

# Young Addresses Planning Comm.

U.S. Congressman Don Young addressed the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage on April 23 and urged his fellow Alaskans to make their views on the land known to the Commission.

"I fear Alaska's future may be damaged by the overwhelming testimony of Outsiders whose views do not match those of Alaskans.

"The more Alaskans who offer verbal and written testimony to the Commission, the better Alaska's chances for charting its own future," said Young.

Young compared the situation in Alaska to the crowds and congestion of the nation's capital and other Eastern cities. "A planning commission could have alleviated some of the urban problems that now plague our major cities," he observed.

"Here in Alaska, the opportunity still exists to plan wisely for the future rather than just blunder into it."

However, Young cautioned the commission against locking up the land or parceling it out "to federal agencies whose management policies and overall goals are sometimes in conflict with each other and the needs of the nation."

"Our planning is for men, not for muskrats or mountains or money, but for men," said Young. "I ask you to consider land for people. Alaska is not a pie to be sliced and apportioned according to the appetites of different federal agencies. First and foremost, Alaska belongs to Alaskans. Second, it belongs to the nation."

Congressman Young strongly opposed the setting aside of 11 million acres of the Yukon Flats as a wildlife refuge for birds.

"It is foolhardy to lock up an area half the size of the state of Kentucky for a single purpose to the exclusion of all

others."

Young recommended to the Commission the multiple-use concept of land management, and he commended them for going to the people to hear their views before, rather than after, making final decisions.

The commission will conduct hearings in communities in virtually every section of Alaska, before making their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.

Congressman Young urged all interested Alaskans to express their views on the 79 million acres now classified as D-2 lands, and the additional 48 million acres classed D-1 in the national interest.