

FOR RELEASE AFTER 11 a.m. JAN. 17

The following remarks were prepared by Senator Stevens for his address before the Alaska State Legislature at 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 17.

The Senator may depart from the original text when he delivers the speech, which will be carried live on KAKM, KTOO and on the Rural Alaska Television Network (RATNET).

Following the address, Senator Stevens will respond to questions from Legislators.

January 17, 1990

REMARKS OF SENATOR TED STEVENS TO THE  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATUREWednesday, January 17, 1990  
Juneau, Alaska

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK WITH YOU AGAIN.

WHEN I SERVED IN THIS CHAMBER, WE WERE LEARNING WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A STATE.

WE COULD NOT HAVE PREDICTED MUCH THAT HAPPENED IN THE DECADE JUST ENDED -- AT HOME OR AROUND THE GLOBE.

REMEMBER 1980? THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL THAT YEAR WAS THE CULMINATION OF OUR LONG STRUGGLE TO SETTLE THE STATUS OF ALASKA'S LANDS.

CONGRESS ENACTED LEGISLATION CREATING NINE NEW PARKS, SIXTEEN NEW WILDLIFE REFUGES, AND ADDED LANDS TO OUR NATIONAL FORESTS. WHILE NOT ALTOGETHER WHAT WE SOUGHT, THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AND MINE BELIEVED WE HAD ACHIEVED 80% OF ALASKA'S GOALS.

THAT ACT SET THE STAGE FOR CONVEYANCE OF LANDS TO THE STATE AND OUR NATIVE CORPORATIONS.

IN 1980 LESS THAN A THIRD OF NATIVE LAND SELECTIONS HAD BEEN CONVEYED, WHILE ONLY 35 PERCENT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE.

NOW, AT THE END OF THE DECADE, MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE NATIVE AND STATE LAND ENTITLEMENTS HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

THE EFFECTS OF THE 1980 LANDS ACT HAVE NOT BEEN WHAT WE ANTICIPATED. FOR INSTANCE, LOOK AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS.

TODAY, NATIONAL PARKS COULD BE TOP TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE STATE.

BUT, WHILE CONGRESS PROVIDED SOME NEW PARK FACILITIES OVER THE DECADE, MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WE NEED INCREASED FUNDING FOR HOTELS, CAMPGROUNDS, ROADS, TRAILS, AND OTHER FACILITIES TO MAKE OUR PARKS MORE ATTRACTIVE AS A VACATION DESTINATION, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE DRIVING CARS AND VANS.

OUR WILDLIFE REFUGES HAVE HELPED ALASKA'S WATERFOWL POPULATIONS STABILIZE AFTER YEARS OF DECLINE, AND THE ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE WAS EVEN TAKEN OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

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DURING THE 80'S, MARINE MAMMAL POPULATIONS INCREASED TO NEAR HISTORIC HIGH LEVELS, WHILE OTHER LAND MAMMALS CONTINUED TO THRIVE.

I COULD SPEAK ABOUT SUBJECTS RANGING FROM A TO Z -- FROM THE NEW ARCHIVES BRANCH, WHICH WILL BE A NATIONAL DEPOSITORY FOR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO ALASKA; TO THE NATIONAL CENSUS, WHICH WILL START EARLIER THAN USUAL IN RURAL ALASKA AND IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT TO FAIR TREATMENT OF OUR STATE IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS, TO THE ZEAL WITH WHICH WE ARE PURSUING FISH PIRATES. I WILL MENTION A FEW AND HOPE TO HAVE TIME TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

SOME ISSUES WHICH SEEMED SETTLED IN 1980 RESURFACED -- LIKE TIMBER HARVESTING IN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, ANWR, AND ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS GENERALLY.

TONGASS

THE FIGHT OVER THE TONGASS TIMBER PROGRAM WILL RESUME SHORTLY AFTER CONGRESS RETURNS NEXT WEEK.

AGREEMENT WAS ALMOST REACHED -- AGAIN -- ON A TONGASS BILL LAST NOVEMBER. THIS WAS THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW THAT AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO NEGOTIATE A COMPROMISE WITH THE HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE.

LAND STATUS IS AGAIN THE STICKING POINT. THERE ARE 23 AREAS THE HOUSE WANTS TO WITHDRAW FROM TIMBER HARVESTING. ABOUT SEVEN OF THESE ARE THE REAL CORE OF THE ARGUMENT.

THESE AREAS ARE SCHEDULED TO SUPPLY TIMBER OVER THE CURRENT PART OF THE SUSTAINED YIELD HARVEST CYCLE. (THE TONGASS CYCLE COVERS MORE THAN 100 YEARS.)

IN 1978, THE HOUSE AGREED TO 2.7 MILLION ACRES OF WILDERNESS FOR THE TONGASS. THAT BILL WAS KILLED BY ALASKA'S OTHER SENATOR.

TWO YEARS LATER, THE DEMAND DOUBLED -- 5.4 MILLION ACRES IN THE TONGASS ULTIMATELY BECAME WILDERNESS UNDER THE 1980 ACT.

OTHER PROVISIONS CHANGED BETWEEN 1978 AND 1980 -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE TOTAL AREA OF NATIONAL PARKS WENT FROM ABOUT 40 MILLION ACRES TO ALMOST 45 MILLION ACRES. THE PARK PRESERVES -- PARK AREAS THAT REMAINED OPEN TO HUNTING -- SHRANK.

WILDLIFE REFUGE AREAS INCREASED FROM 40 MILLION ACRES TO 53 MILLION ACRES. 7 MILLION ACRES HAD BEEN PROPOSED IN 1978 FOR NATIONAL RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AREAS. IN 1980, ONLY 2.2 MILLION ENDED UP IN THESE CATEGORIES, AND THE REMAINDER WENT INTO MORE RESTRICTIVE MANAGEMENT AS PARTS OF PARKS OR REFUGES.

THIS YEAR, AS MUCH AS 1.8 MILLION ACRES WOULD BE CLOSED TO TIMBER HARVESTING BY THE HOUSE TONGASS BILL -- RESULTING IN A TOTAL OF 7.2 MILLION ACRES OF DE FACTO AND STATUTORY WILDERNESS IN THE FOREST -- AN AREA LARGER THAN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

#### WETLANDS

ANOTHER ISSUE -- WETLANDS -- HAS TAKEN AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF MY TIME IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THE PROBLEM STARTED WITH THE 1972 CLEAN WATER ACT'S REQUIREMENT THAT A PERMIT BE OBTAINED BEFORE FILL BE PLACED IN THE NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES. BY REGULATION AND COURT DECISION, THIS REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO PLACING FILL IN WETLANDS.

THE NEW GOAL OF NO OVERALL NET LOSS OF WETLANDS -- WHICH HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE PRESIDENT -- POSES THE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE EVER TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA. NO NET LOSS HAS YET TO BE TURNED INTO A WORKABLE NATIONAL POLICY.

THE HISTORY OF THIS CURRENT WETLANDS PROBLEM IS SHORT, BUT COMPLEX:

DURING HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS LAST YEAR, THE PRESIDENT ENDORSED THE "NO NET LOSS" GOAL. HE DIRECTED THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING IT. THE COUNCIL HAS BEGUN THE EFFORT.

WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE DPC, AND I BELIEVE, ACTING IN VIOLATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT, THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND EPA IN MID-NOVEMBER SIGNED AN AGREEMENT SETTING OUT A COMMON PROCEDURE FOR IMPOSING MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS ON PERMITS FOR UTILIZING WETLANDS WHICH REQUIRES "NO NET LOSS".

THAT BROUGHT ALASKA INTO THE THICK OF IT.

THE CORPS AND THE EPA, IN THAT AGREEMENT, EFFECTIVELY CREATED NEW REQUIREMENTS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET IN ALASKA.

THE AGREEMENT REQUIRES RESTORATION OF WETLANDS OR THE CREATION OF NEW WETLANDS, FOR EVERY ACRE OF WETLANDS AFFECTED BY A NEW PROJECT.

IN THE LOWER 48, AT LEAST 50% OF THE AREA THAT WAS ONCE WETLANDS HAS BEEN DESTROYED. DESTRUCTION THERE CONTINUES AT A RATE OF 250,000 ACRES A YEAR.

IN OUR STATE, OUT OF OUR ORIGINAL 170 MILLION ACRES OF WETLANDS ONLY 80,000 ACRES OF WETLANDS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IN ALL THE YEARS SINCE THE U.S. PURCHASED ALASKA FROM RUSSIA.

NO ONE CAN DISPUTE THE GREAT NEED FOR STRONG WETLANDS PROTECTION IN THE LOWER 48. BUT ALASKA'S SITUATION IS VASTLY DIFFERENT.

FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, WE'VE BARELY SURVIVED THE CURRENT VERY DIFFICULT WETLANDS PERMITTING SYSTEM. INCORPORATING "NO NET LOSS" PROCEDURES AS DEFINED IN THE MOA INTO THIS ALREADY TOUGH SYSTEM WILL MAKE IT WORSE -- AND WOULD MEAN THAT WE COULD NOT UTILIZE MORE THAN 80,000 TOTAL ACRES OF THE NEARLY 150 MILLION ACRES WE RECEIVED IN OUR 1958 STATEHOOD ACT AND THE 1971 NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT.

#### FISHERIES

THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR CHANGES IN FISHING IN ALASKA'S WATERS SINCE THE MAGNUSON ACT WAS PASSED IN 1976. I'M PROUD TO HAVE CRAFTED THAT LEGISLATION, BECAUSE IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT GOALS -- AMERICANIZING THE ALASKA FISHERIES.

IN 1980, FOREIGN FLEETS CAUGHT MORE THAN 2 BILLION POUNDS OF FLOUNDER AND POLLOCK IN ALASKAN WATERS. BY 1988, THOSE TOTALS WERE DOWN TO ABOUT 24 MILLION POUNDS.

BY COMPARISON, THE DOMESTIC FLEET HAS GONE FROM APPROXIMATELY 200 MILLION POUNDS OF BOTTOMFISH LANDED IN 1980 TO 1.8 BILLION POUNDS LANDED BY 1988.

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED AN AMERICAN FISHERY, OUR NEXT TASK IS TO TRY TO BALANCE THE DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY.

GROWTH IN THE USE OF FACTORY TRAWLERS WILL BE A PROBLEM, IF NOT HANDLED WELL. FACTORY TRAWLERS CURRENTLY REPRESENT ABOUT 67% OF THE BOTTOMFISH CATCH, WITH JUST 59 VESSELS OPERATING THIS YEAR.

IN 1990, TRAWLERS WILL INCREASE TO 66 VESSELS.

MY CONCERN IS THAT THIS GROWTH IN FACTORY TRAWLERS THREATENS OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY -- THE SHORESIDE PROCESSORS AND THE HARVESTERS THAT SUPPLY THEM.

THE TOOLS TO HANDLE THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM ARE CONTAINED IN THE MAGNUSON ACT AND IN THE POWERS OF THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL. HOWEVER, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM DIRECTLY.

REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST YEAR IN CONTROLLING THREATS TO OUR FISHERY FROM OUTSIDE THE 200 MILE LIMIT -- NOTABLY IN THE USE OF PLASTIC DRIFTNETS.

THE RECENT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION HAS DRAWN WORLDWIDE ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM. THE MEMBER NATIONS' AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO CONTROL THESE NETS IS A GOOD FIRST STEP. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL USE OF DRIFTNETS BY JUNE 30, 1992.

OUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO DRAFT TOUGHER DRIFTNET LEGISLATION. WHEN 1992 ROLLS AROUND, THE MORATORIUM SHOULD GO INTO EFFECT UNLESS THERE IS AGREEMENT THAT USE OF DRIFTNETS IS BEING CONTROLLED AND IS NOT THREATENING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. OUR GOVERNMENT'S MEASURING STICK SHOULD BE COMPLIANCE WITH OUR DRIFTNET ACT WHEN WE ARE ASKED TO MAKE THIS JUDGMENT.

#### SUBSISTENCE

THE MOST CHALLENGING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ISSUE OF THE 90'S CONTINUES TO BE HOW TO ASSURE FISH AND GAME FOR THOSE WHO DEPEND ON IT MOST.

THE ALASKA SUPREME COURT'S DECISION DECLARING THE STATE'S SUBSISTENCE LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL PRESENTS A DIFFICULT QUESTION: HOW TO MODIFY STATE LAW TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE CONSTITUTION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE RIGHT TO MANAGE FISH AND GAME ON FEDERAL LANDS IN ALASKA?

IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED THERE WILL BE A FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS -- AND POSSIBLY, EVEN ON STATE LANDS.

THE ALASKA DELEGATION WILL WORK WITH YOU AND THE GOVERNOR TO CRAFT A SOLUTION IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE.

#### ANWR

THE LANDS ACT SET UP A PROCEDURE TO PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE ULTIMATE FATE OF ANWR.

IN THE MID-80'S, THE OIL INDUSTRY CONDUCTED SEISMIC WORK IN THE REFUGE. THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT THE ANWR COASTAL PLAIN MAY CONTAIN THE LARGEST REMAINING OIL FIELD IN NORTH AMERICA -- POSSIBLY AS MUCH AS 9 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL.

ENTERING THE 90'S, DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IS DECLINING AND THE UNITED STATES IS IMPORTING ALMOST HALF OF ITS ENERGY NEEDS.

TO GIVE YOU SOME PERSPECTIVE, THE U.S. IMPORTED ONLY 43 PERCENT OF OUR OIL WHEN THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO NEARLY BROUGHT US TO OUR KNEES 17 YEARS AGO. YET OUR NATION IMPORTED MORE THAN 50% OF ITS OIL NEEDS IN JANUARY AND JULY OF 1989.

I BELIEVE CONGRESS HAS NO OPTION BUT TO OPEN ANWR -- THE QUESTION IS: WHEN?

FINISHING WORK ON OIL SPILL LEGISLATION, TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE THE SAFEST MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN THE WORLD, WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP.

#### GAS PIPELINE

ONE ENCOURAGING PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE IS POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS PIPELINE. DUE TO REDUCED INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION, THE COST ESTIMATE FOR THE TRANS-CANADIAN LINE HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF. AND, THE BOOMING ECONOMIES OF THE PACIFIC RIM ARE HUNGRY FOR ENERGY, MAKING THE TRANS-ALASKA LINE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE.

PASSAGE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 80'S TO ASSURE FAIR DOMESTIC PRICING OF ALASKA GAS AND THE MORE RECENT APPROVAL OF THE TAGS RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ISSUANCE OF GAS EXPORT PERMITS PRESENTS US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROCEED ON BOTH PROJECTS IF WE CAN JUST GET THE PROPONENTS TO WORK TOGETHER.

CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS LINE WOULD CREATE 10,000 NEW JOBS AND AN ESTIMATED \$1 BILLION A YEAR IN STATE REVENUES. YOU MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING A CRITICAL STEP AND OFFER STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST LEG OF A JOINT PIPELINE DOWN TO FAIRBANKS.

#### COAL RESOURCES AND MINING

THE NEW DECADE AHEAD SHOULD ALSO BRING A RENEWED INTEREST IN OUR COAL RESOURCES. AS OUR NATION MOVES AWAY FROM HIGH-SULFUR COALS, INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CLEAN AIR AND REDUCTION OF ACID RAIN WILL MAKE ALASKA'S LOW-SULFUR COAL INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE. THE \$93 MILLION CLEAN COAL GRANT USIBELLI RECEIVED IS A TESTAMENT TO THAT POTENTIAL.

ACTIVE PRODUCTION BY THREE WORLD-CLASS MINING OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATE ALASKA'S RESURGENCE AS A MINING STATE. GREENS CREEK, RED DOG, AND NOME'S OFFSHORE DREDGING OPERATION SHOULD STIMULATE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THIS NEXT DECADE.

#### HEALTH

PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST DECADE IN PROVIDING BETTER HEALTH. FOR ALASKANS, INFANT MORTALITY - THAT IS BETWEEN BIRTH AND 28 DAYS -- HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 30%. MORTALITY FROM ONE MONTH UP TO ONE YEAR, HOWEVER, HAS DECLINED ONLY 10% TO 15%.

THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDES FUNDED AT MY REQUEST PROVIDING BASIC HEALTH CARE IN RURAL ALASKA INCREASED FROM 205 TO 446 STATEWIDE.

ALASKA AVERAGE PER CAPITA ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION WENT DOWN AND PERSONS ENTERING TREATMENT OVER THE DECADE NEARLY DOUBLED.

WE SHOULD ALL JOIN IN CONGRATULATING THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES FOR LAUNCHING A MAJOR EFFORT TO FIGHT ALCOHOL ABUSE.

BUT OTHER STATISTICS ARE NOT GOOD. COCAINE USE NEARLY QUADRUPLED. TWO-THIRDS OF ALASKA'S FELONIES AND INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE COMMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

THE SADDEST STATISTIC IS THAT ALASKA HAS SEVERAL TIMES MORE CHILD ABUSE THAN THE REST OF THE NATION -- 65 TO 80 PERCENT OF SUCH ACTS ARE COMMITTED BY PEOPLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING WILL EDUCATE ALASKA'S PREGNANT WOMEN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME. ALASKA LEADS THE NATION IN THE PERCENTAGE OF BABIES BORN WITH THIS INCURABLE AND DEVASTATING BIRTH DEFECT CAUSED SOLELY BY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION DURING PREGNANCY.

SIMILAR INCREASES ASSIST IN FUNDING THE CLITHEROE DETOX CENTER, AND OTHER TREATMENT PROGRAMS AROUND THE STATE.

#### DRUGS

I HAVE REQUESTED SNIFFER DOGS TO DETECT DRUGS IN THE MAIL AND AT AIRPORTS. THOSE ARE THE OBVIOUS PLACES TO INTERCEPT. BECAUSE OF AMENDMENTS I INSISTED UPON, ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR DRUG GRANTS TO THE STATE WILL BE MADE WITHOUT INCREASING THE 25% STATE SHARE REQUIRED UNDER EXISTING LAW.

#### AIR TRANSPORTATION

ALASKA ENJOYS THE TITLE OF AIR CROSSROADS. BUT MAJOR CHANGES IN AVIATION CHALLENGE OUR CONTINUING CLAIM TO THAT TITLE.

THE THREAT OF FEWER INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS REFUELING IN ALASKA COMES FROM NEW, LONGER RANGE PLANES AS WELL AS THE SOVIET UNION ALLOWING MORE FLIGHTS TO TRANSIT ITS AIRSPACE.

BOTH THREATS CAN BE MET AS ALASKA BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT AS A CARGO HUB. EVEN WITH ADVANCES IN AIRCRAFT FUEL EFFICIENCY, THE STATE SHOULD BE A MORE ECONOMICAL POINT FOR CARGO PLANES TO REFUEL WHEN USED AS A TRANSFER POINT.

ALSO, INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAVEL SHOULD INCREASE. A RECENT BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ALLOWS A JAPANESE AND U.S. CARRIER ONE FLIGHT DAILY BETWEEN ALASKA AND A MINOR CITY IN JAPAN, AS WELL AS ALLOWING ANY AIR CARRIER FLYING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO STOP IN ALASKA. THIS IS UNIQUE -- PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS LIMIT THE NUMBER OF STOPOVERS.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF OUR AIRPORTS IS A CRITICAL PROJECT FOR THE NEXT DECADE. THE ANCHORAGE AIRPORT ALONE PROVIDES ABOUT 6000 ALASKAN JOBS, AND PROVIDES A VITAL LINK TO MANY AREAS OF THE STATE.

THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT REDOUBT IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO AIR TRANSPORTATION. AS A TEMPORARY DISTURBANCE, IT IS ONLY AN INCONVENIENCE. BUT SOME PREDICT IT MAY GO ON ERUPTING FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE.

THE ANCHORAGE AIRPORT, AND ALL ITS RELATED SERVICES AND BUSINESSES, WILL HAVE A HARD TIME IF THAT PROVES TRUE. I HAVE ASKED THAT A METHOD BE PUT IN PLACE TO CLOSELY TRACK ASH PLUMES OR PRECIPITATE THE ASH. THAT'S HIGH PRIORITY RESEARCH, WHICH YOU MAY WANT TO ASSIST WITH.

#### DEFENSE

ALASKA'S MILITARY HAS BEEN A CONSTANT AND WELCOME PRESENCE HERE SINCE WORLD WAR II AS OUR STATE HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT TO U.S. DEFENSE STRATEGY.

RAPID CHANGES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS THIS YEAR GOVERNING CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE, LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC WEAPONS, CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MEAN THAT OUR U.S. DEFENSE STRATEGIES ARE IN A STATE OF FLUX.

IN THE SHORT TERM, DEFENSE BUDGETS WILL BE REDUCED. ATTRITION -- BY DECREASING ENLISTMENT AND REENLISTMENT RATES -- WILL REDUCE FORCES WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING IN ALASKA. SECRETARY CHENEY ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT THERE WOULD BE A FREEZE ON DOD CIVILIAN HIRING FOR THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 1990. AND SOME WITHDRAWALS IN EUROPE WILL OCCUR THROUGH AGREEMENTS BEING NEGOTIATED NOW.

HOWEVER, OVER THE LONGER TERM THERE WILL BE FEWER U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE AND POSSIBLY A MOVE AWAY FROM FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS OVERSEAS TOWARD A RAPID DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY HERE AT HOME.

ALASKA IS WELL SUITED TO THIS NEW DEFENSE CLIMATE. THAT'S WHY THE 6TH LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION WAS STATIONED IN FAIRBANKS.

OVER TIME, ALASKA IN MY JUDGMENT WILL HAVE AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT PLACE IN THE NATION'S MILITARY PLANS.

#### HISTORIC DECADE

THESE ARE INCREDIBLE TIMES, NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT ALSO FOR THE WORLD. IN THE LAST DECADE, MORE THAN 30 TYRANTS HAVE BEEN DEPOSED FROM DICTATORSHIPS. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, PEOPLE ALL

HOUSE  
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
465-3725

JANUARY 17, 1990

\*indicates first public hearing  
Published daily, contains all scheduled committee meetings

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

CAPITOL ROOM 124

JAN 18 THURSDAY 1:30 PM  
OVERVIEW OF DEPT OF COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS-----  
FINANCE

FINANCE ROOM 519

JAN 17 WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM  
NO MEETING SCHEDULEDJAN 18 THURSDAY 1:30 PM  
DISCUSSION ON MENTAL HEALTH LANDS TRUSTJAN 19 FRIDAY 1:30 PM  
NO MEETING SCHEDULED-----  
JUDICIARY

CAPITOL ROOM 120

JAN 17 WEDNESDAY 1:15 PM  
SB 75 STATE PUBLICATIONS/DISCLOSURE & COSTS  
HB 255 PF DIVIDENDS/INCARCERATED FELONSJAN 18 THURSDAY 1:15 PM  
\*HB 316 CRIMINAL FINES FOR ORGANIZATIONS  
ZYGmund PLOTTER, PROFESSOR, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL PRE-EMPTION OF STATE LAWS  
REGARDING OIL SPILLS.-----  
LABOR & COMMERCE

CAPITOL ROOM 17

JAN 18 THURSDAY 3:00 PM  
HB 309 LANDLORD/TENANT RELATIONSHIP  
DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

OVER THE GLOBE, INSPIRED BY THE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY WE ENJOY,  
ARE SEEKING THE LIFESTYLE WE'VE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

I HOPE THAT WE IN ALASKA WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL  
OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO FURTHER THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY AND A  
MARKET ECONOMY IN THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH THE  
PEOPLE OF SIBERIA. IF WE TRULY WANT TO DO SO, THEN WE NEED TO  
MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO TEACH THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN OUR  
SCHOOLS SO THAT WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE  
BERING STRAIT.

IN ANOTHER 10 YEARS, WHEN A NEW CENTURY BEGINS, WHAT NEW  
EVENTS WILL SHAPE OUR DESTINY AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN? WHAT NEW  
CHALLENGES WILL FACE US? WHAT NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO  
OUR LIVES?

BUT WHATEVER CHALLENGES ALASKANS MUST FACE, THERE'S STILL  
ONE THING THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT -- WE, THIS  
LEGISLATURE AND OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, MUST WORK TOGETHER.

IN MY YEARS IN WORKING FOR ALASKA, I HAVE STRIVED NOT TO  
CONFLICT WITH OUR STATE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO  
REINFORCE STATE DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEGISLATURE, THE GOVERNOR,  
AND THE STATE COURTS.

NEVER HAS THE NEED BEEN GREATER FOR ALASKANS TO SPEAK WITH  
ONE VOICE. WE EACH HAVE OUR SPHERE. YOU IN THE STATE  
GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH STATE POLICY. OUR TASK IN WASHINGTON IS TO  
IMPLEMENT THAT POLICY AND REPRESENT ALASKA IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND MAKE SURE WE DO NOT UNDERMINE EACH  
OTHER'S EFFORTS.