

Rep. Pollock Describes Activities

Speaking to a joint session of the Alaska State Legislature Monday, U.S. Representative Howard Pollock described his activities and accomplishments since he took office last month.

He said that he had been working on the land claim situation, and has a bill being drafted on the subject. Pollock said he had consulted both AFNA chairman Flore Lekanof and Secretary of the

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Interior Udall on the matter.

Pollock said he has asked Udall to meet with Governor Hickel, Alaska's Congressional delegation, and native representatives on the claims situation. He was informed that Udall was not

ready for such a meeting, because he is not ready for a decision yet.

Pollock criticized this answer, saying that the Natives should be consulted in making the decisions. He felt that the Alaskans would otherwise have to defend their position and try to convince the Interior Department to change a decision.

In regard to legislation benefiting Alaska, Pollock said he had introduced HR Bill 4512, an amendment to the Jones Act to allow use of the British Columbia Ferry system for shipments to Alaska.

This bill is not as general as Gruening's bill in the Senate, Pollock said, and for this reason he feels it stands a better chance of passage. He added that he would work for whichever bill looked as though it would pass.

He has also introduced HR 4775 to authorize seven fish concentrate plants, and HR 4654 to provide tax credit for industries which invest money for training of people. He said he had six other bills ready to be introduced and 10 bills in preparation.

Pollock said he had been given some key committee and sub-committee appointments - Interior and Insular Affairs, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Indian Affairs and Lands, and Parks and Recreation. He also expects to be assigned to the Fisheries and Conservation Committee.

He has also had the honor to represent Freshmen Legislators, in on the Committee on Committees, and has been appointed to the National Congressional Committee.