

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

2 INTRODUCED BY DUNKLE, KOLSTAD

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE U.S.
6 CONGRESS TO STOP TREATY NEGOTIATIONS TO TRANSFER CONTROL,
7 ADMINISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP OF OUR CANAL TO THE PRESENT
8 GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA, AND TO REAFFIRM OUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE
9 MONROE DOCTRINE BY APPLYING IT TO THE PRESENT CRISIS.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Panama Canal Convention in 1903 stated,
12 "The Republic of Panama grants to the United States in
13 perpetuity the use, occupation and control of a zone of land
14 and land under water for the construction, maintenance,
15 operation, sanitation and protection of said canal..."; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1903 Treaty stated, "The Republic of
17 Panama grants to the United States in perpetuity a monopoly
18 for the construction, maintenance and operation of any
19 system of communication by means of a canal or railroad
20 across the territory between the Caribbean Sea and the
21 Pacific Ocean."; and

22 WHEREAS, "Perpetuity" is defined as meaning, "perpetual
23 existence, duration, validity; something perpetual or
24 perpetually held or maintained; endless time"; and

25 WHEREAS, Article III of the 1903 Treaty says, "The

1 Republic of Panama grants to the United States all the
2 rights, power, and authority within the zone mentioned...
3 which the United States would possess and exercise if it
4 were the sovereign of the territory within which said lands
5 and waters are located to the entire exclusion of the
6 exercise by the Republic of Panama of any such sovereign
7 rights, power or authority"; and

8 WHEREAS, the Treaty states, "If the Republic of Panama
9 shall hereafter enter as a constituent into any other
10 government or into any union or confederation of states, so
11 as to merge her sovereignty or independence in such
12 government, union or confederation, the rights of the United
13 States under this convention shall not be in any respect
14 lessened or impaired."; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1903 Panama was offered ten million dollars
16 "in gold coin" plus "an annual payment" of a quarter of a
17 million dollars "IN LIKE GOLD COIN" for 50 square miles; and

18 WHEREAS, the Panama Canal Convention was ratified on
19 February 26, 1904; and

20 WHEREAS, the Panama Canal Treaty was updated and
21 reaffirmed by all parties in 1936 and in 1955, and no
22 further negotiations are either desired or necessary; and

23 WHEREAS, when acquired by the United States, the land
24 that later became the Canal Zone was jungle covered, insect
25 ridden, and disease infested. There was no canal on it. The

INTRODUCED BILL

1 United States of America cleared the jungle, eradicated the
2 malaria problem, and built the Canal -- at a huge cost in
3 American lives, time, and money; and

4 WHEREAS, the Panama Canal is undeniably the most
5 important waterway in the western hemisphere.

6

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
8 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 That the United States of America should retain all of
10 the right, title and interest of and to the Panama Canal
11 that it has bought and paid for and that it reassert those
12 principles and standards laid down in the Monroe Doctrine to
13 such degree and extent that it is prepared to totally defend
14 our properties as appeasement invites aggression.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
16 be sent to the President of the United States, the United
17 States Senate, the United States House of Representatives
18 and to the Secretary of State.

-End-