

SENATOR HENRY JACKSON MAY HOLD LAND HEARINGS

Gruening Says He'd Like to If Senator Jackson Does Not

Senator Ernest Gruening said this week that Sen. Henry M. Jackson of the State of Washington, and chairman of the Interior Committee on Insular Affairs, would like to have a full committee hearing on land claims rather than having the subcommittee hold the hearings.

"Sen. Jackson feels that if the subcommittee hold the hearings, it would take time because the subcommittee would have to report to the full committee," Sen. Gruening said.

Gruening thought that this was a good idea which would expedite the deliberation on land claims.

"I've asked Sen. Jackson to hold the hearings here in Fairbanks, or Anchorage where the largest population is centered and possibly easier to get to by travel," Gruening stated. "Jackson holding the hearings himself would also add to the prestige of those hearings

but it is not always easy to get men like Sen. Jackson to come up to Alaska."

In the event that Jackson is unable to hold land discussions in the state, "I would like to conduct the hearings myself," said Senator Gruening.

"There are two land claims bills introduced in Congress now, one quite different from the other. 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I think that's a good saying as far as the land bills are concerned," the Alaska senator added, indicating that something in between might have to be worked out.

The Senator is a member of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. Sen. George McGovern is the chairman of the subcommittee.

Sen. Gruening expects the land hearings to start shortly after Congress adjourns.

"Congress usually adjourns around the middle of October," he said.