

Airport Act Extended Three More Years

Senator Gruening congratulated the administration and members of the Senate Commerce Committee for their efforts leading to the passage of S. 3906, a bill to extend the federal Airport Act for three more years at the present authorization level of \$75 million per year.

He told his colleagues of the importance of the bill to Alaska, "the flyingest state in the Union."

He noted that the people of Alaska per capita fly more miles, own more planes and are more completely dependent on air transportation

than those of any other state.

"Measured by passenger miles or per capita flights," he said, "Alaskans fly about 30 to 40 times as much as citizens of other states. With the least population of any state—less than 300,000—our state boasts more airports than any other with the exception of California and Texas."

He said air transportation is vital to Alaska because of discrimination against it in the allocation of federal aid highway funds, high transportation costs imposed by water carriers and because a majority of her communities are unconnected with any others by highway or railroad.

"The national airport plan for 1965," he continued, shows the progress that lies ahead for even more efficient air transportation services in Alaska than we have experienced in the past.

"With the State of Alaska's participation from proceeds of its bonding program, 38 new airports will be constructed and important improvements will be made at nearly 100 of the extremely important local service airports of which Alaska has more than any other state."