

# **Ceiling asked for compensation**

**From our Juneau Bureau**

**JUNEAU — Rep. Al Nakak, D-Nome, pre-filed a bill this session that would place a \$200,000 ceiling on Workmen's Compensation Death Benefits. Nakak said the bill will lower workmen's compensation rates which are now at the 45% level. For every \$100.000 an employer pays an employee he must pay \$45.00 for workmen's comp. "This has a direct bearing on the number of employees an employer may have and further has a very direct effect a business person will charge to his or her customers. The ultimate beneficiary of a lower workmen's compensation rate is the customer who pays a lower rate for the service. The only way that this rate can be lowered is by placing a ceiling on death benefits and \$200,000 is by no means a low benefit rate," Nakak said.**

**Nakak's amendment to the workmen's compensation bill does provide for the dependent widow or widower who is incapable of self-support to receive death benefits until their status changes or until death.**

**Of the bill, Nakak said, "The biggest problem that this alleviates is the fact that these rates are passed on to customers especially in several million dollar death benefit settlements."**