

Bartlett Opposes Change In Marine Freight Standards

FAIRBANKS, July 7—Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett last Friday went on record as opposing efforts of some merchant marine companies to set new standards for ship container sizes.

Shipping companies serving Alaska were among the pioneers in developing the container concept which Senator Bartlett has called "the single most important development in transportation in many years."

The use of containers, which eliminates intermediate handling of cargo, has helped reduce shipping costs to sections of Alaska.

The companies serving Alaska use 24-foot and 35-foot containers. A move has been started to declare 20-foot, 30-foot and 40-foot containers as standard.

If the latter lengths were accepted as standard, the firms serving Alaska would be at a disadvantage in competing for government cargoes.

The Senator has announced he will hold hearings on the question of container sizes.

In an address to the North Star Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association at Fairbanks, Senator Bartlett said, "Generally, when I head up a hearing, I try my very best to be an impartial judge. Not this time. Not on your life. My decision is made. I do not intend to stand by when two companies have made tremendous investments, have started the whole thing, are sought to be done in by such a patent and obvious underhanded-attack."

Bartlett's speech briefly reviewed the history of transportation in Alaska and

looked to what was needed to meet future needs of the state.

He pointed out that while the federal government has made significant contributions to the development of aviation in Alaska, he asked who could say the expense was not justified.

He reported the Post Office Department pays more than \$7 million a year, the Federal Aviation Administration more than \$29 million and the Civil Aeronautics Board more than \$615 million, for aviation activities in Alaska.

Looking ahead, Bartlett said that people follow transportation, and Alaska needs people. He called for planning on the questions of extending the state's highway system, of whether or not a railroad to the Arctic is needed, of whether or not man-made harbors are needed in the Arctic.

"We may need one of them. We may need all. Let us plan, let us survey, let us find out," he said.

He also pointed out that the communications industry possesses the ability to

launch satellites today which could bring modern communication service to Alaska.

He said that his concern was that the state would be served by the first system of domestic satellites which might be launched by 1971 or sooner.

"As we enter our second century we are just beginning to discover the diversity of our opportunities, of nature's gifts, of geography's favors, of technology's promise. If we plan wisely, we stand on the threshold of Alaska's promise. If we plan wisely, we stand on the threshold of Alaska's fulfillment," Bartlett said.