

Norman Bailey visits Fairbanks

Democratic Congressional candidate Norman Bailey of Anchorage spent three days in Fairbanks last week meeting residents of that area and discussing Alaska's problems with them.

"I felt that I should spend some time getting acquainted

with more Fairbanksans and share ideas with them," Bailey said. "One of the most important issues to Interior residents is the maintenance of a stable and viable economy after the oil boom is over.

"Our Congressional representative must be willing to fight for programs that will guarantee citizens and working people of Alaska relief from another forced boom-and-bust economic cycle."

"The ownership of Alaskan land also came up as an important concern during the Fairbanks trip," Bailey said. "The federal government controls over 90 per cent of Alaska's land—I think people want their share of it now, not in 10 years, not after another study, but now.

"Alaska has been a state for more than 15 years and we still haven't seen a genuine effort to deliver the millions of acres promised us under the Statehood Act.

"In addition to the state and

native land questions, which I think are most crucial, we also need positive action which will help soften the impact offshore oil development will have on Alaska's coastal communities like Yakutat, Cordova, and Valdez.

"A recent attempt on the floor of the House by Alaska's present congressman to weaken the power coastal states and communities have over offshore oil development was, fortunately for Alaska, defeated by the Democratic majority in Congress.

"The attempt, in the form of a floor amendment, would have made it easier for the Department of Interior to overrule recommendations of coastal states; it also would have eliminated regional advisory boards and lengthened lease terms.

"This behavior is a continuing example of the kind of representation Alaska presently has. I don't think Alaska is getting a fair shake."