

# Bill Asks 15-year Extension For State Land Selections

Alaska Senators E. L. Bartlett and Ernest Gruening have introduced legislation (S3406) which will grant the state a 15-year extension on its authority to select mineral lands from the federal domain in the state.

The State's present authority to select mineral lands expires on January 3, 1969, ten years after statehood.

Initially, the authorization was given to the state for a five-year period, but was extended in 1964 because the five-year period was deemed insufficient.

The Interior Department has refused to process state land selections because of pending native land claims.

Sen. Bartlett observed on introducing the measure that "since there is no way of knowing how long it will take before the land claims are settled, it is only fair

that the state be given additional time in which to make its mineral claims."