

# SENATOR NICK BEGICH PROPOSES ARCTIC RESEARCH AGENCY

ANCHORAGE — Sen. Nick Begich, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, said here today that comprehensive program of Arctic study and development is needed if Alaska is to receive the full human and material benefit it should receive from the recently uncovered mineral potential of the North Slope area.

Senator Begich proposed an Arctic research, training and co-operative agency which would be financed by funds from private and governmental sources.

He said, "Obviously, the task of researching the vast potential of the Arctic regions should be a joint effort in international and discussion. I would expect that this new agency I propose would be involved in this kind of relationships with other countries having Arctic borders."

"This agency would be involved in all of the research to develop programs that will make fuller utilization of our Arctic land resources possible. Grants to universities and for independent research would be made to deserving schools and scholars. With this knowledge, it is my plan to see to it that we institute training programs for Alaskans to learn how to work more effectively in the Arctic doing the jobs for which there is a demand by private enterprise and governmental agencies.

"Thirdly, this new agency, which I would like to call by the abbreviated name of the initials, ARTCA, would become involved in aiding native Alaskans to own business enterprises and to determine and participate actively in solving their own problems and destiny."

Begich said that he would consult with native leaders and other Alaskans prior to any bill he would submit in organizing this agency.

He feels that his proposal will receive the enthusiastic support of many businesses who will be participating in the ARTCA program.

Senator Begich also complimented the governor by stating, "I felt that the governor was certainly correct when I heard that he has called for a Polar Cap study. There are times

I have criticized Gov. Hickel but I do want to give credit when credit is due."

"I join him in calling for a study. Through a program as I propose we can provide the necessary impetus we need to develop our North Slope areas."

Begich concluded by stating that, "The Russians and Scandinavians have demonstrated to the world that the great potential of the north can be developed and can become a major contributing force in the economic future of this great land. I am sure that with international understanding and goodwill among the nations with a common interest in Polar regions, we can work together to a most promising future."