

GRAVEL OPPOSING RIVERS



MIKE GRAVEL

Gravel Entering Race With Endorsement Of Arctic Slope Group

Mike Gravel, Alaska's aggressive young Speaker of the State House of Representatives, will be a candidate for the office of United States Congressman from Alaska.

The personable Speaker of the House will be opposing incumbent Rep. Ralph Rivers for the Democratic nomination to that office to be decided at the August 23rd primary election.

Gravel made his candidacy for Congress official last Wednesday when he filed his declaration of candidacy with Secretary of State Hugh Wade's office in Juneau.

Popular in the rural areas of the State Gravel has already received the endorsement of the Arctic Slope Native Association. That group rejected River's candidacy in favor of Gravel.

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"In Congress legislation must pass both the Senate and the House. Alaska's lone seat, in my mind, is a very important position," Gravel stated. "Our representative

is one in 435, while in the Senate we have two among 100. Alaska is strong in the Senate. But it is the feeling of many with whom I have talked that Alaska can do better in the House," he said.

"In order to develop strength in the House, our Congressman should have the necessary stature to command

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Gravel Opposes . . .

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respect based upon knowledge, hard work, and an aggressive spirit with an imaginative outlook.

"Our Congressman must portray the youthful vigor of leadership needed in a new and rapidly growing State.

"Alaska is not static. It is young and vital with the promise of youth. Its leadership should reflect this, interpret it, and apply it to the problems of the day and the certainty of a better tomorrow," Gravel continued.

"The tremendous developments that tomorrow will bring to Alaska will demand a bold and imaginative leadership in the U.S. House capable of legislative management toward the goal of distributing the economic benefits of development throughout our great State.

"I believe I can provide an imaginative and forward-looking approach to our needs and can conceive fresh alternatives to the problems facing Alaska in the years ahead," Gravel stated.

"My experiences have amply proved that I have the ability, courage, and the willingness to fight hard for those I represent.

"My campaign will be successful with the help of those who similarly believe Alaska needs this type of leadership in the U.S. House.

"Those people who share this concern about Alaska's

representation in the U.S. House and who share conviction of Alaska's future, are those who are needed to translate a winning spirit into a victorious campaign.

"In the course of the campaign I will be asked many times why I am running . . . my simple candid answer is . . . I feel I can do a better job," Gravel finished.

Gravel is an Anchorage Democrat and has served in the State House of Representatives for four years. Two years ago he was top vote getter among 14 successful candidates in the Anchorage area.

In January 1965 the members of the State House of Representatives recognized Gravel's abilities and elected him Speaker of the House—the leader of the lower chamber of the legislature.

Presiding over that chamber Gravel has earned a statewide reputation as a talented and energetic young leader who is "on the move."

As Speaker he carried the fight for the establishment of regional High Schools in Bethel and Nome during the last session.

"Our aim is to insure that every village youth has the opportunity to attend high school if he wishes," Gravel said. "It is our obligation to see that the youth has this opportunity," he added.

In the winter of 1965-66 Gravel took the legislative council on an unprecedented and lengthy schedule of hearings throughout the small cities and villages of Alaska.

The Speaker took the government to the people in the form of the legislative council, and gave legislators from other regions of the State the opportunity to become familiar with the problems of other areas first hand.

The good-looking Speaker with the warm and friendly smile lives in Anchorage with his wife and two children, where he has been in the real estate business for the past 10 years.