

Gravel Gets Firm Assurance On Jobs from Oil Companies

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel last Friday told a joint session of the Alaska State Legislature that he had received firm assurance of

interest and cooperation from the oil industry to train and hire Alaskans.

Senator Gravel said that some time in March he will have a specific set of proposals to present to the Governor and to the Legislature for a massive assault on the unemployment question.

"I met with representatives of the oil companies that will share the cost of the pipeline, immediately after the public announcement," Senator Gravel said. "I outlined to them the intensity of our employment problem. . . the human and economic loss. I encouraged them to give a chance to show what Alaskans can do."

"That meeting led to others," Senator Gravel continued. "In recent weeks I have worked with the industry in developing necessary data on the type and number of skills that will be required in Alaska."

"The Community College at my request has prepared material for presentation to the industry, suggestions on various job training programs, cost estimates and timetables."

Senator Gravel said "From the work that has been done so far I think economics will encourage the industry to become deeply involved as full partners in a massive job training program for Alaska."

Senator Gravel discussed two other major topics during his address to the Legislature: native land claims and communications.

He said, "the time is ripe," for settlement of the land claims issue. He said that Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, which will consider the legislation, "is committed to a settlement."

He firmly believes that there should be a generous settlement and that it should come this year.

Senator Gravel said "the land claims are valid because the nation has an obligation to the

(Continued on page 8)

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OFF TO THE CENTURY CITY—Laura Bergt, nine-time Eskimo Olympic blanket toss champion, dons her parka as she prepares to leave for Los Angeles where she will coordinate details and work on advance publicity for the Alaska Trade and Travel Fair at Century City, March 7-15. Seeing her off on the mission is W.G. Christensen, chairman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. The petroleum industry organization is sharing travel and living expenses of Mrs. Bergt and other Alaska Native Performers to be featured in the Alaska promotion. The King Island Eskimo dancers of Nome and the Chilkat Indian dancers of Haines will receive similar assistance through the cooperation of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, Alaska Airlines, Western Airlines and the Alaska Business Council.



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