

***Would Provide 300 Jobs—***

# **Pollock's Bill Would Permit Asbestos Mining by Exempting it from Freeze**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congressman Howard W. Pollock (R-Alaska) will introduce a bill in the House of Representatives that could open the door for new industry for eastern Alaska.

Pollock's bill would permit mining claims to be filed on asbestos deposits in the Eagle area by specifically exempting asbestos from the terms of the land freeze.

Cassiar Asbestos Corporation, Ltd. of Toronto, Canada, has proposed an asbestos mining and manufacturing operation in the Eagle area which could provide between 250 and 300 jobs for Alaskans, Pollock said.

Cassiar now operates an asbestos mine in Canada at Clinton at the 40 mile River. Reserves for the Clinton operation are estimated at 101,000,000 tons. The Clinton plant is located 8½ miles

from the Alaska-Yukon border.

J.D. Christian, Cassiar president, told Pollock that if the asbestos deposits at Eagle prove large enough to justify development, the manufacturing would be done in the Eagle area.

The Canadian firm already has an agreement with one group which stakes asbestos claims in the Eagle area and is attempting with a second group, Christian told Pollock.

Under the terms of the land freeze invoked last December by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, mining claims may be filed only for metal yielding minerals.

Asbestos does not fall into this classification. On February 18, the U.S. Geological Survey released information on asbestos discoveries in the Eagle area. A miners' staking rush followed the

USGS report.

The asbestos appears to be of a commercial quality but the size of the deposit is not known, according to the USGS report.