

ALASKA PIPELINE DECISION RESTS WITH CONGRESS

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on the proposed pipeline legislation.

"Congressmen are becoming more receptive to the idea of the Alaska line with each passing day," Young says. "It's the energy crisis," he explains. "It's really beginning to hit home."

Young says, "Congress will be considering the pipeline legislation when the people here in the 'Lower 48' feel their first real energy pinch, when they begin to take their vacations and find they have no place to go because they cannot get enough gas for their cars."

In the face of mounting reports of gasoline stations closing across the country, of farmers announcing that fuel shortages will hinder crop production and probably bring another round of rising food prices, and of some city

utilities being threatened with having to turn off the electricity in thousands of homes as a result of fuel shortages, Young feels optimistic about a pipeline bill's chances for passage during this session of Congress.

On May 22, Congressman Young discussed the trans-Alaska pipeline and the national energy crisis with President Nixon, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, cabinet officers and other members of the Republican leadership in the House and Senate.

After the two-hour White House meeting, Young said, "The President took the most positive stand I've ever heard him make on the pipeline. He said, 'We need the trans-Alaska pipeline now, not six months from now, or a year from now, but now.'"

STATE TO RECEIVE \$67 MILLION

Federal grants, contracts and loans approved for Alaskan projects since March total more than \$67 million, according to Congressman Don Young.

"The federal government has made a significant contribution to Alaska's economy," Young said. "And I have been working closely with the federal agencies involved to make certain that the needs of Alaska's people are not forgotten."

Loans for projects such as rural electrification amount to more than \$5.4 million.

"Outright grants for a wide range of programs including education, experi-

mental satellite communications, social programs and vitally needed sewer and water projects total more than \$51 million," Young said.

"Contracts with Alaskan companies and others for federal projects will add more than \$12 million to the state's economy," Young said.

Other federal projects approved for the state directly through legislation passed by the House of Representatives authorize \$22 million in improvements to Coast Guard facilities in Alaska and more than \$118 million for highway construction, including paving of a portion of the Alcan Highway.

Building the trans-Alaska pipeline became a question for Congress to decide in April when the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court denied petitions filed by the State of Alaska, the Department of Interior and the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company that asked the nation's highest court to consider the pipeline case—a matter that had been blocked by environmental lawsuits for almost four years.

In its April 2 decision, the high court refused to consider the decision of the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that said the pipeline could not be built because construction would violate right-of-way width requirements of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act.

One week later, Congressman Young introduced his own pipeline bill, H.R. 6756, to give Congressional recognition to the energy crisis and direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue the necessary construction permits to speed pipeline construction.

Hearings on the Young bill and more than a dozen others, some of which propose additional environmental studies or construction of a Canadian line, began late in April.

"After listening to the testimony of experts on energy, international affairs, finance and the environment, it's becoming clearer than ever to many Congressmen that the Alaska pipeline must be built," Young says.

Members of the Public Lands Subcommittee will begin deliberations on the pipeline legislation in June before making legislative recommendations to the full Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

A member of both bodies, Young says he will make certain that Alaska's case will be presented as strongly as possible. He expects the pipeline legislation to come before the full House of Representatives this summer.

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