

Appointing Stevens Gov. Lauds Bartlett

JUNEAU— Gov. Walter J. Hickel issued the following statement through his office here this week as he announced the appointment of State Rep. Ted Stevens of Anchorage to succeed the late E.L. Bartlett as United States Senator from Alaska.

"After considerably soul searching and deliberation, I have today appointed Ted Stevens to the U.S. Senate seat made vacant by the death of that great Alaskan, Bob Bartlett.

"I consider Ted Stevens an extremely capable Alaskan, and the man who can best represent all of Alaska in the Senate's deliberations. And I am gratified that I was afforded an opportunity to select him from among a group of imminently-able Alaskans who were suggested for this appointment.

"All of those who were proposed have established them-

selves, through the years, as dedicated Alaskans and as outstanding, public-spirited citizens. I salute them all.

"I have singled out Mr. Stevens for this appointment because, after my years of experience and travel throughout Alaska, and particularly as a result of my tenure as Governor, I have become convinced beyond doubt that Ted is the best-qualified man of all for this post.

"I believe he will enjoy broad, statewide support and that the leaders of both political parties will give him their assistance in the months ahead.

"I hope all Alaskans will wish Ted well. Further, I hope all citizens of our state will again pause a moment to salute the memory of the kind, vigorous man Ted replaces, the late Sen. Bob Bartlett."