

Pollock Concerned Over Proposed Operation Change of DEWline Sites

Congressman Howard W. Pollock (R-Alaska) this week expressed concern that the Department of the Air Force is not "considering social costs" in its study of changing the operation of the DEW, BMEWS and WACS sites in Alaska from private contractor to civil service. Pollock's statement was made in a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and it said in part:

"The Alaska labor market is small—about 70,000 people.

A slight increase or decrease in permanent positions has a much larger effect in the Alaska job market than in those of more populous states.

"In a state whose economy depends so heavily on direct federal pay rolls, it is desirable to encourage the growth of a private sector.

"I think it should also be pointed out that experience has shown that private enterprise is consistently

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more efficient than civil service in these matters. Your Department's study of the Alaska Communications System bears this out.

"Finally, the State of Alaska receives over \$500,000 annually in taxes from the contractors. This state, with a small population and a large undeveloped land area in desperate need of state services, relies heavily on corporation taxes. The state can not afford to lose a half million dollars in tax revenues."

"The conversion is only in the study stage at this point. I am just making sure that all the factors are being considered." Pollock added.