

## **Editorial**

Many Alaskans were startled by the announcement in Anchorage today of the support of Alaska International Industries for the Alcan Gasline route proposal. We are in awe of the strength and support accumulated by Alcan Pipeline in the few short weeks during which Alcan opened its Alaska offices under the direction of former Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner, Morris Thompson. The addition of Thompson, to the Alcan staff has been a key factor in the campaign through which Alcan appears to be gaining snowballing support. The Alcan proposal certainly has a number of positive selling points.

Seeming at first to be an off chance-bet for nearly for all observers of the pipeline debate, the Alcan proposal (aside from the capable salesmanship qualities of Mr. Thompson) has benefited from the misfortunes befalling its two competitors.

Arctic Gas appears to be a casualty of the Canadian Native Land Claims Settlement battle in the Mackenzie valley of the Canadian Northwest Territories. El Paso may also fall victim to environmental concerns at the southern terminus of its route proposal. The Alcan proposal has neither Native claims problems nor complex environmental concerns which may cancel out the other two proposals. It is a proposal worthy of serious consideration by Alaskans, the Congress, the Federal Power Commission, and the President.

-T.R.,j