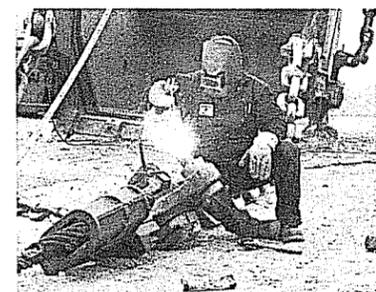
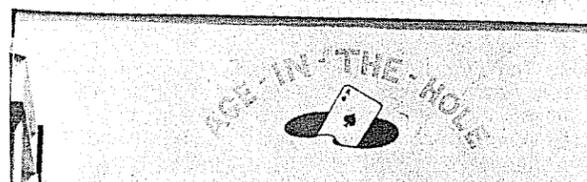
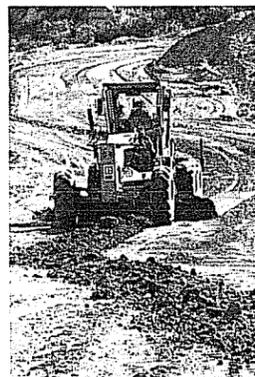
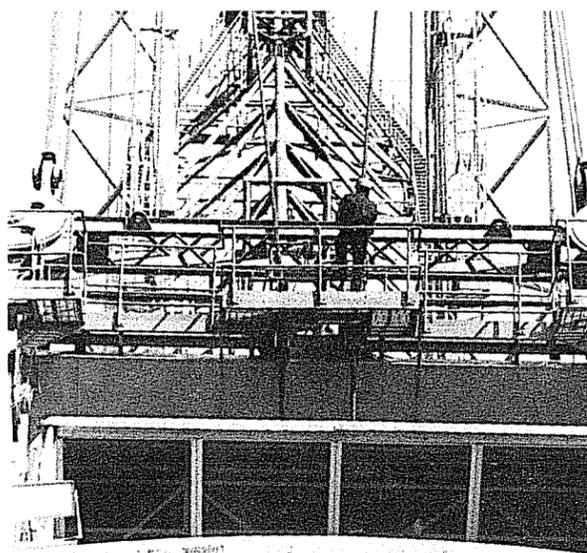


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October 1987

Mr. John P. Blackwell
Engelhard Industries West, Inc.
6670 Wes Way
Anchorage, AK 99518



TALK ABOUT FANATICS!! SOME AMERICANS WOULD RISK WAR FOR PERSIAN GULF OIL
— RATHER THAN DEVELOP THE ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN OF ALASKA!

ANWR compromises begin to emerge

New dimension added to debate

The raw outlines of a compromise have begun to emerge in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee after the latest round of hearings on legislation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas leasing.

The only legislation before the Committee as of October 20 was S.B. 1217, submitted by Alaska Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens. The pro-development bill contains provisions for a competitive leasing program and sound protection of fish and wildlife resources as well as

environmental values. Although environ-

mentalists have labeled this approach extreme, the bill is practical, straightforward and does not circumvent environmental law.

The Senate panel is now proceeding to mark up the bill. Revised legislation reflecting public input may be released by November.

The most likely compromise will be phased leasing of the 1.5-million-acre Coastal Plain and extra protection for areas used heavily by caribou for calving pur-

(Continued on page 4)

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Message from the executive director

By
Becky L. Gay



Executive Director Becky Gay poised on a ridge in Hatcher Pass where helicopter skiing is encouraged. Chugach Mountains and Palmer are in the background.

Not in Chugach State Park

In 1970, the 500,000-acre Chugach State Park was set aside to fulfill a variety of purposes, from providing diverse recreational opportunities in the areas bordering Anchorage to providing true primitive experiences in the 60% designated Wilderness.

The recent decision by the Department of Natural Resources to allow for the development of more than one resort in the periphery areas, including the proposed Eagle River site, is a good decision which dovetails nicely with the Division of Tourism's quest to expand winter tourism in Alaska.

Unfortunately, RDC's request to allow a year-long trial period for a helicopter landing site 400 feet inside the park was denied. No helicopter landings will be allowed at all, except for special events and official flights.

Prior to the 1987 amendments, no Chugach State Park master plan excluded ski areas or helicopter landings. In fact, the original legislation stated that "the periphery areas shall be operated as recreational areas, the central area as a scenic area and the eastern area of the park shall be operated as a wilderness."

Alaskans are sold on tourism. Tourism is touted by some as the industry which will reduce our dependency on oil revenues and help Alaskans diversify our economy. To that end, new

industries supporting tourism are cropping up everywhere in the state. But what about existing industries? If existing industry cannot participate, is tourism all it seems at first glance?

Put yourself in the "shoes" of Alaska's world-class aviation industry, for instance. I am sure the companies anticipated servicing the demand for helicopter flight-seeing which is increasing worldwide. In neighboring Hawaii, it's major business. Too bad the DNR decision precludes it in the Chugach.

Sure, to some people ski resorts and helicopter access sound like civilization intruding on wilderness. But to others, ski resorts and helicopters sound like jobs, fun and comfortable access. To the elderly or handicapped adventurer, they provide the only realistic opportunity to experience the rugged and majestic Alaska outdoors. Many even prefer "high-tech" access such as helicopter flights. I guess we can tell them to go elsewhere instead of spending their dollars in Alaska with the private sector.

Alaskans should be cautious about precluding such opportunity, especially since we attract a great many older tourists. Furthermore, Alaska has minimal alternative infrastructure options to offer such as roads, gondolas, trams, and visitor centers.

A recent ACVB poll found 73% of Anchorage residents support ski resort development in the park and 65% support helicopter landings there also. It surely does not come as a surprise that so many residents want a variety of access to a 500,000 acre park next to the largest, most-populated urban area in Alaska.

Why not even one helicopter site in the Chugach? Why no trial period to see if the fear is really a non-issue based on noise concerns which could be mitigated by routing the flights around sensitive areas?

Remember, there are no other public lands in the Chugach Mountains which offer a remotely similar experience — unless you include the NIKE missile site at Arctic Valley — and you can't land there either.

More fundamentally, which industry or business will be next to find itself out of the running for tourist dollars because of some other equally stringent restriction on public lands? Watch out, it could be yours.

The Cover Cartoon

To aid the Alaska Coalition for American Energy Security cartoon committee, RDC's and PLF's extremely good-humored staff came up with the following captions: Ayatollah says,

"I wouldn't be having all this fun if Americans developed Alaska's coastal plain."

"Who needs Alaska oil when we have the Arabian National Wildfire Range?"

"Crisis? What crisis? New Alaska oil? What Alaska oil?"

"Protecting Persian Gulf oil and locking up Alaska oil is stupid enough to be MY idea!"

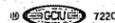
"Imagine . . . all this to keep from developing the American arctic."

About the cartoonist

Ken Catalino is the Director of Administration for EN-SERCH Alaska Services, Inc. and has been a resident of Alaska for over six years. He began his professional cartooning career as the editorial cartoonist for the San Diego State University newspaper, was a consulting artist for the San Diego City School District, and has been involved in a number of other art related projects. He currently accepts assignments as a free-lance cartoonist and illustrator.

Resource Development Council, Inc.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.



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Carl Portman
Editor & Advertising Manager

All Wrong

Reprinted from the
Ketchikan Daily News

By Lew M. Williams **Guest Opinion**

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee printed an editorial on Tongass National Forest Sept. 15 that is depressing and terribly inaccurate. The Bee is owned by the McClatchy family, which owns the Anchorage Daily News. We expect better.

It's depressing because thousands of Californians will believe the Bee. They'll complain to their congressmen and Alaskans will have another hurdle to overcome to stabilize their economy.

The title of the Bee's editorial was "Ted Stevens' folly." Of Alaska's senior senator the Bee says:

"Thanks to a special provision he (Stevens) inserted in the Alaska National Interest Lands (Conservation) Act of 1980. . ." The Bee was referring to section 705 of ANILCA which appropriates \$40 million a year to the Forest Service to take up to 450 million board feet of timber available each year for commercial harvest.

The Bee is wrong. The environmental lobby suggested the funds be included in NILCA to guarantee the 450 million board feet in exchange for 5.4 million acres of the Tongass going into wilderness.

"Those provisions were not my idea," Stevens has written editor C.K. McClatchy. Stevens will be glad to drop the appropriation if the timber land put into wilderness is put back in the commercial timber allotment.

The Bee says ANILCA provisions "help two timber companies in the Alaska panhandle destroy the Tongass National Forest."

Wrong. There are five timber processors in the Tongass. Also, the Tongass is growing at the rate of 1.182 billion board feet a year, or twice the volume it is being cut.

The Bee said, "The act in 1980 designated 5.4 million acres of public lands in Alaska as wilderness."

Wrong. The 5.4 million acres of wilderness were 34.4 million acres of the 51 million in the National Park system in Alaska and 18.6 million of the 76 million acres in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge system. Wilderness is designated in 56.5 million acres of the 153.9 million acres of parks, refuges, wild rivers and other reserves in Alaska. By comparison, there are only 100,207,000 acres in all of California.

The Bee said that of the 5.4 million acres of wilderness it's "mostly rocks and ice. Only a tiny fraction contained any commercially valuable timber."

Wrong. Twenty-eight percent of the 5.9 million acres of the Tongass suitable for commercial timber harvest went into wilderness, about 1.65 million acres.

Of the 450 million board feet a year harvest allotment, the Bee says "There isn't any market for that much timber."

Wrong. Early in the 1980s the timber demand was down nationwide, but mill operators are now complaining they can't get enough. The Wrangell mill was threatened with a shutdown recently because of a lack of logs.

The Bee says "55 percent of the timber the Forest Service has prepared for sale in the Tongass in the last five years has never been sold."

Wrong. The timber is selling. That figure may have been accurate in 1982-85, but that timber now has been sold. There is very little on the shelf. Four sales aren't active because they are involved in a foreclosure against an Alaska mill initiated by the Bank of California. Several large sales, such as South Wrangell, failed to sell as large sales. South Wrangell has been roaded by the Forest Service, thanks to the \$40 million from ANILCA, and is selling rapidly.

The Bee said "last year, the government spent \$7 million getting one section ready for sale that didn't draw a single bid."

Wrong. At least Forest Service officials are unable to identify what the Bee is talking about. Forest Service officials say that \$5.9 million was used to put a road into the Coverden area, but that timber has been sold.

The Bee said, "that hasn't stopped the Forest Service from

logging off another 17,000 acres from the forest and putting it up for sale every 12 months, just like demented clockwork."

Wrong. Because of demand, sales that had been designed to go to bid next summer are now being moved up to December because of the increasing demand. The Forest Service does respond to the market. It is hindered in moving up the sales because, as one forester told us, too many of their people had to go to California in August to fight forest fires.

Referring to the two pulp mills in Alaska, the Bee said, "the two companies, one of which is Japanese-owned, pay next to nothing for the timber they do take under terms of some 50-year contracts they have negotiated with the Forest Service."

Wrong. Or at least the Bee doesn't tell the whole story. Congress passed the Federal Timber Modification Act early in the 1980s to bail out the timber industry throughout the western U.S., including Alaska and California. Section 4 of that act reduced stumpage for the Alaska pulp mills to carry them through the nationwide timber depression. The mills' stumpage is reviewed periodically and the mills are required also to buy timber outside of their allotment area by bid against other loggers and processors. The most recent timber sales advertised in the Ketchikan area required overall minimum stumpage bid of over \$300 a board foot, which is higher than finished lumber prices quoted by the Chicago Board of Trade.

The Bee said, "last year, the gross receipts from Tongass timber sales added up to only \$82,000. . . the taxpayers get back one penny in revenues on every dollar the government pays."

Wrong. No one in the Forest Service regional office knows where the Bee got that. Bee editors will be interested in a Government Accounting Office report going to Congress shortly that shows the federal government made \$65 million last year on Tongass timber. GAO is an arm of Congress. Its inspectors worked with the Forest Service officials early this year to determine the facts for members of Congress.

The Bee says the pulp from Alaska is "shipped to Japan to make cellophane and rayon."

Wrong. Wrong. Twenty-five percent of the pulp goes on the U.S. domestic market to make such diverse things as diet ice cream, paper products, explosives, food additives, pharmaceuticals and sponges such as we buy in the super market. Part of the pulp goes into cellophane and rayon. But only race car drivers prefer tires with rayon cord. It withstands the heat better than nylon.

Pulp from Ketchikan goes to 16 nations on every continent in the world except Australia. No foreign nation takes 20 percent of the product and no single customer takes 10 percent.

And one of the Ketchikan mill's toughest competitors throughout the world is the Japanese-owned Sitka pulp mill.

Additionally, only 40 percent to 50 of the timber cut in Alaska goes into pulp. The rest goes into high-quality lumber which is sold in Korea, Taiwan and China, as well as Japan. Almost all of the red or yellow cedar goes into domestic market or to South Korea.

The Bee says that employment in the timber industry is down, which we acknowledge. The timber industry nationwide went through a slump in 1982-85. Alaska's 3,000 people directly employed on five million acres of commercial forest in the Tongass shrank to 2,000. We wonder how many of the 100,000 Californians employed on 17 million acres of California's commercial forests lost their jobs?

They are killing trees down there faster than they are shooting motorists on the freeways. Where's the Sierra Club when you need it?

The Bee concludes by advocating that the Forest Service cancel the 50-year contracts used to attract industry to Alaska 35 years ago. That's fair enough if the federal government will take back all of the land it gave to the railroads in the last century to open up the west, including California.

Bright future for Alaska coal

Plan could spark new coal exports

The key to transforming Alaska coal from its perceived bottom-of-the-totem-pole position in world markets to a top-of-the-line product lies in combining the sales potential of its low sulfur content with a low-moisture product, according to a leading industry official.

John Sims, Vice President of Marketing of Usibelli Coal Mine, told an RDC Thursday breakfast meeting last month that the key to cracking international coal markets and tapping Alaska's tremendous coal development potential may lie in physically upgrading the product. Sims explained moisture remains the main hurdle to expanding exports, but a plan being formulated by Usibelli and Brown and Root could solve that problem. This summer the two companies announced a joint venture to pursue development of a \$250 million electrical generation plant near Healy. The huge 100 to 150 megawatt facility, which would be the largest coal-fired plant in Alaska, would feed into the Anchorage-to-Fairbanks powerline intertie to supply Railbelt communities with 15 percent of their energy needs in the next decade.

In addition to the construction of the cost-intensive power plant, a \$20 to \$25 million drying facility could be tied in that would upgrade the mine's sub-bituminous moisture-heavy coal from 8,000 BTUs per ton to 11,000 BTUs per ton.

The treated coal would make Alaska coal very attractive to energy-importing countries of the Pacific Rim.

Currently the best selling point of Alaska coal is its low sulfur content, Sims said. It registers .2 percent while European and other coals are typically in the 3 to 4 percent range.

"I think there's a specialized market in Japan that would embrace this product," Sims said. He noted there's a Japanese movement concerning pollution and "they look for the ultimate results in sulfur emissions."

The Usibelli official also said a higher quality product could cut deep into Australia's share of the market. "We have the opportunity to twist the kangaroo's tail a bit," Sims said with a smile.

The new power plant itself is still tentative, although Usibelli officials are meeting with related interests in Japan and Taiwan. Some of those have expressed interest on an equity position in the project.

If Usibelli's plans are successful, the plant would be on line in the mid-1990s. Usibelli would provide the facility with about 500,000 tons of low-sulfur coal a year.

Known in the industry as a "mine mouth plant," the facility would be located close to where coal is extracted, perhaps next to



The Usibelli Coal Mine is located at Healy, some 100 miles south of Fairbanks on the northern slopes of the Alaska Range.

Usibelli's loading area on the Alaska Railroad two miles east of the mine. This would mean a big savings on transportation costs, Sims said.

But the biggest savings would come in construction of the power plant itself, Sims stressed. The plan calls for use of prefabricated modules that can be shipped to the site and assembled.

"We estimate that this will cut the cost in half," Sims said. "The technology we are looking at is state-of-the-art and can meet the strict air quality regulations."

The power plant would employ about 200 people during construction and about 50 full time. In addition, more jobs will be created at the mine because of the increase in coal demand.

If the coal-processing facility, which would use steam from the electrical plant as an energy source to dry coal, is built, approximately 50 additional full-time jobs would be created.

Usibelli Coal Mine at Healy now has an 800,000 ton-a-year contract with South Korea and is attempting to land a similar deal with Taiwan.

RDC Foundation slates forestry conference

Continued from page 3

Commissioner Dennis Kelso for the Department of Environmental Conservation and Commissioner Don Collinsworth of the Department of Fish and Game. Other Friday speakers include Senator Jack Coghill, Rep. Sam Cotten, Senator Jalmar Keritula, Rep. Niilo Koponen, Rep. John Sund and Don Finney, Executive Director of the Alaska Loggers Association.

Registration fee for the symposium is \$60. To register, call RDC at 276-0700.

RDC Foundation slates forestry conference

Boreal Forest Management

To better understand the potential of the Alaska northern forests, the RDC Education Foundation, Inc., sister organization to the Resource Development Council, has organized a two-day international symposium directed at boreal forest management.

Management of the Boreal Forest will feature renowned technical experts from Canada, Finland and the United States. The program is keyed to Alaska's renewable forest resources and their economic and entrepreneurial potentials.

The symposium will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Anchorage December 3-4. It is designed for executives of Alaska business, professional foresters, loggers, public policymakers, regional and village corporation officials, potential investors in Alaska projects, financial and engineering representatives and community leaders.

The boreal forest is circumpolar, stretching across North America, Northern Europe and the Soviet Union. It is predominately a coniferous forest, comprised of true firs, pines, larches and spruces, though deciduous species, such as birch, aspen, cottonwoods, and willows are important components.

With few exceptions, these forests are in wild and unmanaged states. Their potential for supplying commodities to spur economic and social growth in northern areas are not well developed. Development will require purposeful management if economic potential coupled with environmental protection and forest regrowth are to occur.

Alaska is the prime repository of boreal forest in the United States. The Alaska boreal forest is virtually unmanaged.

The program will open Thursday with a presentation by Alaska State Forester John Galea. Other speakers include Dr. Edmond Packee, Professor of Forest Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kenneth A. Armson, Ontario Provincial Forester, Dr. Aarne Nyyssonen, Director of the Finnish Forest Research Institute in Helsinki, Finland and Forester Dick Herring of Vancouver, B.C.

Other speakers include Dr. Douglas Rideout, Professor of Forest Economics at Colorado State University, Nick Salterelli of Abitibi-Price Company of Ontario and Stewart Bledsoe, Executive Director of the Washington Forest Protection Association.

The symposium continues Friday morning with Commissioner Judy Brady of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources,

(Continued on Page 6)

The trouble with democracy

"Government of the people and by the people" has a good ring to it, a favorable connotation. Certainly, it is the opposite of tyranny; yet, everything that is not tyrannical is not necessarily good. People in their self government role can make very serious mistakes, particularly in the short run.

Historically, in our representative governments, the elected officials tended to "use their own heads," attempting to lead people rather than blindly follow the majority as the majority's attorney-in-fact. Now, however, modern polling techniques ("accurate to + 1%") tend to distract elected representatives from their own insights, and propel them more towards a mechanical reflection of what the polls suggest on a given subject.

How good a way is this to run a government — government by polling? Of what does an issue poll really consist? (We are not discussing the poll which asks who you intend to vote for.) Is it not merely a random telephone call which interrupts a citizen's other domestic pursuits, and the anonymous caller asks, with a short question, the answering person's opinion on a rather profound subject. The opinion is usually able to be rendered as "yes," "no," or "undecided." Certainly no thoughtful reflection or debate has preceded 99% of the answers; more thought is given to one's annual vacation, than to such answers; yet the elected representative submerges his own more informed views so that he can reflect the views of the "majority" as reflected by a super-accurate poll!

Instantaneous polling has triumphed over logic and common sense in the \$2.5 trillion national debt which ominously threatens to destroy the economic system of the United States and all her trading partners, and it has triumphed again in the perpetuation of Alaska's Permanent Fund dividend, paid annually to every man, woman and child claiming to be an Alaskan.

The young U.S. budget genius and former congressman, David A. Stockman, confesses that he and his government colleagues making the budget decisions have "given rise to a fiscal and political disorder that [is] probably beyond correction." Here was a case where the politicians continuously polled the voters with those brief telephone inquiries — two to three thousand random telephone calls across the nation — to determine the most important and profound decisions for 225 million Americans. The Congress and the Executive found that "the people" were against spending cuts, and against revenue increase. Apparently, seven years into the Era of Reaganomics, the politicians still perceive "the people" to

Thoughts from the president

by Joseph R. Henri



be of that same mind. What would happen in these telephone polls if the person polled were told in the preface to the question that if we go on with such profligate spending and borrowing, the economic system of the United States might be wrecked through a cruel and very long depression. How the question is asked much determines the answer.

A most perceptive article in the October 1987 "Atlantic Monthly" by Peter G. Peterson, former Secretary of Commerce under the Nixon administration, describes our present plight as the "ill-fated gamble of Reaganomics" which has been, in truth, "disastrous fiscal mismanagement." Nevertheless, if you randomly polled two or three thousand Americans with a few nifty little questions, they would probably still applaud the status quo.

The same is certainly true of our own Permanent Fund dividend. If you frame the question by asking people how they like receiving \$700 plus per year from the state treasury they will, for the most part, respond that they like it. The questioners never discuss alternatives: They never indicate that if the Permanent Fund earnings were spent on enumerated capital projects, the jobless Alaskan earning \$700 per year from the Permanent Fund dividend might instead have a \$40,000 per year full-time job. The questioner never reminds the Alaskans polled that "to build for the future means to build capacity," and that Alaska will not have much of a future if it does not build the infrastructure for which the place has been desperate over many decades.

The earnings of the Permanent Fund can support a series of very large bond issues; the bonds can finance the construction of necessary and useful improvements from Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay; many of these improvements can pay back their own indebtedness through user fees. In time the projects would be paid off; their value automatically rises with inflation. No inflation-proofing of a capital improvement is required. In the meanwhile, the only unemployed Alaskan would be one who chooses not to or cannot work. And what contribution Alaska could make towards reducing America's balance of trade deficit by accessing natural resources, and fostering their export, straight or value-added.

Debate over ANWR exploration heats up

Continued from page 1

poses. The compromise may include specific covenants in the law to lessen environmental impacts as opposed to an Interior Department request that environmental standards be written into the lease agreements.

Right at press time, legislation extending wilderness designation to the Coastal Plain was introduced in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The measure, sponsored by Senator Bill Roth (R-DE), would foreclose any exploration and development in America's hottest oil prospect.

Meanwhile, legislation setting an "exploration-first" policy was recently unveiled by Rep. Walter Jones, chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. This House bill calls for drilling no more than four exploratory wells after which the White House would decide whether leasing for development could proceed.

The bill would draw the National Academy of Sciences into the decision by requiring it to make independent reviews of both the exploratory program and an Interior Department report on oil potential.

The bill would prohibit any activities on a 376,000-acre area of the Coastal Plain. The "protective management zone" would be 130,000 acres larger than the area the state has proposed leaving unexplored until a seven-year study on the impact of development on caribou is finished.

While the state's proposal would allow development to occur in the area if studies found no serious consequences for the caribou, the Jones bill would permanently prohibit any surface activities.

In addition, the legislation would designate part of the 23.5 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve west of Prudhoe Bay as a national wildlife refuge. This measure would boost the size of refuge set-asides in Alaska to 100 million acres, an area roughly the size of California and ten times the refuge acreage in all other 49 states combined.

The legislation, which will be introduced within the next month, will be cosponsored

by Rep. Lindsay Thomas and Rep. John Dingell.

Those familiar with oil and gas operations warn that the Jones Bill is a detailed road map on how to block every phase of exploration and production.

"This proposal would hamstring the industry's ability to find and extract oil and would turn Arctic operations into a bureaucratic nightmare," said Governor Steve Cowper.

Congressman Don Young, who is a member of the merchant marine panel, said he would not support the bill. However, he liked the fact that the legislation shifts the debate from **whether** there should be oil activities in the refuge to **how** such activities should be managed.

Industry officials were similarly unexcited about the exploration-first idea. They prefer the present system where the industry leases an area, explores for oil and produces it if the crude is found and economic. In addition, they claim as many as 30 or more exploratory wells could be needed to define the size of any oil field.

With the House sharply divided over the issue, the Jones bill will add a new dimension to the House debate. It could even spill over into deliberations of the Senate Energy Committee.

The Jones bill is said to be a compromise between Young's pro-development bill, which has 146 cosponsors, and Congressman Mo Udall's legislation which would designate the entire Coastal Plain wilderness. Udall's bill is largely symbolic because unless Congress takes a positive action to open ANWR to oil and gas leasing, the Coastal Plain will remain a defacto wilderness area.

In the latest round of Senate hearings, environmentalists appeared to have lost some ground after they failed to make suggestions on how to amend the legislation at hand to further minimize some of the environmental consequences of ANWR development. Instead, Senators heard very emotional and highly-speculative testimony reminiscent of the public hearings held fifteen years ago over Prudhoe Bay development.

Contrary to physical evidence, some environmentalists charged that "there's unbelievable damage taking place at Prudhoe Bay." It's a broad claim to make, but the most compelling rebuttal comes from the fish and wildlife populations that continue to feed, reproduce and rear their young throughout the North Slope oil fields.

"There is no evidence that animal or bird populations have changed because of the presence of oilfield activities, nor is there evidence that the abilities of the habitat to support future populations of wildlife has been reduced by the very small areas of tundra occupied by all North Slope oilfield facilities," said RDC board member Doug Webb. "Of the 600,000 acres enclosed in unit boundaries of North Slope oilfields today, only 8,160 acres are actually occupied . . . less than two percent," Webb said.

Webb, who serves as Vice President of Operations at Standard Alaska Petroleum Company, noted that the "footprint" in ANWR would be even smaller. He explained that Prudhoe Bay's oilfield facilities were the state-of-the-art when they were built 15 years ago. But the petroleum industry has learned a lot since then about "doing more with less, making things smaller, more compact and efficient."

Any oil development in ANWR would utilize advances such as horizontal drilling techniques, new drill rig technology as currently used by the drilling rigs at the new Endicott project and engineering advances in building and facilities design.

These and other advances will lessen the amount of land needed to produce any oil reserves found in ANWR. Industry experts have estimated that if development were to occur, it would take up less than one percent of ANWR's 19 million acres, leaving millions of acres of untouched wilderness inside refuge boundaries.

Another claim made by non-development interests is that the Coastal Plain of ANWR is Alaska's last wilderness stronghold. However, those making that claim refuse to point out that nearly half a million acres of coastal plain east of the area being considered for opening are designated Wilderness along with about half of ANWR's overall 19 million acres. Approximately 92 percent of ANWR is closed to development and will remain so despite whatever decision is made over the lands proposed for exploration.

In addition, huge blocks of designated Wilderness exist throughout the 49th state. For instance, one could take the combined states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio and still not equal the 125 million acres that has been set-aside as designated Wilderness, national parks and wildlife refuges in Alaska.



The flat Coastal Plain of ANWR is America's hottest oil prospect.

ANWR Alert

The Resource Development Council is convinced that the vast majority of the American public, and hopefully their elected representatives in Congress, will concur with the Interior Department's recommendation that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be opened to exploration and development if presented with the full story.

Unfortunately, much of the communications the Congress receives on the subject comes from individuals who maintain that keeping ANWR in the status quo or designated off limits to development overrides any other consid-

erations. This view sacrifices the needs of the many to the ideological view of the few. It does not accept the environmental realities of modern day petroleum operations nor does it recognize the energy and economic needs of the country.

Although an energy conservation policy is important, it is crucial that members of Congress hear from those who believe that both environmental and energy interests can be met by allowing exploration and development to proceed in ANWR. RDC encourages you to convince your friends and relatives

to contact their Senators and Representatives and ask them to support opening the ANWR Coastal Plain to oil and gas development. ANWR is a national battle and Alaska could lose a great deal if Congress chooses to thwart sound resource development in the Arctic.

Hearings on the issue continue to be held in the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee as well as the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Bennett Johnston, Chairman

Each Senator has a common address: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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