

# Economic Plight of Northwest Alaska Spotlighted By Bartlett

The economic plight of northwest Alaska was spotlighted by Sen. E. L. Bartlett in a recent speech before the U. S. Senate.

Bartlett summarized the problems of the area by saying villages lacked "sound housing, adequate electrical power and communication and transportation facilities."

Noting that "coordination was a key" to the economic development of the area, he outlined steps being taken or proposed to aid the northwest communities:

- a Federal Maritime Commission study on the feasi-

- bility of developing an area-wide tug and barge transportation system in the northwest.

- a feasibility study by the Rural Electrification Administration on bringing electricity to some of the villages.

- an investigation by the U. S. Air Force on the possibility of telephone service in certain villages.

Bartlett said the Maritime Commission study is expected to be released in January and that if the study is favorable he will call a meeting of federal and state officials in an effort to work out a practical program.