

***Senator Gravel Says—***

# **Speed Up Gas Pipeline**

WASHINGTON — Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, introduced legislation Oct. 9 to speed construction of a natural gas pipeline from Alaska's North Slope by requiring all federal agencies involved in the decision-making to act by next June 30.

Unless Congress disapproves the Federal Power Commission decision on competing applications for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate a natural

gas pipeline, the project would go forward.

Gravel said in a statement accompanying his bill that, "this matter is of crucial importance to our effort to become energy independent. Congressional involvement of this sort is proper."

The bill would substitute congressional review of the pipeline project for judicial review.

The Federal Power Commission would be required to reach a final decision within the stipulated time, on the pipeline route applications of the Alaska Arctic

Gas Pipeline Co., to build a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the Mackenzie Delta and down through Canada; and the El Paso Alaska Co., to construct a gas pipeline parallel to the present oil pipeline.

The bill provides the Congressional authority for the Interior Secretary and other appropriate federal officials to issue rights-of-way permits, leases and other authorizations necessary for or related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the gas pipeline on or before June 30, 1976.