

## • Rural Alaska's future

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few solutions to Alaska's problems. And he questioned why rural Alaskans are not more solidly behind the efforts of those favoring the opening of the refuge's Coastal Plain.

Stevens also complained about what he termed a "growing opposition" in Southeastern Alaska to timber development.

"I don't think they're analyzing where the money comes from," he said. He added that the future of Alaska — until the state is able to develop a more diversified economy — is tied to its ability to find ways to keep resource revenue at its maximum.

Stevens said because rural areas will be facing such difficult times, Native

regional and village corporations will be put under more and more pressure.

As for 1991, Stevens said the difficulty with getting the bill passed this year is that the people with differing stands appear to be more rigid this year. And he said the controversial issue of sovereignty appears to be the sticking point.

The senator said unless the bill can be passed by unanimous consent, it probably won't get through this year because the calendar is just too full. And, Stevens said, the problem with unanimous consent is that just one legislator can halt the passage.

He also said that if the bill does not pass this year, it probably won't be considered again until 1989 because 1988 is an election year.