

# ***Alaska May Get \$20 Million for Road Planning***

The Senate Public Works Committee last Friday approved an amendment that could give Alaska \$20 million in road planning funds, according to U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), sponsor of the amendment.

The amendment followed a proposal by Gravel that Alaska be made one of five planning regions in the United States in order to qualify for a \$10 million appropriation for the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning.

The \$10 million authorization was approved last week.

Gravel said the other regional planning areas in the United States were authorized an additional \$20 million for road planning.

"If Alaska is designated a regional planning area," Gravel said, "it will automatically be eligible for road funds."

"Because of Alaska's critical transportation problem," he said, "it is imperative that an effective planning program be instigated."

"Only through such a program will we open the avenues of opportunity to our remote areas," he said.

The Federal Field Committee will be authorized to use some of its funds toward development of a road to a pulp mill under construction in Southeast Alaska, and for job training facilities, Gravel said. It is currently operating on a budget of \$235,000.

Alaska may be named a regional planning area by an agreement between the Secretary of Commerce, Maurice Stans and Governor Keith Miller. Stans is expected to make the request to Miller.