

Candidate Eyes Jumbo Jets

ANCHORAGE — Recent reports that the auto industry will use jumbo-jets for hauling cars was cited today by U.S. Senate candidate Mike Gravel as supporting his proposal for using the same kind of jumbo-jets in Alaska.

Gravel has calimed that using jets for cargo freight could cut Alaska's cost of living sub-

stantially.

"Newsweek magazine reported last week that General Motors is negotiating with United Airlines about converting a Boeing 747 into a long-haul car carrier," Gravel said. "Auto officials there say that a modified 747 could haul 30 cars and fly them from Detroit to California at \$47 less per car than the present cost of rail shipping, and in one-tenth the time.

"This has immense implications for Alaska," Gravel said. "Are we really going to sink what little revenue we have into railroads which may already be obsolete? Between Detroit and

California, railroads already constructed and operating are becoming inefficient," Gravel said. "I think that tells us something about Alaska's future railroads, which are only on the drawing boards."

Gravel cited the experiments of the huge 228-ton C5A Galaxy experimental plan, and the supersonic transports (SST) as proof that the day of the big cargo-plane is not far away.

"Expansion of foundation airports in key cities will mean we can take advantage of these cargo jets soon," Gravel said, "and that means an immediate drop in the cost of living."