

Blodgett Promises Workable Plan for Reapportionment

Senator Bob Blodgett of Teller promised this week to present a new, workable plan of reapportionment to improve the representation of Northwest Alaska.

Speaking to the Juneau Democratic Club, he said that he is collecting all the reapportionment plans available in the Lower 48 to come up with the best method for Alaska. His plan will be presented to the legislature next year.

One of the biggest problems of the last apportionment, Blodgett stated, was the shortage of people to work on committees.

"When we had four people from our area," he said, "I used to get a little rest. Now I get up early in the morning, work hard, cut my lunch hours short, and use every minute of my time representing my people."

"While he did not yet have a definite plan, he promised he would present something that "will be controversial, but it will be some way to represent my people."

One suggested plan was to divide the Northwest Senate seat into four partial seats. Each of these partial senators would have full powers to sit on committees but would have only 1/4 vote in the Senate itself.

He also noted that the Northwest might, in the future, unite to split off from Anchorage and establish a separate state. He noted that

the problems of the Northwest and rural areas do not relate to those of Anchorage.

Blodgett said that he is not opposed to progress. He stated that he would probably support the Turnagain Causeway in the Anchorage area because it would be progress, and he hoped other law makers would see the same benefits in expanded transportation in the North.

Blodgett complained about representation on boards, affiliated with the state government, noting there are few representatives from the Northwest rural areas.