

ALPECO Holds Kickoff Breakfast

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

Impatience with Congressional dilly-dallying over the trans-Alaska pipeline has led a group of private citizens to undertake their own program to educate others to the need for North Slope oil.

The Alaska Pipeline Education Committee (ALPECO) held a Kickoff Breakfast for their campaign in Fairbanks, May 30, with Gov. William Egan as guest speaker.

Development of Alaskan oil fields, the governor said, "would be strengthening the position of the American dollar, and increasing national security through lessening the dependency on foreign oil."

The governor related the history of oil development in the state, and the steps that have already been taken toward making the pipeline environmentally safe.

"Engineers and scientists from all over the world will come here," said the Governor, "and look upon this as a model project."

The Committee appealed to community and business leaders to contribute either time or money toward disseminating information on the pipeline.

They urged those attending the breakfast to take part in a massive letter-writing campaign, directing the deluge at relatives and friends in the lower '48, as well as Congressmen and Sena-

tors in some 19 states who are still uncommitted on the pipeline.

Breakfast guests were given a preview of a slide presentation that has been prepared for Alaskans who could present the show to interested groups in other cities. The slides, commentary and printed brochures are being made available for Alaskans traveling "outside".

ALPECO recently arranged for a group of native Alaskans to go to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the pipeline bill being presented by Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington State.

Bobby Schaeffer of the NANA Corp.; Willie Hensley, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives; John Sackett, head of DOYON, Ltd.; and

Laura Bergt, well-known Republican, journeyed to the Capitol last week to talk with Congressional leaders.

"The Alaskan story has never been told to people outside," said Bev Iverson, executive director of ALPECO. "We've been lax as individual Alaskans, leaving the task to the governor, our legislators, and Congress."

What ALPECO aims at is a people to people approach in getting the pipeline going. North Star Borough mayor John Carlson, who is on ALPECO's board of directors, volunteered his office as a clearing house for volunteers and information in Fairbanks.

Statewide offices are located at 327 Barrow St., Anchorage, Ak. 99501.