

Washington Report

Senator ERNEST GRUENING

Secretary of Transportation Alan Boyd made his first visit to Alaska recently and I had the pleasure of taking him around the State. He was quite visibly impressed with our progress and our great potential, and he also got a better understanding of our needs.

We visited the scallop processing facilities now under construction in Seward and the Secretary spoke at the ceremonies marking the establishment of the scallop industry on the Alaska mainland.

This is the first substantial "break" that Seward has had since the earthquake and it is most gratifying. Seward has been the only community stricken by the 1964 earthquake which has been worse off than before. All the others, as a result of federal aid, are better off.

Seward has been worse off because it lost its principal payroll, long-shoring, which has gone to Anchorage. It still needs additional industry and for this I am working. The spirit of the people of Seward has been wonderful. They have not given up, and it was a joy to see them celebrate the coming of the scallop processing industry.

Secretary Boyd showed a good grasp of our situation when he said, "Development in Alaska is going to depend on all types of transportation — rail, air, highways, and water."

I always encourage top Federal officials, and my colleagues in the Senate, to visit our State. It's good for them to see for themselves the special needs and problems of a young and growing State. Then, when Alaska matters come before them, they have a better view of what is involved.

Secretary Boyd, for example, was able to tour the Alaska Railroad facilities and the new FAA Air Traffic Control center, meet with all Department of Transportation employees in the Anchorage area, and fly over the site of the proposed railroad extension on the way to Kotzebue.