

the 1970s: the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act and the Energy Policy Conservation Act. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act resulted from the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968. There was plenty of oil but no reliable way to get it to the lower 48 states. Oil companies determined that the cheapest way would be to build a pipeline through Alaska from the Arctic Ocean to Valdez, where the oil could then be shipped south.

Environmentalists fiercely resisted construction of a pipeline through Alaska. It took the 1973 Arab oil embargo and resulting gas shortages to tip the scales in favor of legislation authorizing construction. "It's doubtful it would've passed if people weren't forced to sit in long gas lines," Van Ness observed (Dougherty interview). Even then the Senate deadlocked when the act came up for a vote, and it took a tie-breaker vote by Vice President Spiro Agnew (1918-1996) to break the deadlock. President Nixon signed the act in November 1973.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), introduced by Senator Jackson in February 1975, was probably the least controversial of the four acts discussed in this essay, and "fairly straightforward," commented Van Ness (Dougherty interview). It passed the Senate in April, the House in September, and President Gerald Ford (1913-2006) signed it in December 1975. EPCA created the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, mandated automobile fuel economy standards, and extended oil price controls until 1979.

MOVING ON TO PRIVATE PRACTICE

By 1977, Van Ness had decided it was time for a change. He had actually considered leaving sooner: "I tried to leave numerous times to go practice law, but Scoop was very persuasive. He was a fun guy to work with—great instincts and a great mind. Every time I tried to leave he always persuaded me to stay two more years. The last time I sent him a memo and was pretty firm that it was time for me to move on" (Dougherty interview).

Van Ness established the firm of Van Ness, Feldman, Curtis and Sutcliffe in 1977, partnering with three other attorneys who had also worked as counsel or chief counsel to various committees in both the House and Senate. The firm specialized in handling energy, environmental, and transportation issues; one of its first clients was the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He also registered as a lobbyist, but this was not the central focus of the firm's work. "None of us [at the firm] wanted to be known as a lobbyist," he explained. "We wanted to be known as legislative craftsmen who know the process in the House and Senate and can achieve substantive results" (Dougherty interview). Curtis and Sutcliffe eventually moved on, but Howard Feldman remained with the firm, which became known as Van Ness Feldman.

In 1988 Van Ness returned to Seattle, opening an office of the firm in the Emerald City the following year. Also in 1988 he became president of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, a position he held until 2008. The foundation, formed in 1983 after Jackson's sudden death, makes grants and develops initiatives in four areas reflecting issues that Jackson was involved in during his years in Congress: international affairs education, environmental and natural resource management, human rights, and public service. Since it was established, the foundation has committed more than \$22 million to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions in both the United States and Russia.

Van Ness also served on the Board of Directors for the University of Washington Medical School for nine years, during a time

that the U.S. Department of Justice brought litigation against the UW, alleging massive billing fraud in overbilling government insurance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. In 2004 the UW and the Department of Justice agreed to a \$35 million settlement, but the story remained hot in the press. Later that year the UW Medicine Board named Van Ness head of a committee to review the weaknesses that led to the billing problems and to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence. "The committee's review was thorough, frank and, in some instances, scathing," reported *The Seattle Times* when the report came out in 2005. "But it put the issue to bed," concluded Van Ness (Dougherty interview).

Van Ness married Patricia "Pat" O'Meara (b. 1940) in 1959 and they had four children: Tamara, Keith, Douglas, and Justin. Into his seventies Van Ness went into his law office several days a week and worked from home as needed. When not working he enjoyed spending time at his beach cabin on Marrowstone Island in Jefferson County with his grandchildren, gardening, wood-carving, and fishing in Alaska. Bill Van Ness died on November 22, 2017, at age 79.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Alaska today in honoring Bill Van Ness. Chairman MURKOWSKI has identified some of the significant contributions that Bill made to Alaska and Alaskans. I would like to focus specifically on one of those contributions, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act or ANCSA, and the role that law has played in improving the lives of Alaska's Native people. Through ANCSA, the State of Alaska, the Federal Government, and the Alaska Native community reached a settlement regarding aboriginal claims to lands and resources throughout the State. Alaska Natives set aside those claims in exchange for nearly \$1 billion and the right to select approximately 45 million acres of land.

Bill's creativity is evident in the manner in which ANCSA addressed the fundamental question of how to ensure that the thousands of individual Alaska Natives received their fair share of the settlement funds and lands. To answer that question, ANCSA authorized the creation of corporations, in which Alaska Natives are the sole shareholders, to receive the funds and hold title to the selected lands. For the most part, this corporate structure has proved to be very beneficial to the Alaska Native shareholders and to the State of Alaska.

In this regard, I point to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, ASRC, which is owned by Alaska Native people who have inhabited the North Slope of Alaska for thousands of years. With strong leadership from its shareholders, officers, and board members, ASRC has grown into a multibillion dollar enterprise that is Alaska's largest domestic company and that provides dividends to its nearly 13,000 Alaska Native shareholder, as well as many jobs to shareholders and other Alaskans. Bill Van Ness's contributions as an author of ANCSA and later as a private attorney representing ASRC were keys to ASRC's success story.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 219. An act to correct the Swan Lake hydroelectric project survey boundary and to provide for the conveyance of the remaining tract of land within the corrected survey boundary to the State of Alaska.

H.R. 772. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

H.R. 4924. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 102. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass.

H. Con. Res. 104. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1892.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1892) to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, February 7, 2018, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 534. An act to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4924. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.