

Mike Urges Secretary of Labor to Release Alaska Plan Funds

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Senator Mike Gravel has urged the Secretary of Labor to release funds for the Alaska Plan, a program to train members of minority groups in order that equal employment policies can be implemented.

In a letter made public by his Washington office, Senator Gravel noted that President Nixon had endorsed the strengthening of current programs rather than the creation of new programs to stimulate equal job opportuni-

ties.

The Senator pointed out to James Hodgson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor, that current programs cannot be strengthened without the funding that has already been approved for them.

According to the Alaskan Democrat, the Nixon Administration has held up funds for equal employment programs throughout the Nation. Until those funds are released, the Alaska Plan, and similar plans in

other states, are at a virtual standstill.

Senator Gravel said that the need for funding the Alaska Plan is "critical." He added that the Plan "is only worthless rhetoric unless the funds are there to support it."

According to Senator Gravel, business and labor groups in the State have developed goals for equal employment in Alaska. The funds are needed so that the goals can be reached. Without the funds, a burden is placed

on all elements of the Alaska economy.

"The businesses need to hire minority workers for contract compliance, but there are not enough trained individuals available," Senator Gravel said.

"Labor groups would like to have the composition of their membership in line with that of the general population, but this is impossible without trained minority group members. And, most important, lack of training thwarts the economic advance-

ment of minority group members.

"This is especially critical in Alaska. Federal contract compliance can be a problem for businessmen when adequately trained workers are not available."

"It is a problem for Alaskans who will possibly lose out on the employment opportunities that will open up with construction of the Alaska pipeline," he said.

Studies Bridge

The first cable-stayed girder bridge in the United States has another first to its credit. The John W. O'Connell Bridge in Sitka is now the subject of the most extensive aerodynamic research project ever conducted on a bridge in the United States.

The structure has recently been instrumented for a study under joint sponsorship of the Alaska Department of Highways and the Federal Highways Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, to investigate the aerodynamic behavior of the cable-stayed bridge under the relatively high winds that occur in the Sitka area.

This is the first project in the United States where instruments of this degree of sophistication have been used to read bridge responses.

Girder bridges in general are not subject to wind induced oscillation. However, suspension bridges may exhibit oscillation during relatively low wind velocities because they are designed to be more flexible.

This 450-foot main span bridge is somewhat of a compromise between a suspension bridge and girder bridge. Very little information is available on the aerodynamic characteristics of this type of structure, although several cable-stayed girder bridges are in use in Europe, Canada, and Japan.

Although the oscillations on this bridge should be minor, researchers are hoping to observe wind action sufficient to cause the bridge to react in one or more of its natural frequencies.

The data collected will be extremely valuable for the evaluation of various structure shapes in model-wind tunnel tests, which will then allow the safe use of this graceful, economical structure on larger spans.

Five extremely sensitive three directional wind velocity meters have been installed on the south side of the bridge, and ten motion sensing devices (accelerometers) have been installed along the edges of the concrete deck.

(Continued on page 10)

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Lot 1 of U.S. Survey No. 5565, Alaska, located approximately 6 1/2 miles south of McKinley Park railroad station and 1/2 mile east of McKinley Village Resort on the Denali Highway.
Containing 5 acres.
During the period of publication or within 30 days thereafter any person, corporation, or association having or asserting any adverse interest in or claim to the tract of land or any part thereof may file in the proper Land Office, under oath, an adverse claim setting forth the nature and extent thereof; and such adverse claimant shall within 60 days after the filing of such adverse claim, begin action to quiet title in a court of competent jurisdiction in Alaska, and thereafter patent shall be issued in conformity with the final decree of the court.
Richard H. LeDousquet
Manager, Fairbanks District and Land Office
Publish Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, Jan. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 1973.