

Gravel Seeks Gruening's Senate Seat

Mike Gravel, a personable Anchorage real estate developer, filed last week on the Democratic ticket to run against incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening for nomination in the August 27 primary election.

Gravel's entry into the senate race quashed the recent rumors that he might run for the U.S. House now occupied by Rep. Howard Pollock, (R-Alaska).

There had also been widespread rumors that Pollock would run for senate but this was also quashed when he filed for re-election for the seat he now occupies.

In his statement to the press, Gravel declared that the incumbent Sen. Gruening "is more concerned with national and international projects while I believe more emphasis should be placed on programs to help Alaska and Alaskans."

Mike Gravel is well known in the native bush areas throughout Alaska which he visited two years ago when he ran an intensive campaign against the then incumbent



MIKE GRAVEL

Congressman Ralph J. Rivers.

Gravel came within a polar bear's whisker of winning the primary when he was nosed out by Rivers. In the runout in the general election, Rivers was defeated by the present Congressman Pollock.

Gravel is former Democratic Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

When he filed last week, he recognized Gruening's "long service to Alaska" but said that the incumbent had lost touch with the people who elected him.

"As speaker of the House of Representatives I became acutely aware of the serious problems this state faces," Gravel said last week, "and also of the fact that Senator Gruening appears less concerned with these problems than he is with what is happening in Southeast Asia and other corners of the world."

"A perfect example," he said, "of our differences is reflected in books we have both written. His is about Vietnam and mine is about Alaska. I think that sums up the situation in a nutshell."

Gravel has just published a paperback book entitled, "Jobs and More Jobs."

The book devotes an

entire chapter under the heading of "Alaska's Native Poor."

Mike Gravel says he disagrees with Sen. Gruening's contention that the United States is the aggressor in Vietnam and has serious doubts about the way the war has been conducted but believes the U.S. must honor its commitments and not pull American troops out of Vietnam.

Gravel said he would work on four goals if elected and these are:

More jobs in Alaska; lowering the cost of living; more assistance to native people; and more assistance to fishermen "so they can compete with foreign fishermen in Alaska waters."