

# Sen. Stevens Tosses Hat



**SEN. TED STEVENS**

FAIRBANKS—U. S. Senator Ted Stevens last weekend announced his official candidacy for election to the U.S. Senate.

Stevens' announcement came during a one-day trip to Fairbanks last Saturday for the North American Championship sled dog races, and Fairbanks Native Association potlatch scheduled for that evening.

"I believe the forthcoming election will be among the most crucial ever to face Alaskans," Stevens said. "I believe it is to the advantage of our citizens to know as far in advance as possible just who the candidates are who are seeking their votes."

Stevens also voiced his concern over the future of education in Alaska. "I firmly believe Alas-

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kan educators are among the finest in America today," he said, "but the rapid growth of our population is bound to have its effect. Our students deserve the best we can possibly offer in both teachers and schools. They are really the state's number one resource."

The senior senator for Alaska pointed to his efforts on behalf of teachers and schools as a state legislator, and said his interest has been intensified since his service in Washington.

"We are on the threshold of broad new opportunities for improving the quality of education," Stevens said, adding that federal help can be of great importance.

"I am close to the situation at the federal level, and I intend to intensify my efforts to see that Alaskans share in these benefits," Stevens said.

He stressed in particular the need for increased federal funding for rural Alaskan schools.

"I will not be happy until every child in Alaska, regardless of his circumstances or where he lives, has an equal opportunity to obtain a good education," he said.

Stevens, who is regarded as one of the most active members of the Senate, demonstrated his interest in encouraging student achievement earlier this month when he launched a program in conjunction with Alaska high schools to present Certificates of Merit to those students who earn superior scholastic records.

Following his announcement of candidacy, Stevens said that he had appointed Connel Murray of Anchorage and Robert Pickrell of Ketchikan, to handle his advertising and public relations for the campaign.