

HB 50	2254 2261-2268
HB 61	2254
HB 155	2255
HB 157	2255
HB 291	2256
HB 319	2256-2257
HB 324	2257 2273
HB 328	2257-2258
HB 352	2273
HB 380	2258-2259
HB 383	2273
HB 418	2273
HB 427	2273
HB 429	2260
HB 459	2273-2274
HB 463	2274
HB 464	2274
HB 465	2274
HB 467	2274
HB 471	2275
HB 473	2260
HB 474	2260
HB 475	2260
HB 476	2261
HB 477	2261
HCR 43	2268-2269 2272 2275
HCR 44	2269-2270 2272 2275
HJR 43	2252
HJR 57	2253
HR 9	2270-2272
SB 193	2252
SB 211	2259

HOUSE & SENATE JOINT
JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

February 13, 1992

Thursday

No. 21

THE HONORABLE TED STEVENS

U.S. SENATOR

Address to the Joint Session of the
Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature

Second Session

The following address and report were submitted by the Juneau office of Senator Ted Stevens for publication in the joint journal supplement.

ADDRESS OF SENATOR TED STEVENS
TO THE 17TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION
JUNEAU, ALASKA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1992

1991 WAS A MEMORABLE YEAR. THE COLD WAR ENDED WITH THE APPARENT COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM. WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, WE FOUGHT AND WON A WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF TO PROVE THAT NAKED AGGRESSION WOULD NOT RULE IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD.

THEN, THE NATION ENTERED A RECESSION THAT WE STILL ARE STRUGGLING TO OVERCOME. IT WAS ALSO A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR ME. I SUCCEEDED IN A PERSONAL BATTLE AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER. I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE PRAYERS AND SUPPORT THAT ALASKANS, INCLUDING MANY OF YOU IN THIS CHAMBER, PROVIDED MY FAMILY AND ME DURING THAT DIFFICULT TIME. IT'S THE SORT OF EXPERIENCE THAT TEACHES WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IN LIFE.

AMERICA'S CHALLENGES ARE ALSO ALASKA'S CHALLENGES.

THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S INSHORE-OFFSHORE ALLOCATION DECISION IS GOOD BIOLOGY AND SOUND ECONOMICS.

FACTORY TRAWLERS ARE EXTRAORDINARILY WASTEFUL IN HARVESTING GROUND FISH. UP TO TWENTY-TWO PERCENT -- MORE THAN 189 MILLION POUNDS A YEAR -- OF THE POLLOCK HARVESTED BY FACTORY TRAWLERS GO OVER THE SIDE WITHOUT EVER BEING PROCESSED. SHOREBASED TRAWLERS DISCARD ONLY ABOUT ONE PERCENT.

IN ADDITION, FACTORY TRAWLERS ALSO WASTE INCIDENTALLY CAUGHT SPECIES -- AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND HALIBUT AND TWENTY THOUSAND CHINOOK SALMON. SHORESIDE PLANTS AND THE VESSELS SUPPLYING THEM USE THE RESOURCE MORE EFFECTIVELY AND PROVIDE MORE JOBS AND PAY TAXES TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

FULL UTILIZATION OF HARVESTED FISH MUST BE THE RALLYING CRY OF ALASKANS IN THE 1990'S JUST AS AMERICANIZATION WAS IN THE 1980'S. IT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH WE CAN JOIN FORCES WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

FACTORY TRAWLERS HAVE HIRED THE MOST AGGRESSIVE LOBBYISTS IN WASHINGTON TO DEFEAT THE COUNCIL'S POSITION. THOSE LOBBYISTS WORK ON ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES AS WELL AS CONGRESS.

THE COUNCIL IS RECONSIDERING INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS. THE IFQ CONCEPT MAY HAVE SOME MERIT BUT I HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL FIND WAYS TO INCLUDE, IN A MORE MEANINGFUL FASHION, THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

WHO PUT THEIR LIVES AT RISK WORKING IN COMMERCIAL FISHING -- WE NEED A SYSTEM THAT NEW GENERATIONS OF ALASKANS CAN AFFORD TO ENTER AND DOES NOT ALLOW ANY GROUP TO CONTROL OUR FISHERY BY AGGREGATING IFQs.

RESOLVING THE SUBSISTENCE CONTROVERSY IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ALASKA'S ABILITY TO MANAGE UPLAND GAME, SALMON AND OTHER FISH IN STATE WATERS.

UNLESS WE ACT SOON, BY THE END OF THE YEAR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE MANAGING ALL FISH AND WILDLIFE -- INCLUDING OUR SALMON FISHERIES -- UNDER COURT ORDER.

THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION; WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE UNIFIED STATE MANAGEMENT OF ALL FISH AND GAME.

THE GOVERNOR'S SUBSISTENCE PLAN IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I BELIEVE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED WHILE THE GOVERNOR BELIEVES THE ALASKA LANDS ACT MUST BE CHANGED.

IF THE USER GROUPS -- AFN, UFA, AND THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL -- CAN COME TO SOME CONSENSUS ON A PLAN, I AM WILLING TO ASK CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO ANILCA IF YOU AND THE GOVERNOR ARE WILLING TO PRESENT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE VOTERS OF ALASKA. IF WE CANNOT COME TO SOME AGREEMENT HERE AT HOME, EVERYONE EXCEPT DIEHARD OPPONENTS OF ALL HUNTING AND FISHING WILL LOSE.

MANY OF YOU HAVE RIGHTFULLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF REDUCED DEFENSE SPENDING AND FORCE REDUCTIONS ON ALASKA.

IN MY JUDGMENT, AS THE UNITED STATES MOVES TO FILL THE POWER VACUUM CAUSED BY THE DEMISE OF THE SOVIET UNION, ALASKA'S STRATEGIC LOCATION SHOULD GET EVEN GREATER RECOGNITION BY PENTAGON PLANNERS.

EVEN SO, IT'S GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS RECONFIGURATION AND REDEPLOYMENT OF OUR FORCES WORLDWIDE CONTINUES.

FRANK MURKOWSKI AND I CAME HOME LAST WEEK TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF ALASKANS ABOUT PURSUING ANWR THIS YEAR. THEY URGED US NOT TO PRESS ANWR ON THE ENERGY BILL UNLESS WE COULD GET AN UP OR DOWN VOTE THAT WOULD TEST OUR TRUE STRENGTH. AS FRANK EXPLAINED YESTERDAY THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

DON AND FRANK CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT TO INCLUDE AN ANWR PROVISION IN THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROPOSAL WHICH IS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS. AS A JOBS ISSUE, ANWR MAY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: IT WILL STILL BE AN UPHILL BATTLE.

TO WIN THIS FIGHT, WE MUST LAY THE GROUNDWORK NOW. CREATING AN ANWR BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION LIKE THE ONE THAT HELPED US PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN THE ALASKA LANDS DEBATE IS ONE STEP TO CONSIDER. ANOTHER IS TO CONSIDER ALLOWING ALASKANS TO EARMARK UP TO \$50 OF THEIR PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND CHECK TO FUND SUCH A COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL GRASSROOTS WORK THAT

WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO PREVAIL. IF ALASKANS DON'T TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO OPEN ANWR, THE FUND'S INCOME WILL SOON HAVE TO BE DEVOTED TO BASIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AND THE DIVIDEND PROGRAM WILL BECOME AN HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE. IF ANWR IS OPENED, THE CONTRIBUTIONS BACK TO THE FUND COULD EXCEED \$25 BILLION -- A RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAT NOT EVEN DAVE ROSE COULD MATCH.

PROTECTING ALASKA'S FAMILIES IS A CRUCIAL CHALLENGE ON BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL. THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED A BOLD NEW INITIATIVE THAT WOULD DEDICATE \$100 BILLION FOR OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE KIND OF PREVENTATIVE CARE THAT LED TO EARLY DETECTION OF MY CANCER.

THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, AND AS A RESULT, THERE ARE 498 HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS PENDING IN CONGRESS -- ALMOST ONE PER MEMBER! IT WILL, NO DOUBT, BE A LONG, HOT SUMMER.

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN RURAL ALASKA, BUT WE MUST ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF URBAN ALASKANS, TOO. I HOPE AS FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM UNFOLDS WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND ENSURE THAT EVERY ALASKAN HAS ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE.

WHILE WE HAVE MADE SOME STRIDES IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS, DRUG ABUSE AMONG ALASKANS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM. AT A RECENT CONFERENCE OF ALASKANS INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND

ENFORCEMENT, THEY TOLD ME THERE WERE TWO THINGS YOU COULD DO TO HELP.

(1) MODIFY ALASKA'S ASSET FORFEITURE STATUTE SO STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY SEIZE THE ASSETS OF DRUG PUSHERS.

(2) ESTABLISH A STATE CONSPIRACY STATUTE TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE FIGHTING THE DRUG PUSHERS PREYING ON ALASKA'S FAMILIES.

WHILE GENERALLY ALASKANS ARE AMONG THE MOST HIGHLY EDUCATED PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY -- A TESTIMONY TO OUR TEACHERS AND OUR STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM -- MANY RURAL ALASKANS LAG BEHIND. I WILL JOIN WITH YOU AND OTHER ALASKANS -- PARTICULARLY THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS INVOLVED IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM -- TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION WORKS IN ALASKA.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PROTECT FAMILIES IS TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WORK FOR PARENTS, AND ONE OF THE KEYS IS EDUCATION. ALASKA'S NEW JOB CORPS CENTER SUFFERED A TEMPORARY SETBACK AGAIN, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NOT RELEASE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT. FRANK, DON, AND I INTEND TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR LYNN MARTIN TO MAKE OUR OPPOSITION CLEAR.

A NEW ERA HAS BEGUN IN THE WORLD -- ONE THAT WILL SHAPE THE LIFE OF OUR NATION AND STATE IN WAYS WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE NOW. THE CHALLENGES ARE MANY, BUT I CONTINUE TO HAVE FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF ALASKANS TO

MEET THEM IN INNOVATIVE WAYS. YOU AND I HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA WITH THE TASK OF DEVISING WAYS TO MEET THOSE CHALLENGES.

RATHER THAN SPEND A LOT MORE TIME DISCUSSING WHAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALASKANS WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH, OR REPEAT WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD FROM SENATOR FRANK MURKOWSKI OR CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG, I'LL NOW ASK THE PAGES TO DISTRIBUTE A REPORT, WHICH DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS IN MORE DETAIL.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALLOWING ME TO VISIT WITH YOU TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR, AND I'D BE GLAD TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

REPORT OF SENATOR TED STEVENS
TO THE 17TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION

1991 WAS A YEAR OF GREAT CHANGES. THE LONGEST WAR IN MODERN HISTORY - THE COLD WAR - ENDED WITH THE NEAR-TOTAL COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM. WE FOUGHT AND WON A WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF TO PROVE THAT NAKED AGGRESSION WOULD NOT RULE IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD. AND, THE NATION ENTERED A RECESSION THAT WE STILL ARE STRUGGLING TO OVERCOME.

1991 WAS ALSO A YEAR OF GREAT CHANGE FOR ME PERSONALLY. I FOUGHT AND WON A PERSONAL WAR AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER. I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT THAT ALASKANS, INCLUDING MANY OF YOU IN THIS CHAMBER, PROVIDED MY FAMILY AND ME DURING THAT DIFFICULT TIME. IT'S THE SORT OF EXPERIENCE THAT TEACHES YOU WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IN LIFE.

LAST APRIL, I OUTLINED FOR YOU A SERIES OF CHALLENGES FACING OUR STATE IN WASHINGTON. HERE'S A SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENED:

THE NEW HIGHWAY BILL MEANS JOBS, JOBS THAT WILL HELP LEAD THE WAY IN REVIVING OUR ECONOMY. OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS, YOU AND THE GOVERNOR WILL HAVE \$1.3 BILLION TO ALLOCATE FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, AND TUNNELS - A 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS FUNDING LEVEL. FOR EVERY DOLLAR ALASKANS CONTRIBUTE IN FEDERAL GAS TAX, WE WILL RECEIVE ALMOST \$6 BACK - MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNION. AND THROUGH AN AMENDMENT THAT FRANK MURKOWSKI ADDED TO THE BILL AND DON YOUNG SHEPHERDED THROUGH CONFERENCE, YOU WILL HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO SPEND FUNDS ON OUR MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

ONE OF THE CRUCIAL LINKS IN ALASKA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS AVIATION. WE HAVE 15 TIMES MORE PRIVATE PLANES PER CAPITA THAN THE LOWER 48 AND 72 TIMES MORE COMMUTER AIRCRAFT.

THE FAA, AT OUR REQUEST, HAS ABANDONED ITS EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE ALASKA'S TWENTY-SIX FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS INTO THREE. LAST NOVEMBER, THE AGENCY ISSUED A REVISED PLAN ADDING AUXILIARY FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS IN BARROW, COLD BAY, DEADHORSE, DILLINGHAM, HOMER, KETCHIKAN, KOTZEBUE, NOME, AND SITKA ALONG WITH FIVE MORE SEASONAL STATIONS.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO REVISE ITS PLAN TO CUT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES FROM 17 TO THREE. IT IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING DATA COLLECTION OFFICES IN BARROW, KOTZEBUE, NOME, MCGRATH, BETHEL, KING SALMON, ST. PAUL, COLD BAY, KODIAK, YAKUTAT, AND KETCHIKAN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FOR ADDITIONAL FORECAST OFFICES IN PLACES LIKE VALDEZ WHERE THE WEATHER IS OFTEN UNPREDICTABLE.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW WETLANDS POLICY GIVES ALASKANS BREATHING ROOM. WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, ALASKANS WILL NO LONGER NEED TO MITIGATE WETLANDS LOSS - A FORM OF EXTORTION THAT COULD LEAD TO ALASKANS PAYING FOR PROTECTION OF WETLANDS IN THE LOWER 48. WE WILL BE REQUIRED TO DO OUR BEST TO MINIMIZE WETLANDS IMPACTS, A REASONABLE REQUIREMENT. ALL IN ALL, THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY SHOULD SPEED UP THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR ALASKANS WHO ARE OFTEN FACED WITH UNNECESSARY DELAYS BECAUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

DEMAND EXPENSIVE MITIGATION MEASURES AS CONDITIONS ON PERMITS.

LAST OCTOBER, CONGRESS AGREED TO IMPLEMENT THE MARKET DEMAND PROVISIONS IN THE TONGASS TIMBER REFORM ACT. AND, CONGRESS PROVIDED FUNDS TO PREPARE 420 MILLION BOARD FEET FOR HARVEST - ENOUGH TO MEET PROJECTED MARKET DEMAND.

WE TURNED THE CANCELLATION OF THE OVER-THE-HORIZON RADAR PROJECT INTO SOMETHING POSITIVE. LAST YEAR, I PROVIDED \$80 MILLION IN THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL WHICH CAN BE USED TO MODIFY THE NEWLY-BUILT BACKSCATTER RADAR POWER PLANT TO ACCOMMODATE THE ENERGY-INTENSIVE HIGH FREQUENCY ACTIVE AURORAL RESEARCH PROJECT.

IF ALASKANS ARE FAR-SIGHTED, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CURRENTLY SPENDS \$175 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH, BUT MOST OF THAT IS WASTED ON LOGISTICS. OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN GET MUCH MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK IF THE SAME RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED IN THE ARCTIC. THE NEW \$25 MILLION ARCTIC SUPERCOMPUTER GREATLY EXPANDS THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ARCTIC SCIENTISTS. AND, I ADDED ABOUT \$7 MILLION TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BUDGET TO ENHANCE BASIC RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC.

ALASKANS HAVE LED THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO STOP DESTRUCTIVE HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET FISHING. ON DECEMBER 20, 1991, THE U.N. ADOPTED A SECOND DRIFTNET RESOLUTION TO FINALLY BAN DRIFTNET FISHING ON THE HIGH SEAS. LEGISLATION HAS PASSED THE SENATE AND BEEN APPROVED BY CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG'S MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON ANY COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS NEW STANDARD.

WE'VE INCLUDED MONEY IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR STUDIES OF THE MARBLED MURRELET AND SPECKLED EIDER, THE ARCTIC GOOSE EDUCATION PROGRAM, MARINE MAMMAL STUDIES, AND COUNTLESS OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. WE DEDICATED \$12 MILLION OF THE CRIMINAL FINE AGAINST EXXON TO ENHANCE AND RESTORE WETLANDS USED IN THE LOWER 48 AS WINTERING HABITAT BY ALASKA'S MIGRATORY WATERFOWL. AND, WE FUNDED AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER IN ANCHORAGE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN ALASKA. THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT'S PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE COLA WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN ONE-THIRD LESS TAKE-HOME PAY FOR THOUSANDS OF ALASKANS. OVER 5000 ALASKANS, INCLUDING MANY OF YOU, WROTE IN PROTEST.

OPM HAS AGREED TO AUTHORIZE A WINTER SURVEY, WHICH WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK AND INCLUDE EMPLOYEE SURVEYS. WE'VE ALSO SECURED ENACTMENT OF AN AMENDMENT TO PRESERVE THE COLA AT LEAST THROUGH 1995. THIS IS A TEMPORARY FREEZE, AND WE'LL NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE A LONG-TERM SOLUTION.

LAST YEAR, AFTER REPRESENTATIVE GEORGIANNA LINCOLN TOLD ME NOT ENOUGH WAS BEING DONE TO COMBAT DISEASE SPREAD THROUGH CONTAMINATED WATER AND OPEN SEWERS IN RURAL ALASKA, WE MADE AVAILABLE \$12 MILLION FOR INDIAN WATER AND SEWER GRANTS. THIS YEAR I'M SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO DOUBLE THAT FIGURE.

ALASKA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS STILL HIGH. THE DAY I LEFT WASHINGTON, CONGRESS EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO ARE OUT OF WORK. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE BILL INTO LAW, AND ALASKANS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR 59 WEEKS OF JOBLESS BENEFITS - THE HIGHEST BENEFIT LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL HELP EASE THE HARDSHIP OF THE UNEMPLOYED, BUT THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO PUT OUR PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.

NOW WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD THAT STARTED WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE. OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN MAY ENJOY A BRIGHTER AND SAFER FUTURE AS A RESULT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR NATION FACES MAJOR CHALLENGES ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT. WE MUST MOVE TO ENCOURAGE SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT, IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION, AND TAKE THE OTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO COMPETE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE.

AMERICA'S CHALLENGES ARE ALSO ALASKA'S CHALLENGES. LET ME DISCUSS A FEW KEY POINTS.

ENCOURAGING SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY: THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S INSHORE-OFFSHORE ALLOCATION DECISION IS SOUND BIOLOGY AND SOUND ECONOMICS.

FACTORY TRAWLERS ARE EXTRAORDINARILY WASTEFUL IN HARVESTING GROUND FISH. TWENTY-TWO PERCENT - 170 MILLION POUNDS A YEAR - OF THE POLLOCK HARVESTED BY FACTORY TRAWLERS ARE THROWN OVER THE SIDE. SHORESIDE PROCESSORS DISCARD ONLY ABOUT ONE PERCENT. SHORESIDE PLANTS AND THE VESSELS SUPPLYING THEM NOT ONLY USE THE RESOURCE MORE EFFECTIVELY, THEY ALSO PROVIDE MORE JOBS AND PAY TAXES TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

FULL UTILIZATION OF HARVESTED FISH SHOULD BE THE RALLYING CRY OF ALASKANS IN THE 1990'S JUST AS AMERICANIZATION WAS IN THE 1980'S. IT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH WE CAN JOIN FORCES WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

DESPITE ITS MERITS, THE COUNCIL'S ALLOCATION DECISION IS UNDER SEVERE ATTACK. THE FACTORY TRAWLERS HAVE HIRED SOME OF THE MOST AGGRESSIVE LOBBYISTS IN WASHINGTON IN AN EFFORT TO KILL IT. THOSE LOBBYISTS WORK ON ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES AS MUCH AS, OR MORE THAN, THEY DO ON CONGRESS.

THE COUNCIL IS RECONSIDERING INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS. I DON'T OPPOSE THE IFQ CONCEPT, BUT I HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL SEARCH FOR WAYS TO INCLUDE, IN A MORE MEANINGFUL FASHION, THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO PUT THEIR LIVES AT RISK WORKING IN COMMERCIAL FISHING. WE NEED A SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS NEW GENERATIONS TO ENTER ALASKA'S FISHING INDUSTRY AND DOES NOT ALLOW ANYONE OR ANY GROUP TO CONTROL OUR FISHERY BY AGGREGATING IFQS.

RESOLVING THE SUBSISTENCE CONTROVERSY IS KEY TO PROTECTING ALASKA'S ABILITY TO MANAGE SALMON AND OTHER FISH IN STATE WATERS. UNLESS WE ACT SOON, I PREDICT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE MANAGING OUR SALMON FISHERIES UNDER COURT ORDER BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OUT. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO RESTORE UNIFIED STATE MANAGEMENT OF ALL FISH AND GAME.

THE GOVERNOR'S NEW SUBSISTENCE PLAN IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I BELIEVE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT IT WHILE THE GOVERNOR BELIEVES THE ALASKA LANDS ACT MUST BE CHANGED.

IF THE USER GROUPS - AFN, UFA, AND THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL - CAN COME TO SOME CONSENSUS ON A PLAN, I AM WILLING TO ASK CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO ANILCA IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PRESENT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE VOTERS OF ALASKA. IF WE CANNOT COME TO SOME AGREEMENT HERE AT HOME, EVERYONE EXCEPT DIEHARD OPPONENTS OF ALL HUNTING AND FISHING WILL LOSE.

DEFENSE: MANY OF YOU HAVE RIGHTFULLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF REDUCED DEFENSE SPENDING AND FORCE REDUCTIONS ON ALASKA.

IN MY JUDGMENT, AS THE UNITED STATES MOVES TO FILL THE POWER VACUUM CAUSED BY THE DEMISE OF THE SOVIET UNION, ALASKA'S STRATEGIC LOCATION WILL GET EVEN GREATER RECOGNITION BY PENTAGON PLANNERS. EVEN SO, IT'S GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS RECONFIGURATION AND REDEPLOYMENT OF OUR FORCES WORLDWIDE CONTINUE.

ANWR: FRANK MURKOWSKI AND I CAME HOME LAST WEEK TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF ALASKANS ABOUT PURSUING ANWR THIS YEAR. THEY URGED US NOT TO PRESS ANWR ON THE ENERGY BILL UNLESS WE COULD GET AN UP OR DOWN VOTE THAT WOULD TEST OUR TRUE STRENGTH. AS FRANK EXPLAINED YESTERDAY, THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

DON AND FRANK CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT TO INCLUDE AN ANWR PROVISION IN THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROPOSAL WHICH IS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS. AS A JOBS ISSUE, ANWR MAY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: IT WILL STILL BE AN UPHILL BATTLE.

TO WIN THIS FIGHT, WE MUST LAY THE GROUNDWORK NOW. CREATING AN ANWR BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION LIKE THE ONE THAT HELPED US PROTECT ALASKA'S INTERESTS IN THE ALASKA LANDS DEBATE IS ONE STEP TO CONSIDER. ANOTHER IS TO CONSIDER ALLOWING ALASKANS TO EARMARK UP TO \$50 OF THEIR PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND CHECK TO FUND SUCH A COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL GRASSROOTS WORK THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO PREVAIL IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE.

IF ALASKANS DON'T TAKE DECISIVE ACTION NOW TO OPEN ANWR, THE FUND'S INCOME WILL SOON HAVE TO BE DEVOTED TO BASIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AND THE DIVIDEND PROGRAM WILL BECOME A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL AND ANWR IS OPENED, THE CONTRIBUTIONS BACK TO THE FUND COULD EXCEED \$25 BILLION - A RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT THAT NOT EVEN DAVE ROSE COULD MATCH.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION

PROTECTING ALASKA'S FAMILIES IS A CRUCIAL CHALLENGE ON THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL. ALASKA AND THE NATION CANNOT SUCCEED IF OUR FAMILIES FAIL. WHEN FAMILIES FAIL, SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS SUCH AS CRIME AND DECLINING PRODUCTIVITY GET WORSE.

HEALTH CARE: THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED A BOLD NEW INITIATIVE THAT WOULD DEDICATE \$100 BILLION FOR OUR NATION'S HEALTH

CARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE KIND OF PREVENTATIVE CARE THAT LED TO EARLY DETECTION OF MY CANCER. THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, AND AS A RESULT, THERE ARE 498 HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS PENDING IN CONGRESS -- ALMOST ONE PER MEMBER! IT WILL NO DOUBT BE A LONG, HOT SUMMER.

WE'VE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN RURAL ALASKA, BUT WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF URBAN ALASKANS, TOO. I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AS FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM UNFOLDS TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND ENSURE THAT EVERY ALASKAN HAS ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE.

WHILE WE HAVE MADE SOME STRIDES IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS, DRUG ABUSE AMONG ALASKANS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM. AT A RECENT CONFERENCE OF ALASKANS INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT, THEY TOLD ME THERE WERE TWO THINGS YOU COULD DO TO HELP.

(1) MODIFY ALASKA'S ASSET FORFEITURE STATUTE SO STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY SEIZE THE ASSETS OF DRUG PUSHERS AND

(2) ESTABLISH A STATE CONSPIRACY STATUTE TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE FIGHTING THE DRUG PUSHERS PREYING ON ALASKA'S FAMILIES.

EDUCATION: WHILE GENERALLY ALASKANS ARE AMONG THE MOST HIGHLY EDUCATED PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY -- A TESTIMONY TO OUR TEACHERS AND OUR STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM -- MANY RURAL ALASKANS LAG BEHIND. I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU AND OTHER ALASKANS -- PARTICULARLY THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS INVOLVED IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM -- TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NEW EDUCATION LEGISLATION WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS WORKS FOR ALASKA.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PROTECT FAMILIES IS TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WORK FOR PARENTS, AND ONE OF THE KEYS IS EDUCATION. ALASKA'S NEW JOB CORPS CENTER SUFFERED A TEMPORARY SETBACK AGAIN, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NOT RELEASE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT. FRANK, DON, AND I INTEND TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR LYNN MARTIN TO MAKE OUR OPPOSITION CLEAR.

CONCLUSION

A NEW ERA HAS BEGUN IN THE WORLD -- ONE THAT WILL SHAPE THE LIFE OF OUR NATION AND STATE IN WAYS WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE NOW. THE CHALLENGES ARE MANY, BUT I CONTINUE TO HAVE FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF ALASKANS TO MEET THEM IN INNOVATIVE WAYS. WE'VE JOINTLY BEEN ENTRUSTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA WITH THE TASK OF DEVISING SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF THOSE CHALLENGES. IN CLOSING, LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALLOWING ME TO VISIT WITH YOU TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR.

HOUSE

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
465-3725

Publish Date
February 13, 1992

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

CAPITOL ROOM 124

FEB 13 THURSDAY 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
TELECONFERENCE TO ANC, BAR, BET, DLG, FBX, KTN, KOD,
KOT, NOM, PSG, SIT
DC&RA - FY 92 COMMUNITY SVCS BLOCK GRANT STATE
PLAN; FY 92 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FINAL STATEMENT
HJR 67 DISAPPROVE JUNEAU BOUNDARY CHANGES
<BILL HELD OVER>

FEB 17 MONDAY 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEB 19 WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
HB 399 AUTHORIZE PORT AUTHORITIES

FEB 20 THURSDAY 1:30 PM - 3:00 AM
*HB 452 REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FINANCE

HOUSE FINANCE 519

FEB 13 THURSDAY 1:30 PM
NO MEETING SCHEDULED
FINANCE ROOM 519

FEB 14 FRIDAY 1:30 PM
HB 95 AK-KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL COMM'N
HB 309 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX
HB 428 RESIDENCY FOR PERMANENT FUND DIVIDENDS
FINANCE ROOM 519

FEB 17 MONDAY 1:30 PM
NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEB 18 TUESDAY 1:30 PM
SB 16 EDUCATION EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
SB 330 MUNICIPAL TAX EXEMPTION FOR NAT. RESOURCE

FEB 19 WEDNESDAY 1:30 PM
HB 20 LONGEVITY BONUS/NURSING HOME RESIDENTS
HB 396 ANTI-VIOLENT CRIME ACT OF 1992

FEB 20 THURSDAY 1:30 PM
NO MEETING SCHEDULED