

Weekly report from U.S. Senator Ted Stevens

While most of the fisheries provisions in the law of the sea single negotiating text should prove acceptable to Alaska, some of the deep sea mining provisions should be changed before a treaty is acceptable, Senator Stevens said after attending the conference this week as a Senate advisor.

He said the turning point in the negotiations in his opinion will be the deep sea mining issues. A new single negotiating text is expected soon, and the senator said he is hopeful it will contain greater accommodation for Alaska on the mining issues.

Issues of major importance to the Alaska fishing industry will be decided in the next year between the U.S. and Canada, as they attempt to negotiate a bilateral fishing treaty in light of the U.S. 200-mile zone. In the interim, the current bilateral Executive agreement on fishing has been extended until April 24, 1977. The issue to greatest significance to Alaska is how the U.S. and Canada will coordinate management of intermingling salmon stocks, Sen. Stevens said.

The Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources (OMAR) made a three-day trip to Washington this week to gain support in Congress for the all-Alaska gasline.

The group met with the Alaska congressional delegation to map out a campaign strategy, and they were briefed on the status and prospects of the line by representatives of various federal agencies.

Members of the OMAR group met with individual senators and congressmen during their visit to present Alaska's case in favor of the all-Alaska route, and the delegation hosted a reception for all members of Congress to meet informally with the OMAR representatives.

A recently initiated treaty between the U.S. and Canada on

pipelines traversing both countries would not mandate or suggest approval of a trans-Canadian gasline to take North Slope gas to the Lower 48, Sen. Stevens has said.

The Senator was briefed by the State Department on the treaty and said that it would not apply to any particular pipeline.

A strong supporter of the all-Alaska gasline, the senator said the treaty, which still must be signed by both countries to be binding, would not prevent Canadian provinces from imposing taxes on a U.S. pipeline through Canada. He said he would continue to use this point in opposing a trans-Canada line.

Sen. Stevens has requested a \$4.68 million addition to the Fiscal Year 1976 second supplemental appropriations bill for medical contract care to meet the escalating costs of inpatient treatment. Some of these added funds would be available to ten Alaskan hospitals: Ketchikan General,

Cordova Community, Kodiak Island Borough, Seward General, Petersburg General, Wrangell General, Fairbanks Memorial, Bartlett Memorial in Juneau, Maynard-McCougall in Nome, and Central Peninsula in Soldotna. In addition, the

senator requested that \$8 million be added to the FY-77 appropriations bill for construction of the Bethel Hospital.

To help protect Alaska's marine environment while resource development proceeds, the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration needs an additional \$1.5 million for marine studies and forecasts, Sen. Stevens has told the Appropriations Committee. He asked that the funds be added to the NOAA FY-77 budget.



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