

# Rader Says Meacham Errs

John Rader, Democratic Candidate for the United States House of Representatives, today charged that C. H. Meacham, Director of International Fisheries, State Department of Fish and Game does not know the facts about this springs events in the Kuskokwim Bay Fishery.

Rader's charges were contained in a letter response to a telegram from Meacham which said Rader's claim that chum and red salmon had to be sold at a reduced price in the Kuskokwim were completely false and that it was illegal to sell these species of salmon until August 1.

The wire was sent after a Fairbanks news man queried the Governor about Rader's earlier charge that Kuskokwim fishermen were not receiving a fair market price for their fish.

In his reply Rader said, "We will not quibble about geography. The facts as reliably reported to me are: 1) During late July and early July Quinhagak, Knetok and Kuskokwim Native fishermen were fishing red and chum salmon near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, on rivers leading to Kuskokwim Bay, in areas open to commercial fishing.

2) The American freezer ship 'Teddy' and a Japanese freezer ship both purchased salmon from the Native fishermen at approximately the same time and place.

3) Some fish were purchased in the round and some purchased cleaned by the pound. After making proper allowances for difference in handling, the total effective price paid by the Japanese to Native fishermen and their co-op was approximately three times as great as that paid by the 'Teddy' for red salmon and twice as great for chum salmon."

Rader challenged Meacham to "affirm or deny the accuracy a report that the American freezer ship 'Teddy', after purchasing from Native fishermen at depressed prices, and after freezing, sold the identical fish to the Japanese at great net profit."

Rader commented, "If my sources of information are in error, please correct me, but let's not quibble over geography or imply that this series of events never occurred."

"The State of Alaska had no legal right to interfere with the Native fishermen and certainly was not justified in interfering for the purpose of shifting the profitability of the fishery from Native fishermen to the freezer ship 'Teddy'."

In conclusion Rader offered an aside, "I see that a Congressman from Washington State has introduced a bill in Congress which, would, if it became law, give the Governor the authority he exercised in this instance without the benefit of law.

The sources of this bill, that is Washington State, indicates to me that the policy followed by Governor Hickel may help Seattle more than Alaskans."

Rader asserted that he did not challenge Governor Hickel's good motives. "But," said Rader, "I do intend to challenge the idea that his policy as applied at the mouth of the Kuskokwim was of benefit to Alaska."