

Engineer Legislator

Needed: Silides

George Silides, a Registered Professional Civil Engineer and Republican candidate for the Alaska House of Representatives speaking Friday to the American Society of Civil Engineers said that, "Engineering practise in Alaska is varied, interesting and demanding of greater general knowledge and involvement than in other states where large numbers of specialists can be immediately consulted, and for this reason General Engineering in Alaska stands unique."

"You gentlemen", Silides told the Society, "share that uniqueness, and the obvious progress of Alaska during the past two decades is a tribute to your uniqueness and dedication."

Silides continued to say, "that there is no single group outside this professional cadre that is so deeply and personally involved with the environmental welfare of the public. The bulk of this new state's budget is dedicated to such capital improvements which we either directly or indirectly influence, whether in their origins or when we are called upon to design and guide them to successful conclusions."

"It is no mere coincidence," Silides pointed out, "that the Chairman of the House Finance Committee for the past four years was a Professional Engineer. With Harold Strandberg gone, there is not now another Engineer or Architect in the House to advise on these matters of vital interest."

"Because we are a young State, we are a building State and most of the funds involved derive from the legislative process."

"Almost without exception all projects originate as a political issue or soon acquire political overtones. Since the successful completion of these projects eventually evolves to us, we are vitally concerned with the makeup and participation in effective legislation and allocation of funds."

"Recent events have shown a definite need for progressive engineering membership in the Legislature."

Silides concluded and urged the members of the Engineering Society to join him in a greater direct involvement in legislative affairs so that the State of Alaska could derive the maximum benefit from the various significant skills of the Engineers living within the state and dedicated to its welfare.