



TOM MORRIS Candidate for the State House

For the past year and a half, he has been involved in extensive research of the gold mining potential in the area, drawing particularly from the reports and investigations that have been conducted in the past.

He has been an Alaskan resident for 12 years. He came to Alaska — to Juneau — in 1962 and worked for that city as a civil engineer, where he acquired an interest in mining. He moved to Fairbanks in 1965, purchased mining claims, and went into mining full time.

In the 1970 campaign, Morris was an active worker for Howard Pollock who was running for governor. He donated some mining claims to Pollock some of which were used as prizes in a raffle to raise campaign funds. And there was some controversy over that.

Morris says he wants to keep the mining laws the way they are now, contending there have been indications that the state wants to take over mining by leasing potential mining property by competitive bids.

"Fairbanks wouldn't be here today if it had not been for the small prospector.

"I can't see leasing mining property the same way we do oil and gas.

"I also favor efforts by the state to make more land available to private citizens. The federal government has abolished its homestead program and the state has canceled its open to entry program. There is an artificial scarcity of land in Alaska forcing the values of land to skyrocket unnecessarily. At a time when Alaska is greatly expanding and there is an influx of thousands, we need a way whereby the private citizen can obtain land more easily, so that he can put down his roots and become a permanent productive citizen of the state."

Morris believes the property owner has carried the burden of the state too long, therefore he will work to discontinue property taxes and let the revenue from the oil and gas take care of the progress of the state.

Thomas H. Morris, local Fairbanks gold miner, on July 5, 1974 switched political parties — from Republican to Democrat — and filed as a candidate for the State House of Representatives from this district.

"I have become disgusted with the Republican Party — from Nixon on down," said Morris, in explaining his switch.

"Watergate is going to have a devastating effect in the elections this fall and I predict the Republican Party will come out the loser.

"Even the resignation of President Nixon will not prevent this. And when the voters — particularly independents — go to the polls they will not vote for Republican candidates — simply as a method of telling the Republican Party it should clean up — from the top down — of all corruption and wrong-doing.

"Here in Alaska, there is much division in the ranks of the Republican Party at a time when the party is in trouble because of Watergate. It looks to me like the statewide candidates are not for the party or the people but for themselves.

"I've just had enough of the Republican Party and decided that it's time for a change."

In 1970, Morris ran the primary for State Senate nomination, District I. In that race, Sen. John Butrovich of Fairbanks and Don Young beat out Morris and Dr. Paul Haggland. And Butrovich and Young went on to win in the general election.

Morris, 38, is president of United Mining and Exploration, Inc. and says he intends — with the help of others — to construct a 3,000 ton per day gold mining ball mill near here.

(Pd. pol. adv. by Tom Morris, Suite 824, Alaska National Bank Bldg., Fbks.)

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