

# Acting Gov. Keith Miller Says Winter Road Work Will Continue

JUNEAU—Acting Gov. Keith Miller announced construction will be continued on the winter

road north.

"The project is moving ahead well and we are optimistic of an

early completion date," Miller said. "Truckers assure us freight loads demand the earliest possible completion. The portion completed to date has already been used for at least three fuel deliveries by standard highway type fuel delivery trucks."

Miller said temperatures have improved along the road route since Tuesday and that the long range forecast is for temperatures within the range of continued operations.

Miller also said the winter road has received enthusiastic public support including support from legislators in both parties.

"The high pressure system which caused the extreme cold in the route area is moving to the southwest," Miller said. "Temperatures have been above minus 24 in the Tanana and Bettles area for the past 24 hours as the cold moves out."

Miller said the winter road crews were 147 miles north of Fairbanks at 2 a.m. Friday. The crews covered 18 miles in the preceding work period.

"We expect the road to be pushed through to Sagwon by Feb. 8," Miller said.

Wires from the Greater Anchorage Democratic Club, the Alaska Carriers Association, and support from numerous legislators have been received, Miller said.

Ed Barber, Chairman of the Greater Anchorage Democratic Club, wired, "This club unanimously on record in favor of north slope road completion as soon as possible."

Barber's wire said immediate construction was necessary because of Canadian competition for the business of servicing oil companies on the north slope.

Senate president John Butrovich polled Fairbanks area legislators, and reported they were unanimously agreed that construction of the winter road should be completed.

Legislators polled included Sen. Elect Terry Miller, Sen. Paul Haggland, Sen. Elect Ed Merdes, Rep. Elect Eugene Miller, Rep. Elect Mike Bradner and Rep. Ed Orbeck.

Edward R. Sanders, manager of the Alaska Carriers Association, wired Miller, "Urge that any thought of discontinuing construction be abandoned and that additional work equipment immediately be placed in the construction effort."

Leo Schlofeldt of Sourdough Truckers in Fairbanks reported Friday afternoon, "We have all the confidence in the world there'll be a lot of usage as soon as they get up near the other end. We know there's plenty of freight to haul."