

# PASS IMPASS CONTINUES



**LEGISLATORS CONFER** — State Senator Willie Hensley, D - Kotzebue, confers with Senate President Terry Miller, R - Fairbanks, during a committee hearing in Juneau last week. Tuesday, Hensley called upon the state to withdraw a right of way granted for the Hickel Highway through Anaktuvik Pass. If the right of way is withdrawn, Hensley indicated, both

## Hensley Asks Right of Way Withdrawal

**JUNEAU** — State Senator Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, said Tuesday that state action may be needed to resolve a dispute over use of Anaktuvik Pass in the Brooks Range by an Alyeska Pipeline Company truck convoy.

Hensley has asked State Highway Commissioner, Bruce A. Campbell, to review the matter. If not settled soon, the dispute could delay the convoys and jeopardize the time table for construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

"The real issue is not Alyeska's trucks, but the existence of a state right of way through the Pass that the village people fear will soon become a permanent state highway," the Kotzebue Democrat said. "A permanent road could dispute the peaceful, secluded way of life that the village people want to retain."

The Alyeska convoy is carrying heavy equipment for construction of a pipeline access gravel road. A delay in moving the equipment north through the pass would jeopardize completion of the road, which will follow the pipeline route through Dietrich Pass, east of Anaktuvik.

Hensley said that his investigation of the dispute showed no insurmountable obstacles for Alyeska in reaching an agreement with the village. "Alyeska has offered to compensate the village people for any damages," he said.

The real problem seems to be the state right of way. The

state has claimed a right of way ever since construction of a winter haul road, also known as the Hickel Highway, was established in 1970. "The village people are concerned that there will be trucks using the pass every winter, and that this will soon bring construction of an all-year gravel highway into their valley," Hensley said. "I doubt that the state will ever need two North Slope Highways," he said.

"The Alyeska Pipeline Highway, 40 miles east of Anaktuvik, will be a public road when the pipeline is finished. We will have the use of this highway and there will be no justification for the second road," he said.

Hensley suggested a withdrawal of the Anaktuvik right of way so that Alyeska can reach an accord with the village. He said that he would ask Campbell to review the matter.

"Most Alaskans are committed to an orderly development of our petroleum resources and construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline in a matter that is consistent with the interest of Alaskans," Hensley said. "The roles of individual Alaskans and Alaska's society will no doubt conflict with the activities of various oil and pipeline companies from time to time and reasonable solutions will have to be found," he said.