

Gravel Hits GOP—

Central District Meet Tabbed 'A Good One'

Democratic Central District Convention gaveled its adjournment at 4:00 a.m., last Sunday morning. The convention was labeled "a good one" by many of the participants.

The convention began last Saturday morning with a keynote address by Eugene Foley, former Secretary of Commerce under President John Kennedy.

Foley substituted for Sen. Mike Gravel who was delayed by committee work in Washington. Gravel, however, addressed the convention Sunday evening.

Speaking off the cuff throughout most of his address, Sen. Gravel sharply criticized the Republicans from Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel to Gov. Keith H. Miller.

Gravel charged that Secretary Hickel and Gov. Miller have fouled up the Trans Alaska Pipeline System leaving the wealth opportunity for Alaska "a mess."

He said that when the situation begins to get sticky, they will begin to blame it on the conservation people and the natives of Alaska.

"That won't wash," said Gravel.

The Alaska Democratic senator said that as far as the land claims are concerned, the Miller administration with the help of two Alaskan papers was polarizing fear and hatreds of people against the native people and their friends.

He said he voted for 2 per cent royalty to be included in the claims bill that would amount to \$500 million in addition to the \$500 million proposed for payment of lands relinquished by the native people.

Gravel said that by the time the roll of natives is completed, there would probably be around 100,000 native people that would share in the settlement.

If that were to be shared by each native, each share would only amount to \$1,200 to \$1,800.

Commenting on the coming political campaign, Sen. Gravel said he will be active in the primary and in the general.

As a parting shot against his Republican opponents, Gravel charged, "Every single thing that is going on today in Alaska is not working. How fantastic!"