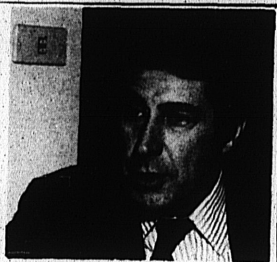


**Dateline****Washington***A weekly column*

by Sen. Mike Gravel

**Solid Waste Disposal Act**

The Solid Waste Utilization Act of 1976, which has now passed the Senate, could have real significance in helping Alaska deal with its problems of garbage.

Trash left behind over decades of use by the federal government will be specifically studied as to methods for getting rid of it and the costs involved.

This debris, 55-gallon oil cans, wrecked buildings and other trash that has littered Alaska's beautiful landscape from the Arctic coast to the Aleutian Islands, will be studied to determine how best to remove it. A report will be made to Congress within a year of enactment of the legislation.

The Senate Public Works Committee, in writing the bill, agreed to my amendment to direct a study of the cleanup of these federal sites—Petroleum Reserve Number Four on the North Slope, the Defense Early Warning System (DEW Line) established by the Air Force across the Arctic cap, and the World War II debris strewn over the Aleutian Chain from the Japanese invasion and occupation.

While the World War II debris is potentially hazardous with unexploded ordnance, bombs, mortar shells and other articles of war, the materials may also have historical value.

It is my hope that in sorting through the debris during this study, the federal agencies involved will work closely with state and Native groups in determining what should be removed and the most environmentally sound method of removal.

There may be an interest in preserving some of the material, such as the site of the Battle of Attu Island, which might have historic as well as archeological and cultural significance. These are elements which should be considered in the study.

Other debris left from federal use of Alaska has considerably less historic value and can be classified only as garbage. However, because of the distance and isolation of some of these sites, there has been no major effort to remove the debris left from decades of federal use.

I was able to get a provision written into the bill during the committee sessions to require federal agencies operating in a state to comply with state regulations regarding solid waste disposal. This would assure that any future activities in Alaska by federal agencies will be subject to state regulations. Once we get the federal sites cleaned up, we will be able to safeguard against these littering problems in the future.

The legislation, in general, would have far reaching effects on the environment, public health and the economy, but places the regulatory responsibility with the states.

The bill would prohibit open dumping and open burning of municipal waste, effective when the state has adopted a waste management program. Getting rid of municipal waste has been a major problem and expense to large and medium-sized cities.

The municipalities would have the authority and the assistance they need to try some new and innovative methods of getting rid of this garbage.

The heads of federal agencies could make federal lands available to municipalities for waste management programs if these lands are necessary for compliance with the ban on open dumping.

The legislation also regulates hazardous waste disposal. It gives states with approved permit programs the authority to grant permits for disposal of hazardous wastes without the general approval each time by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Landfills have been used in some areas of Alaska for disposal of solid waste. This has presented a problem in areas with permafrost conditions. Also, in Southeastern Alaska there is a lack of land for disposal use. The funds provided under the bill, would allow the state and rural communities, those of 5000 or fewer, to look for alternative methods of waste disposal.

Incinerating debris gets to be a problem in many of the rural communities, but under the new bill, funds would be available for construction of facilities for waste disposal. With Alaska at the end of the supply line, goods that were expensive to begin with because of the shipping costs, becomes expensive trash when discarded.

The legislation provides funds to assist states and rural communities in planning solid waste management systems. The rural communities would be able to use the federal money to help in construction of the trash disposal systems.

The legislation also provides for loan guarantees to develop demonstration facilities for resource recovery and resource conservation. This will be an opportunity to attempt to limit the amount of waste materials by developing new ways to use the recovered resources.

These guaranteed loans would be available for commercial, individual, institutional or corporate efforts toward reuse of recovered resources.

One of the ways of dealing with the solid waste problems is to encourage the reduction of unnecessary use of materials and the reuse of products to conserve our natural resources which are finite.

**State compares gas pipeline proposals**

Which route will the gas pipeline take? The answer is of tremendous importance to Alaska's future because one of the three proposed route would add 46,000 more persons to the state's population while another would add just 16,000 during the initial construction period.

The proposal with the highest population impact would also have the greatest primary economic impact generating a net present value of nearly twice as much in Alaska as the one with the lowest impact—\$525 million as compared to \$326 million.

The gas pipeline will someday move natural gas from the Prudhoe oil fields south. Effects of the new pipeline are the object of an economic study released by the Alaska Dept. of Revenue in its new quarterly magazine, the Revenue Journal.

"The study dealt only with primary economic impacts and excluded secondary economic impacts in the form of new spin-off industries," said Commissioner of Revenue Sterling Gallagher. He also stressed that all conclusions were based upon preliminary data which is subject to change.

There are three opposing gas pipeline plans by the El Paso Alaska Company, the Alaska Arctic Company, and the Northwest Pipeline Corp. (trans-Canadian Alcan).

Each of the three companies is hoping it will get to start on the project late in this decade but first it must be approved by the U.S. federal government and perhaps the Canadian government. Environmental litigation could delay the gas pipeline just as it delayed the oil line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

The El Paso project would generate 21,574 jobs at its peak in 1980. This would result in increasing total state population by 46,470 persons, including workers' families. There would be 9,819 permanent jobs beginning in 1983 with a total population impact of 22,654 persons.

The Northwest Alcan project would generate 14,874 jobs in 1980 with a total population impact of 31,876 persons. By 1983 the effects would level off to a permanent 9,073 jobs with a permanent population increase of 20,170.

The Alaska Arctic project would have the least effect of the three in terms of jobs and population. It would generate a high of 6,836 jobs by 1980 with a total population impact of 16,619 persons. By 1983 it would level off to a permanent 5,363 jobs with a total population impact of 11,851.

Over a 20-year period, the El Paso project would have a net present value of \$525 million,

the Arctic Alaska a net present value of \$326 million and the Northwest a net present value of \$351 million.

The Dept. of Revenue study used data provided by the Alaska Dept. of Labor, the U.S. government, and from documents the pipeline companies filed with the Federal Power Commission.

Copies of the Journal are free and may be obtained by writing or calling the Revenue Journal Editor, Pouch SA, Juneau, Alaska 99811.

**Coppermine prepares for Northern Games**

COPPERMINE, N.W.T.—A community of approximately 800 people on the Arctic Coast will host the 7th annual Northern Games.

At a meeting last night at Coppermine, it was decided to have the games July 30 to August 2.

Edna Elias will be the chairperson and coordinator working closely with the Northern Games Association out of Inuvik. Plans to bring approximately 20 communities from across the Northwest Territories, Alaska and the Yukon are underway.

A tent village will be erected to house the participants over the four-day festival.

Rat skinning, bannick making, hic-hic skinning, blanket toss, drum dancing and knuckle hop are just a few of the games and activities that will take place.

For more information contact Jenifer Rigby, Northern Games Association, Box 1184, INUVIK, Ph. 979-3220; and Edna Elias, Chairperson, Northern Games Organizing Committee, Coppermine, Ph. 979-2391.

**Rare whale found at Adak**

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife release)

An extremely rare Stejneger's Beaked Whale was found dead offshore Adak Naval Station in the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Only four previous reports of this species are known—all from the Aleutian Chain with two from Adak.

The military cooperated in getting the whale ashore so U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists could examine it. The 17-foot whale was a female with a full-term, unborn calf. Dr. James Mead of the Smithsonian Institution made positive identification of the species.

**Fisheries enforcers cited**

The National Marine Fisheries Service Law Enforcement Division of the Alaska Region has received a Unit Citation Award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce for consistent high level performance and professional excellence.

Responsibilities of the regional enforcement division, headed by Ronald C. Naab of Juneau, include high seas foreign fishery surveillance and enforcement, protection of marine mammals and endangered species, and participation in international fisheries negotiations and conferences.

The division's enforcement responsibilities cover over 33,000 miles of rugged coastline and 550,000 square miles of continental shelf off Alaska.

Special agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service work closely with the U.S. Coast Guard in fulfilling co-responsibilities enforcing U.S. fishery laws and regulations, policing international fishery agreements and surveillance of

foreign fishing activity on the high seas.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Act of 1972 added to the regional enforcement responsibilities.

The enactment of the Fishery Management and Conservation Act this year will greatly extend and intensify high seas fishery enforcement activity within the newly created 200-mile fishery conservation zone.

During 1975, in performance of their duties related to fisheries enforcement, agents logged 127,518 miles on Coast Guard surface patrol ships, and 362,916 miles on Coast Guard aerial patrols.

Approximately 149 foreign fishing vessels were boarded during the patrols. In the past several years, more than \$5.3 million in fines, settlements, and forfeitures have been levied against foreign fishing violators apprehended jointly by the National Marine Fisheries agents and the U.S. Coast Guard in waters off Alaska.

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