

# ***Murkowski, Reagan discuss foreign trade, energy issues***

During a Republican leadership meeting at the White House, Sen. Frank Murkowski discussed with President Reagan several issues important to Alaska and the nation, including energy independence and market accessibility in foreign trade, the senator said.

The discussion was part of a briefing attended by Murkowski and other Senate Republican leaders on the president's State of the Union address.

The senator said he took advantage of the opportunity to talk with the president about the development of Alaska's oil and gas reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"I made it clear to the president that the opening of ANWR would help free the United States from security problems which evolve from a dependence on resources from foreign countries and would be a terrific boost to the development of Alaska's natural

resources," Murkowski said.

In the area of trade, Murkowski said he discussed the issue of market accessibility in Japan, Taiwan and Korea, particularly on the \$8 billion Japanese construction project for a new international airport in Osaka. U.S. firms have not been able to bid on the project.

"In my discussion with the president, I suggested that the United States had to take a stand on the Kansai project, which is one of the most striking examples of unfair trade in Japan," Murkowski said. "I plan to focus a great deal of my attention on this project."

Murkowski has recently returned from a 12-day trade mission to Southeast Asia where he discussed Alaska coal and oil contracts with the Taiwanese, as well as the Kansai airport project.