

Sen. Begich Hits Barrow Airport Situation

State Senator Nick Begich in a state of frustration told Tundra Times this week what he thought of air service between Fairbanks and Barrow.

The State Wiley Post Airfield at Barrow is presently being worked on for improvement and, simultaneously, the military field near the Arctic Research Laboratory three miles away is also undergoing repairs.

"I criticize the state and the federal government for not coordinating their airport improvement program to allow at least one of the airports open during the summer season," said Begich heatedly.

"This is a blow to the economy of Barrow," he continued, "to have tourists turn back at Fairbanks and not continue their journey."

(Continued on page 6)

Begich Hits Airport Situation . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"I was one of many who waited three hours at the airport Saturday who was then told the plane could not land at Barrow.

"Meanwhile, others were stranded at Barrow because no plane service was being given.

"The people of Barrow should communicate their displeasure to the governor and to the Corps of Engineers. The situation is deplorable."

Sen. Begich, who is campaigning for nomination in the primaries against fellow Democrats John Rader and Don Wright for the U.S. House of Representatives now occupied by Rep. Howard W. Pollock, has tried to get to Barrow during the last few days.

"I finally got a seat to go up there and after having to wait for three hours, the flight was called off," Begich complained.

Nick Begich diverted his campaign this week to the Seward Peninsula where he was honored with a no host dinner at Nome Monday.

He was slated to visit Unalakleet, Wales, Teller,

Shismaref, Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island.

Prior to his campaign swing in the Seward Peninsula, Begich campaigned in the Interior. He also opened his headquarters in Fairbanks last week.

"I found that my candidacy was well received by the native people of Alaska because they evidently know my record during the past six years in the State Senate in behalf of the native people," he said.

"I believe they recognize my efforts in behalf of the foodstamp program, native housing, hot lunch for school kids, my efforts to solve the land claims issue and my overall record in behalf of the people of the state.

He said it was obvious during the opening of his headquarters in Fairbanks that the native people that came commented about his efforts to improve education in rural Alaska.

"I'm proud of that record and pleased that the native people of Alaska recognize my achievements in their behalf," he said.