

SENATE-HOUSE JOINT JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

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WEDNESDAY

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THE HONORABLE TED STEVENS

and

THE HONORABLE FRANK MURKOWSKI

U. S. SENATORS

Addressing the Joint Session of the
Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature

REMARKS OF SENATOR TED STEVENS
TO THE 16TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION
JUNEAU, ALASKA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1989

EARLY ALASKANS WORKED HARD NOT JUST TO SURVIVE BUT TO CREATE CULTURES THAT ENRICH OUR STATE TO THIS VERY DAY. AS WE FOUGHT FOR STATEHOOD, ALASKANS FACED DEFEAT AND DISAPPOINTMENT MANY TIMES BUT DID NOT GIVE UP.

THE NORTH COUNTRY DOESN'T OFFER THE LUXURY OF TAKING THE EASY ROAD IN ANY ENDEAVOR. WE INHERIT THE ALASKA SPIRIT FROM THOSE PIONEERS WHO ROLLED UP THEIR SLEEVES AND WORKED TOGETHER.

OUR PRESENT CHALLENGE RESULTING FROM THE DECLINE IN WORLD OIL PRICES IS SERIOUS BUT NOT FATAL. ALASKA'S ECONOMY IS MORE THAN A FUNCTION OF WORLD OIL PRICES. ALASKANS ARE TAKING RISKS, MOVING FORWARD, BUILDING FOR TOMORROW.

DRAMATIC GROWTH IN OUR FISHERIES IS ONE OF THE BRIGHTER SPOTS OF OUR ECONOMY. SACRIFICING SHORT-TERM GAINS, ALASKA'S FISHERMEN ARE BUILDING FOR THE LONG TERM. THE GREATEST FISHERY IN THE WORLD WON'T SURVIVE, HOWEVER, IF HIGH SEAS PIRACY BY FOREIGN FISHERMEN IS NOT CHECKED.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE STATE'S HIGH SEAS ADVISORY GROUP REINFORCED SIGNALS SENT TO THOSE PIRATES WHEN CONGRESS PASSED MY DRIFTNET BILL AND THE SENATE APPROVED MY RESOLUTION OPPOSING UNCONTROLLED FISHING IN THE BERING SEA "DOUGHNUT."

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THESE SIGNALS, HOWEVER, MUST BE FOLLOWED UP BY ACTION.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAIWAN, JAPAN, AND KOREA UNDER THE DRIFNET ACT HAVE FAILED SO FAR TO PRODUCE PROGRESS ON MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT. THE SANCTION PROVIDED FOR THIS FAILURE -- CERTIFICATION OF THE OFFENDING NATIONS UNDER THE PELLY AMENDMENT WHICH AUTHORIZES A REDUCTION IN THEIR MARINE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES --ISN'T ENOUGH. CONGRESSMAN YOUNG, SENATOR MURKOWSKI, AND I INTEND TO PURSUE AN EXPANSION OF THE PELLY AMENDMENT IN THIS CONGRESS TO COVER NON-MARINE PRODUCTS AS WELL.

THE SOVIET UNION WANTS ALL HIGH SEAS FISHING OF SALMON HALTED BY 1992. WE WILL PURSUE JOINT ACTION WITH THEM WHICH GOES BEYOND COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT. IN MY JUDGMENT, A NORTH PACIFIC SALMON CONVENTION TO CONSERVE SALMON STOCKS SHOULD BE OUR GOAL.

EXPANSION OF THE PELLY AMENDMENT, CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS, ENHANCEMENT OF OUR OWN ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, INDUSTRY INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND OBSERVERS, AND THE INTERACTION BETWEEN AMERICAN USERS OF ALASKA'S WATERS, WILL BE EXAMINED IN CONGRESS THIS YEAR AS PART OF THE MAGNUSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS.

WHILE SOME DO NOT VIEW IT AS SUCH, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BASIC INDUSTRIES IN ALASKA IS THE FEDERAL MILITARY. HAVING CONSULTED WITH SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND THE ALASKAN CIVILIAN ADVISORY BOARD, WE WILL SOON MOVE TO RESTRUCTURE THE ALASKA MILITARY COMMAND.

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THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE PACIFIC, ADMIRAL HARDISTY, WILL DISCUSS IN ANCHORAGE LATER THIS WEEK, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBUNIFIED COMMAND FOR ALASKA. THIS COMMAND WILL BE PART OF THE OVERALL PACIFIC COMMAND -- A FORCE THAT STRETCHES FROM THE NORTH SLOPE AS FAR SOUTH AS SAN DIEGO AND AS FAR WEST AS THE PERSIAN GULF. ALASKA WILL THEN BE DIRECTLY REPRESENTED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS THAT PROVIDES FOR OUR PACIFIC DEFENSE.

DURING THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS, I WILL WORK TO KEEP THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SIXTH LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION ON SCHEDULE. AS PART OF THAT EFFORT, WE'LL CONTINUE TO BRING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO ALASKA TO EDUCATE THEM ABOUT OUR STATE'S STRATEGIC MILITARY IMPORTANCE.

THE NEXT CHALLENGE FACING THE MILITARY SECTOR OF ECONOMY IS HOMEPORTING.

THE NAVY HAS ISSUED ITS INITIAL REPORT. NOW ONLY YOU AND GOVERNOR CAN TAKE THE NEXT STEP: DETERMINING WITH THE NAVY AND THE COMMUNITY CHOSEN AS A HOMEPORT WHETHER ALASKA CAN PROVIDE THE FINANCING NECESSARY TO BUILD THE NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE. THE STATE MUST ALSO NEGOTIATE TERMS WITH THE NAVY TO SEE WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THIS MAJOR PROJECT.

SUCH ANALYSIS AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BE EASY. BUT, ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION, I AM OF THE OPINION HOMEPORTING CAN BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO OUR STATE.

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FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIPS HAVE PAID OFF FOR ALASKA.

THE RED DOG MINE WENT FORWARD AFTER LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AUTHORIZED THE MINE TO BUILD ITS ROAD ACROSS THE NORTHERN PORTION OF CAPE KRUSENSTERN NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND YOU GRANTED THE STATE AUTHORITY TO FINANCE ROAD AND PORT DEVELOPMENT.

THAT SORT OF COOPERATION IS IN ALASKA'S INTEREST -- RED DOG WILL BENEFIT NOT JUST NORTHWEST ALASKA BUT THE STATE AS A WHOLE. IF WE CAN EXTEND THIS MODEL TO HOMEPORTING, IT WILL WORK.

ALASKANS NEED TO PREPARE FOR NATIONAL CHANGES THAT WILL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ALL STATES.

THE PRESSURE ON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO BRING THE FEDERAL DEFICIT UNDER CONTROL IS MOUNTING EVEN AS THE BURDENS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCREASE. TO MEET GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS TARGETS WITHOUT SNUFFING OUT ECONOMIC EXPANSION WITH NEW TAXES, TOUGH CHOICES ON SPENDING LEVELS WILL BE MADE -- AND SOME OF THOSE CHOICES WILL NOT BE POPULAR EVERYWHERE.

AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE PROVERBIAL BUDGET BULLET MAY HAVE A LOT OF TEETH MARKS ON IT. SOME MAY BE OURS.

AS WE ENTER THIS DIFFICULT BUDGET PROCESS, I AM HEARTENED BY THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT BUSH IS A GREAT FRIEND OF ALASKA. HE HAS ALREADY STRONGLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR PRUDENT EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ANWR COASTAL PLAIN. AND, HIS BUDGET PRIORITIES -- PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO CURBING DRUG ABUSE AND IMPROVING EDUCATION -- DEAL WITH MANY OF OUR

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CONCERNS IN ALASKA.

ALASKANS DON'T CHOOSE TO LIVE IN THE GREAT LAND BECAUSE IT OFFERS AN QUIET, EASY LIFE. WE CHOOSE TO LIVE HERE BECAUSE WE LOVE ALASKA'S NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE CHANCE IT OFFERS TO BUILD SOMETHING BETTER THAN WHAT WE SEE OUTSIDE.

IN THAT SPIRIT AS ALASKANS, EACH OF YOU, FRANK, DON, AND I HAVE CHOSEN PUBLIC SERVICE.

AS ALASKA WORKS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES WE'VE JUST DISCUSSED, I HOPE EACH OF US WILL LOOK TO THE EXAMPLE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT FOR STATEHOOD, WHO WORKED FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT, AND WHO JOINED TOGETHER TO SECURE THE APPROVAL OF THE TRANS-ALASKA OIL PIPELINE.

THEY WORKED TO FIND COMMON GROUND AND PRESENTED A UNITED FRONT TO CONGRESS AND THE REST OF THE NATION.

IT IS THE DUTY OF THOSE OF US IN PUBLIC LIFE TO WORK OUT ANY DIFFERENCES THAT WE MAY HAVE SO THAT ALASKA CAN MOVE FORWARD. AND IN SO DOING, WE WILL HAVE LIVED UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE FAITH OF OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO GRANT US THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING ALASKANS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME VISIT WITH YOU TODAY.