

# Hopson endorses Gruening

North Slope Borough Mayor Eben Hopson, Sr. has become the first Native leader to endorse a candidate in the 1980 election for the U.S. Senate seat held by incumbent Mike Gravel.

Hopson announced his support for the candidacy of Anchorage attorney and former state legislator Clark Gruening in a letter sent last week to Native regional corporations and Alaskan newspapers.

Citing Senator Gravel's performance on pending D-2 legislation in the U.S. Congress, Hopson stated, "I strongly believe that Alaskans deserve more attention and hard work from our senator in Washington, D.C. for the benefit of us all. So that our needed services in Washington, D.C. will be improved, I have personally decided to support the candidacy of Clark Gruening to be our new senator."

Hopson criticized Senator Gravel for "irresponsible political weakness" and "nonperformance" and praised Gruening as a "very conscientious young man" who "knows what is needed in Alaska."

Hopson, who has been Mayor of the North Slope Borough since the formation of that municipality, is a veteran Native and political leader in the state as well as in the Alaska Democratic Party.