

SENATE AND HOUSE
JOINT JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

April 3, 1991

WEDNESDAY

No. 14

ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE TED STEVENS

U. S. SENATOR

BEFORE A

JOINT SESSION

OF THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE 17TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

APRIL 3, 1991

JUNEAU, ALASKA

REMARKS OF SENATOR TED STEVENS
TO THE 17TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSIONJUNEAU, ALASKA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1991

SPEAKER GRUSSENDORF, PRESIDENT ELIASON, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN THIS CHAMBER.

UNITY AT HOME LED TO THE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT, THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE AUTHORIZATION, AND THE 200-MILE LIMIT FISHERIES LAW. THE LESSON OF THOSE PAST VICTORIES IS STILL RELEVANT: ALASKA'S SUCCESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. REQUIRES PUTTING OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE -- WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL.

IT'S MY HOPE WE CAN FOSTER GREATER UNITY BY OUR MEETING TODAY, FOR WE FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON AS THE 21ST CENTURY APPROACHES:

WETLANDS: ALMOST EVERYONE SUPPORTS PROTECTING IMPORTANT NATURAL HABITAT WITHOUT STIFLING SOUND ECONOMIC GROWTH. BUT, CURRENT WETLANDS REGULATION SATISFIES NO ONE.

TO CITE JUST ONE OF DOZENS OF WETLANDS CASES I'M WORKING ON, THE JUNEAU SCHOOL BOARD COULD WAIT MONTHS -- AND SPEND NEARLY \$400,000 -- BEFORE OBTAINING A FEDERAL WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A SCHOOL AT SWITZER CREEK. JUNEAU SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CHARLOTTE RICHARDS SAID, "WE HAVE A SOCIETY THAT VALUES SKUNK CABBAGE MORE THAN STUDENTS."

DON YOUNG, FRANK MURKOWSKI, AND I GOT ACRE-FOR-ACRE MITIGATION DELETED FROM THE EPA-CORPS OF ENGINEERS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT. BUT, THE SAME REQUIREMENT POPPED UP IN THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S WETLANDS ACTION PLAN. AGAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT'S BEEN DELETED.

THE PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL IS WORKING ON A LONG-RANGE APPROACH TO WETLANDS POLICY -- AND IS CONSULTING WITH US AND OTHER CONCERNED STATES.

CONGRESS WILL ADDRESS WETLANDS IN THE CLEAN WATER ACT REAUTHORIZATION. DON YOUNG'S NEW BILL WOULD REFINE WETLANDS REGULATION TO PROTECT HIGH-VALUE WETLANDS AND AT THE SAME TIME PERMIT REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY. I HOPE YOU'LL SUPPORT DON'S APPROACH.

YOU HAVE COPIES OF THE FEDERAL WETLANDS REPORT DONE AT MY REQUEST, WHICH SHOWS ALASKANS HAVE DEVELOPED ONLY ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF OUR WETLANDS. FURTHERMORE, MOST OF OUR HIGH-VALUE WETLANDS ARE ALREADY SET ASIDE IN NATIONAL PARKS, REFUGES, AND FORESTS. STANDARDS DEVELOPED FOR THE LOWER 48 STATES -- WHERE 53 PERCENT OF ORIGINAL WETLANDS HAVE BEEN LOST -- MUST NOT BE APPLIED TO ALASKA.

BY-PASS MAIL: THE POSTAL SERVICE PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE THE BYPASS MAIL PROGRAM IN RURAL ALASKA BECAUSE IT BELIEVES CURRENT BYPASS MAIL PROCEDURES RESULT IN A \$57 MILLION ANNUAL LOSS. BY CUTTING SERVICE BY 25 PERCENT, THE SERVICE HOPES TO REDUCE THAT LOSS BY \$14 MILLION.

THIS PLAN WILL INCREASE THE COST OF ESSENTIALS IN RURAL ALASKA. FURTHER, THE ALASKA AIR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION HAS INFORMED ME THE PLAN WILL CAUSE AIRLINE PASSENGER RATES TO RISE AND WILL REDUCE OVERALL SERVICE BY 50 PERCENT.

THE PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. I HAVE SCHEDULED A HEARING ON THIS MATTER IN ANCHORAGE NEXT MONTH AND ASKED THE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE AIR CARRIERS TO ASSIST US IN PRESENTING ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PLAN.

ENERGY: AUTHORIZING OIL AND GAS LEASING IN ANWR WILL BE TOUGH, BUT THERE IS EVEN STIFFER OPPOSITION FROM ALMOST EVERY QUARTER TO THE 90-10 REVENUE SPLIT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES IN CONGRESS, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE ENERGY AND INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS ALL OPPOSE IT.

EACH OF US IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE STATEHOOD ACT, BUT THE DECK IS STACKED AGAINST US. IF IT APPEARS THAT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE ONLY A BILL BASED ON A 50-50 REVENUE SPLIT, WE WILL CONSULT WITH YOU AND THE GOVERNOR TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT SUCH A BILL.

ANWR LEGISLATION WILL LIKELY INCLUDE THE SO-CALLED "BLACKMAIL CLAUSE," WHICH IS IN SENATOR JOHNSTON'S CURRENT ENERGY COMMITTEE BILL. UNDER THIS CLAUSE, IF ALASKA SUES TO PRESERVE OUR 90-10 SPLIT -- AND WINS -- THE AUTHORIZATION FOR OPENING ANWR WILL TERMINATE.

GOVERNOR HICKEL SUGGESTED THAT AT THE VERY LEAST, ALASKANS SHOULD VOTE WHETHER TO ACCEPT A MODIFICATION OF THE STATEHOOD ACT'S REVENUE PROVISIONS. I SUPPORT THAT CONCEPT --

AND WILL TRY TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO GIVE US THAT OPPORTUNITY RATHER THAN THE BLACKMAIL CLAUSE.

GOVERNOR HICKEL HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT A REDUCTION IN THE STATE'S REVENUE SHARE MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF ALASKA RECEIVED SOME OTHER BENEFIT IN EXCHANGE.

FRANK, DON, AND I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO SHARE FEDERAL OCS REVENUES WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. IF ESTIMATES OF OUR OFFSHORE OIL RESERVES PROVED CORRECT, ALASKA WOULD RECEIVE UP TO \$12 BILLION FROM CHUKCHI AND BEAUFORT SEA DEVELOPMENT ALONE. HOWEVER, MANY ALASKANS WOULD FIND THAT OCS DEVELOPMENT UNACCEPTABLE.

SUBSISTENCE: THE PERENNIAL SUBSISTENCE CONTROVERSY PERSISTS. I HOPE THOSE WHO OPPOSED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT LAST SUMMER FIND A WAY FOR ALASKA TO RESUME MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON FEDERAL LANDS.

I'VE BEEN A LAWYER NOW FOR 40 YEARS -- AS AN ATTORNEY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND A FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY IN ALASKA, AS CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER FOR THE EISENHOWER INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, AND AS A LEGISLATOR. MY CONCLUSION LAST SUMMER WAS THAT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO RESTORE STATE MANAGEMENT -- BEFORE FEDERAL AGENCIES COULD DECIDE TO TAKE CONTROL PERMANENTLY -- WAS TO ALLOW ALASKANS TO VOTE WHETHER TO MODIFY OUR STATE CONSTITUTION.

IF THE SUBSISTENCE TASK FORCE FINDS ANOTHER WAY THAT WILL SATISFY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND FEDERAL COURTS, THAT'S FINE WITH ME. BUT, IF WE DON'T FIND AN ALASKA SOLUTION SOON, ALASKANS WILL LOSE MORE HUNTING, FISHING, AND ACCESS RIGHTS.

COLA: CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE MAY AFFECT EACH OF YOUR DISTRICTS. UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS, ALASKA FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RECEIVE A TAX-FREE SALARY INCREASE IF THE COST OF LIVING HERE EXCEEDS THE COST OF LIVING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AS THE END RESULT OF AN EMPLOYEE LAWSUIT, THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CONTRACTED FOR A COST-OF-LIVING SURVEY IN ALASKA. UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY, PRICES IN D.C. WERE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH WHILE THE ALASKA ECONOMY WAS IN A SLUMP. BASED ON THAT DATA, THE SURVEY CONCLUDED THAT ALASKA'S COST OF LIVING DID NOT EXCEED D.C.'S.

NOW, OPM MAY HAVE TO REDUCE OR EVEN ELIMINATE THE ALASKA COLA. ELIMINATING THE COLA WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' TAKE HOME PAY -- SQUEEZING MORE THAN \$100 MILLION ANNUALLY OUT OF THE ALASKA ECONOMY.

WE'VE URGED MRS. CONNIE NEWMAN, DIRECTOR OF OPM, BEFORE MAKING THE FINAL DECISION ON THE ALASKA COLA TO CONDUCT A WINTER COLA SURVEY WITH EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION. THE LAST SURVEY REVIEWED SUMMER PRICES WITHOUT THE USUAL EMPLOYEE QUESTIONNAIRE. THE NEW SURVEY SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE HIGH LIVING COSTS IN RURAL ALASKA.

THE SUPPORT YOU'VE SHOWN THROUGH RESOLUTIONS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELPS. THIS IN ANOTHER ISSUE THAT REQUIRES SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

FISHERIES: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT (THE MAGNUSON ACT) LAST OCTOBER WAS A VICTORY. WE MAINTAINED THE ALASKA MAJORITY ON THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.

OUR ORIGINAL GOAL FOR THE 200-MILE LIMIT -- COMPLETE AMERICANIZATION OF OUR FISHERIES -- HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE THREAT OF THE 1990'S -- AS DANGEROUS AS FOREIGN TRAWLERS WERE IN THE PAST -- IS THE DOMESTIC FACTORY TRAWLER FLEET.

SIXTY SEATTLE-BASED FACTORY TRAWLERS TAKE NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF THE BOTTOMFISH IN THE BERING SEA, NOT LEAVING MUCH FOR ALASKA-BASED FISHERMEN AND OUR SHORESIDE PROCESSORS. WORKING WITH THE ALASKA COASTAL COALITION, OTHER ALASKA FISHERMEN, AND THE PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION, WE WILL TRY TO ENSURE THAT FACTORY TRAWLERS DON'T DESTROY OUR FISHERIES.

LATER THIS MONTH, THE NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO SPLIT THE BOTTOMFISH BETWEEN SHORE-BASED FISHERMEN AND THE FACTORY TRAWLERS. DON YOUNG AND I, THROUGH A SERIES OF HEARINGS AND LETTERS, HAVE -- I BELIEVE -- LAID THE LEGAL GROUNDWORK FOR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO APPROVE SUCH ACTION IF THE COUNCIL DOES ACT.

HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET INTERCEPTION ALSO CONTINUES TO PLAGUE OUR FISHERMEN. THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION I SUGGESTED TO IMPLEMENT A WORLDWIDE MORATORIUM ON HIGH SEAS DRIFTNETS AND IS EXPECTED TO REAFFIRM THAT RESOLUTION THIS YEAR. THE MAGNUSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION FURTHER STRENGTHENED MY

ANTI-DRIFTNET ACT, WHICH SHOULD KEEP THE PRESSURE ON JAPAN, KOREA, AND TAIWAN.

TRANSPORTATION: BY MODIFYING STATUTORY FORMULAS ALLOCATING FEDERAL HIGHWAY AND AIRPORT FUNDS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR DISTRIBUTION. LAST YEAR, THESE FUNDS TOTALLED NEARLY A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS. WE'VE ALSO INCREASED FEDERAL ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE SUBSIDIES TO 33 RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES.

AS CONGRESS MOVES TO REAUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM, NEW EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO MODIFY THE FUNDING FORMULA. IN THE NEXT BILL, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR EVERY PENNY. URBAN STATES ARE SCRAMBLING FOR FUNDS TO REPAIR THEIR CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MASS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

TWO DIFFICULT AVIATION ISSUES CONFRONT US: FIRST, IF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE'S ORIGINAL RESTRUCTURING PLAN IS ADOPTED, ALASKA WILL LOSE 14 OF 17 WEATHER STATIONS. THE SERVICE ASSURED ME AT A HEARING LAST YEAR THAT THE ALASKA PORTION OF THE PLAN WOULD BE REWORKED, BUT IT HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED ITS NEW PROPOSAL.

SECOND, THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO CONSOLIDATE ALASKA'S 26 FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS INTO 3 AUTOMATED STATIONS IN KENAI, FAIRBANKS, AND JUNEAU.

I HELPED INSERT A SMALL PROVISION IN LAST YEAR'S TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL REQUIRING THE FAA TO PROVIDE AUXILIARY FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS IN AREAS WITH SPECIAL NEED. TO ME, OUR WHOLE STATE IS AN AREA WITH SPECIAL NEED. HOPEFULLY, THE FAA WILL NOW RECONSIDER ITS APPROACH IN ALASKA.

HEALTH: THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM IN RURAL ALASKA, WHICH TREATS NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES, WILL BE EXPANDED. MAJOR NEW HEALTH FACILITIES IN KOTZEBUE AND BARROW ARE BEING BUILT, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER IN ANCHORAGE SHOULD BEGIN SOON.

CONGRESS AGREED TO INITIATE A PROGRAM TO COMBAT SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE IN RURAL ALASKA WHERE KIDS AS YOUNG AS 3 YEARS OLD CHEW SNUFF. IT ADDED FUNDS TO EXPAND ALASKA'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE MENINGITIS AS WELL AS HEPATITIS B. AND, MY REQUEST TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF FEDERAL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS WAS ACCEPTED. THIS WILL IMPROVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN THE BUSH.

ALL OF THE HARD WORK -- YOURS AND OURS -- TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR STATE WILL BE FOR NOTHING IF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE CONTINUE TO DESTROY THE LIVES OF ALASKANS.

CONGRESS APPROVED MY REQUEST FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY IN ANCHORAGE TO HELP PREGNANT WOMEN WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS. IT ALSO PROVIDED FUNDS TO OPERATE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT CENTERS IN FAIRBANKS AND SITKA AND ASSIST THE SALVATION ARMY'S ALCOHOL DETOXIFICATION AND TREATMENT CENTER IN ANCHORAGE.

BUT, AS FEDERAL BUDGETS GROW TIGHTER AND TIGHTER, THIS FUNDING CANNOT EXPAND MUCH MORE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ADOLESCENT USE OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE.

TOURISM: WE NEED BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON TOURISM. WE'VE SECURED TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO BUILD VISITOR CENTERS, CAMPGROUNDS, AND CABINS THROUGHOUT ALASKA, BUT HAVE NO COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE PLAN THAT INTEGRATES WHAT WE DO IN WASHINGTON WITH PROJECTS YOU FUND HERE IN JUNEAU.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE APPROVED MY REQUEST TO PUT YOUR FORMER COLLEAGUE, JOHNE BINKLEY, ON THE COMMITTEE'S TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE FEDERAL-STATE COORDINATION, I WILL ASK THE GOVERNOR TODAY TO JOIN IN CREATING WHAT I CALL TOURISM 2000 -- A STATEWIDE TASK FORCE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNOR, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE LEGISLATURE, AND THE TOURISM INDUSTRY. THE GROUP WOULD DEVELOP A PLAN TO CARRY US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DETERMINING OUR VISITOR FACILITY NEEDS.

SCIENCE: ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA AS A CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

OVER THE NEXT 2 YEARS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND \$19 MILLION TO DEVELOP THE AURORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA AND ANOTHER \$12 MILLION TO UPGRADE THE POKER FLATS ROCKET RANGE.

THE \$25 MILLION SUPERCOMPUTER FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL TIE THE WHOLE PACKAGE TOGETHER AND ALSO PERMIT THE UNIVERSITY TO BECOME A REAL PLAYER IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH. SOME OF THIS SPENDING WAS HELD UP BY OPERATION DESERT STORM -- BUT WILL, I HOPE, BE RELEASED SOON.

DEFENSE: THE RECENT WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF UNDERSCORED FOR THE NATION THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A STRONG, LEAN, AND MODERN NATIONAL DEFENSE.

AFTER IRAQ INVADED KUWAIT ON AUGUST 2, I HEARD FROM ALASKANS FROM KETCHIKAN TO NUIQSIT AND FROM DUTCH HARBOR TO TOK. MANY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR ROLE IN KUWAIT. HAVING LIVED THROUGH THREE WARS -- AND HAVING SERVED IN ONE -- I UNDERSTOOD THOSE CONCERNS.

AS ONE OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS ON DEFENSE MATTERS, I ATTENDED CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS WITH SECRETARY CHENEY, GENERALS POWELL AND SCHWARZKOPF, AND THE PRESIDENT. LAST DECEMBER, I TRAVELLED TO DIEGO GARCIA, SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN, EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND MOROCCO TO TALK FIRST HAND WITH THE LEADERS OF MOST OF OUR COALITION ALLIES.

I CAME HOME AND IN A SERIES OF APPEARANCES EXPLAINED HOW I INTENDED TO VOTE ON THE USE OF FORCE AND WHY. I HAD AGONIZED OVER THAT DECISION -- NOT BECAUSE I HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT WE MUST DO BUT BECAUSE I KNEW WE MIGHT HAVE TO PAY A COST -- A HIGH COST.

FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE. THE FAMILY OF SERGEANT DAVID DOUTHIT -- THE ONLY ALASKAN KILLED IN ACTION -- KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT SACRIFICE. WE GIVE THEIR LOSS MEANING BY SEEKING LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THIS FEBRUARY, I WAS CALLED FROM THE ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION MEETING BY SECRETARY CHENEY AND GENERAL POWELL TO RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA. I INSISTED THAT OUR GROUP SEE THE PERSIAN GULF OIL SPILL. BECAUSE OF THE WAR, WE COULD NOT GO NORTH OF KHAFJI -- AND SO WE DID NOT SEE FIRST HAND ALL YOU SAW ON THE NEWS. IT WAS STILL A HORROR -- BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE ARE STILL THREATENED. IT REMINDED ME FAR TOO MUCH OF MY FLIGHTS OVER THE EXXON VALDEZ SPILL.

FORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE COSTS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM WILL BE BORNE BY OUR COALITION PARTNERS. EVEN SO, UNDER THE BUDGET AGREEMENT, THERE WILL BE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN DEFENSE

SPENDING. WE WILL REDUCE OUR TROOP STRENGTH BY OVER 500,000 MEN AND WOMEN OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS -- THE SIZE OF THE FORCE WE MOVED INTO THE KUWAIT THEATER. AND, THAT MEANS BASE DOWNSIZING AND CLOSURES.

ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN BASE CLOSURE DECISIONS IS LOCAL SUPPORT. ALASKA BASES, LIKE THOSE IN THE LOWER 48, MAY BECOME TARGETS FOR CLOSURE IF THERE IS A PERCEIVED LACK OF ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE.

DEFENSE SPENDING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ALASKA'S ECONOMY -- MORE THAN \$1.3 BILLION ANNUALLY. THE MILITARY EMPLOYS OVER 34,000 ALASKANS WITH A PAYROLL OF \$850 MILLION.

INDIVIDUAL BASE CLOSURE DECISIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE TO CLOSE A BASE, IT'S FINAL UNLESS THE ENTIRE BASE CLOSURE LIST IS REJECTED. WE WILL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROTECT ALASKA'S INTERESTS, BUT TO BE PERFECTLY BLUNT, PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY IN ALASKA IS ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUING THE MILITARY PRESENCE IN OUR STATE.

BUDGET/CONCLUSION: FEDERAL SPENDING PER CAPITA IN ALASKA IS HIGHER THAN FEDERAL SPENDING IN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNION.

FOR EVERY \$1 ALASKANS PAY IN FEDERAL TAXES, \$1.22 IN FEDERAL FUNDS IS SPENT IN ALASKA. ALASKA ALSO TOPS THE LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL AID OR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECEIVE. THAT'S LARGELY BECAUSE CONGRESS HAS LISTENED TO OUR REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.
THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.

THE BAD NEWS IS UNDER LAST YEAR'S 5-YEAR BUDGET AGREEMENT, A WHOLE SERIES OF BUDGET CUTS AND CONSTRAINTS WILL SUBSTANTIALLY RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO GET FUNDING INCREASES TO MEET ALASKA'S UNIQUE NEEDS. I NOW MUST CUT SOMETHING OUT OF THE SAME PART OF THE BUDGET EACH TIME I ASK CONGRESS TO ADD FUNDS FOR AN ALASKA PRIORITY.

NOT ONLY DO WE FACE CUTS IN IMPORTANT PROGRAMS LIKE BLMS SURVEY OF STATE AND NATIVE LAND SELECTIONS, OMB IS ALSO SEEKING TO REDIRECT FUNDS WE OBTAINED IN PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS BILLS - PROJECTS LIKE THE FEDERAL JOBS CORPS CENTER IN PALMER, THE WIND PROFILERS TRACKING VOLCANIC ASH FROM MT. REDOUBT, AND THE NEW HOMER SPIT EROSION CONTROL PROJECT.

STRICT BUDGET RESTRICTIONS IN THE SENATE CAN BE WAIVED ONLY BY A SUPERMAJORITY -- 60 VOTES. UNLESS THERE IS A PRESSING NATIONAL EMERGENCY, THAT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. THIS RIGID DISCIPLINE IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO GET CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL DEFICIT AND THE NATIONAL DEBT.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO COORDINATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS. MANY OF THE PROGRAMS I HELP FUND EACH YEAR FOR ALASKA REQUIRE A MATCH OF STATE MONIES. IF YOU AND THE GOVERNOR DO NOT PUT UP THE STATE'S SHARE, FEDERAL FUNDS ARE LOST.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE NEARLY LOST FUNDING FOR THE KOTZEBUE WATER AND SEWER PROJECT WHEN THE STATE DID NOT FULLY FUND THE LOCAL SHARE. LAST FALL, WHEN I SOUGHT FUNDS TO BEGIN RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC KENNECOTT MINE, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD NOT BUDGE UNLESS THE PROJECT WAS DONE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE.

WE HAVE A LOT OF BALLS IN THE AIR BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON. ADD TO THE ALASKA-SPECIFIC ISSUES, NATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS, FAMILY LEAVE, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND GUN CONTROL PROPOSALS -- AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EACH YEAR PURSUING ALASKA'S INTERESTS IN CONGRESS BECOMES MORE COMPLEX.

IN THE UNITED STATES CODE INDEX UNDER A, THERE ARE SEVENTY PAGES' WORTH OF SPECIAL PROVISIONS BENEFITING ALASKA -- EXCEPTIONS TO THE WILDERNESS ACT, EXEMPTIONS FROM THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MAGNUSON ACT, AND MANY OTHER PROVISIONS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES.

UNDER D, THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE SPECIAL CITATION FOR THE FIRST STATE TO ENTER THE UNION -- DELAWARE. NO FEDERAL LAW DEALS WITH DELAWARE'S UNIQUE CONCERNS.

THERE'S A MESSAGE THERE -- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWNS VERY LITTLE LAND IN DELAWARE BUT OWNS MORE LAND IN ALASKA THAN IN ANY OTHER STATE. IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MORE COMPLEX AND CONTENTIOUS THAN ANY OTHER STATE'S.

BUT, THAT'S ONLY HALF OF THE MESSAGE. THE OTHER HALF IS THAT WITH UNITY HERE AT HOME AND WITHIN THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, ALASKA HAS PERSUADED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE OUR UNIQUE NEEDS.

WE CONTINUE TO NEED EACH OTHER'S HELP AND UNDERSTANDING TO SOLVE ALASKA'S PROBLEMS. FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS ARE A TWO-WAY STREET. ON MANY ISSUES, THE FEDERAL CONGRESS HAS TRIED TO MEET ALASKA MORE THAN HALF WAY. WITH YOUR HELP -- AND WITH UNITY WITHIN ALASKA ON SOLUTIONS TO FEDERAL-STATE PROBLEMS -- WE CAN CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE THAT SUCCESS.

HOUSE

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
465-3725

April 3, 1991

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

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

CAPITOL ROOM 124

APR 3 WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM
 *HB 199 INVESTMENT POOLS FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES
 *HB 191 EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION SERVICES
 BILLS HELD OVER FROM 3/27/91:
 HB 193 DISPOSALS OF STATE LAND & MINERALS
 HB 81 PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL FORECLOSURE LIST

APR 4 THURSDAY 1:30 PM
 *HB 207 VILLAGE SAFE WATER PROGRAM

FINANCE

FINANCE ROOM 519

APR 3 WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM
 HCR 5 HEALTH RESOURCES & ACCESS TASK FORCE
 SCR 10 HEALTH RESOURCES & ACCESS TASK FORCE
 HB 8 BUDGET PROCESS & APPROPRIATION LIMIT
 HB 12 CORPORATE INCOME TAX REPORTING METHODS
 SB 18 INVESTMENT OF PENSION FUNDS

APR 4 THURSDAY 1:30 PM
 ANY BILLS HELD FROM 4/3
 RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, 4/8 - HB 221

APR 5 FRIDAY 1:30 PM
 HB 7 PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION
 HB 65 COMPENSATION: MEMBERS BOARDS OF FISH/GAME
 HB 85 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY EQUIPMENT
 HB 88 STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS/MILITARY DUTY
 HB 160 EXTEND REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

CAPITOL ROOM 106

APR 3 WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
 HB 152 ESTAB. ALASKA STATE HOUSING COMMISSION
 HB 153 APPROP: ALASKA HOUSING TRUST FUND
 *HB 69 HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
 *HB 146 PROPERTY DIVISION IN DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS
 SCR 11 "TAKE PRIDE IN SOBRIETY" PROCLAMATION