

# Gravel Would Expand Umiat to Major Airport

Speaking in Fairbanks this week U.S. Senate candidate Mike Gravel called for the expansion of Umiat on the North Slope into a major service airfield capable of handling future 747 jets.

In addition he called for immediate attention to the development of a similar major airfield on the Arctic Coast near Prudhoe Bay, the site of recent oil discoveries.

"A new air transportation is vital if Fairbanks is to become the oil capitol of the North," Gravel stated, "And expanded development of the Umiat field is a transportation accomplishment for Fairbanks that is possible in the near future."

"If Fairbanks is to ride the crest of this oil development wave these next few years we must look to modern practical transportation we can readily finance," he added.

Gravel said "expanded air power" fits Fairbanks, the technology of the future, and more important such ex-



Mike Gravel

pansion fits funding possibilities.

"We're not talking about trying to beg the Congress out of outlandish millions that might prove impossible to accomplish in time," Gravel stated.

Gravel said the sudden developments of the North Slope make a strong case for a special program to aid development airfields in areas of unusual and sudden expansion.

Such funds would be emergency development funds and be designed to insure an economic regional area could promote such sudden growth to its own development advantage.