

UP AT NORTH SLOPE—

Work Competition

WASHINGTON— Citing the growing threat of Canadian competition for jobs in the development of North Slope oil reserves, Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett has again urged quick development of Arctic transport-

ation facilities.

In a letter to Transportation Secretary Alan S. Boyd, Bartlett reported that as a result of the Alaska oil discoveries shipping on Canada's Mackenzie River had increased 25 per cent this year. He said Canada was preparing to increase its Mackenzie River fleet by 50 per cent.

Bartlett's office released the text of the letter following a meeting of high oil company officials with Boyd and Bartlett's representative. Transportation requirements of the oil companies for North Slope development were discussed.

Attending the meeting were representatives of Phillips, Mobil, British Petroleum, Atlantic-Richfield and Humble oil companies.

Bartlett told Boyd that "it is vital to the state of Alaska and its economic sufficiency that transportation facilities for this field should pass through Alaska rather than Canada."

"The Canadians claim that the most economical method to deliver equipment and supplies to the North Slope is by floating barges down their river to Tuktoyaktuk. The cargo is transhipped here by converted landing craft to Arctic bases," Bartlett wrote.

"As a result the United States and the State of Alaska are losing valuable employment, business development and dollars which beyond a question of a doubt should be ours. Unless action is soon taken by the Department of Transportation, the Alaska Railroad, and the State of Alaska, Canada, not America, will profit from North Slope oil development."

Bartlett said that he had been reliably informed that the Northern Transportation Co., Ltd., of Edmonton, a government-owned firm, planned to build 14 new tugs, many new barges and several floating cranes in British Columbia shipyards this year.

"All of these are destined for the Alaska trade," Bartlett said.