'S VAST DISTANCES MORE MANAGEABLE, MAKE THE STATE'S RESOURCES ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE.

WITH CONGRESS'S GROWING AWARENESS OF ALASKA, AND THE NATION'S GROWING DEPENDENCE UPON THE STATE AS A TREASURE HOUSE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, REASON WILL PREVAIL. WE WILL BALANCE THE LANDS (EDUCATION), SAVING SOME FOR SOCIETY'S NEEDS AND SOME FOR WILDERNESS AND OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

AND IN THE MEANTIME, ALASKANS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY AN EVER IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE.

IN THE PAST YEAR, ALASKA HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. MONEY FOR SCHOOLS AND ROADS AND HOSPITALS AND HARBORS. MONEY FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES AND WATER SYSTEMS AND SATELLITES. MONEY FOR MANY THINGS -- ALL OF THEM IMPORTANT TO ALASKA.

AS RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATORS, WE ARE THE ONES WHO MUST DETERMINE THE PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAMS AND SPENDING AND CAST OUR VOTES ACCORDINGLY.

AS RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATORS, WE MUST REMEMBER THE LESSONS OF THE PAST, KEEP IN MIND THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT, AND WORK OUR HARDEST TO BUILD THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE.

THANK YOU.