

Editorial—

The Great Implications Of the Oil Discovery

The discovery of immense deposits of oil and gas on the Arctic Slope of Alaska point to great implications of everyone in the state. The immensity of the discovery should certainly affect every person no matter who he might be. The powers that be that will plan the extraction of the great minerals should have in their plans a thought to benefit everyone in Alaska to the fullest extent possible. In building up the work force, the planners should certainly include every representative person that make up the population of our state on a fair and impartial basis. There should be no room for favoritism.

The people in strategic positions are also mulling over every possible means of making the Arctic Slope accessible. Huge airfields to accomodate huge air carriers are being mentioned. A huge pipeline to pump the oil to seaports is prominently talked about. A highway to the Slope is in the minds of people. An extension of the railroad from Fairbanks is seriously being considered. Considering the basis of the immensity of the oil find, perhaps all of these means of making the Arctic Slope

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'I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it.' Voltaire

The Great Implications

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accessible will be utilized in time.

Of all the means that have been mentioned, we are inclined to favor the building of the railroad to the Slope. It has been said that it would be the fastest way on land to make transportation available to the area. The employment potential alone of the building of the railroad at the outset is a big one. The manpower that will be needed once it's completed is also one of great potential. This would mean continuous employment of many people. Perhaps the members of the NORTH Commission when they meet later this month can recommend that a railroad be built to the Arctic Slope.

We are also of the opinion that a sizable city will be founded on a strategic location on the Slope that would be served by the railroad. The rail facility would be used for transporting materials and personnel but it should not be confined to these purposes alone.

In the event the railroad is built, it would be constructed through some of the most rugged country in the world. It would unveil primeval beauty heretofore inaccessible to the beauty lovers of the world. It could be one of the finest tourist routes imaginable. It could become one of the most unforgettable experiences for people who seek the unusual.

The oil discovery sites themselves that have caught the imagination of the world would be no less attractive to the tourists because of the very locations on which they are—the Arctic tundra of Alaska. Beside fine train accommodations, they could be housed in fine hotels, served fine meals, and afforded everything else designed to make the visitors comfortable.

The railroad could, perhaps, be extended to Barrow, the northernmost Eskimo settlement on the North American Continent. This would certainly benefit the big Eskimo village through tourism and, possibly, lower freight rates.

The great oil discovery on the Arctic Slope by the oil companies has fallen on the collective laps of Alaskans. The potential of benefits for all are almost beyond comprehension. It should be planned for utilization on truly equitable basis to benefit all. We are on to one of the greatest gems in the world. It should be our opportunity to show the world community, with the cooperation of the oil companies, that we can do the finest job to better everyone's life based on equitable consideration and fairness to all people.

The vast Arctic oil should not predominantly benefit the oil companies but it should benefit all Alaskans. Refineries, tourist routes, servicing units and many other necessary needs should be planned for greatest benefits for Alaska. This is the area where the NORTH Commission can, perhaps, utilize its vested powers. The commission will be watched closely and we hope it will serve with farsightedness for our developing state.