



RAGING FIRE—Vast distances, long hours of daylight, high temperatures, dry fuels, frequent lightning strikes, bad terrain, limited equipment and manpower, all com-

bine to make the task of protecting the lands in Alaska from fire one of the toughest assignments of its kind in the United States. —BLM Photo

BLM Warns of Fire Dangers

This time each year thousands of acres of land

Letters to Editor

(continued from Page 2)

spoiled. Where does that leave the Fishermen's Coop? Where does that leave the Native fishermen?

People have stated that many Native fishermen do not want the Fishermen's Cooperative in Bethel. If this is the case, why was the Coop established in the first place and, once established, why were they selling to the Coop if better prices could be obtained elsewhere? Why are there now over 100 Native fishermen in the Coop?

People have said that there are 8 fish buyers in Bethel and that there is no reason for another—it would hurt the existing buyers. I challenge anyone to write an open letter to the paper and name more than two fish businesses, other than the Coop, that buy fish in Bethel. The two I am referring to are: Kuskokwim Packers and the Shank brothers. Other than the Fishermen's Coop there are only two docks in Bethel (in 1966, 1967 and 1968) where a fisherman can unload his fish for sale. Where are the other 6 docks? Someone tell us.

This year a Fishermen's Union was formed, independent of the Fishermen's Coop, and the Native fishermen struck for better prices from the fish buyers. Why?

The facts I have stated lead up to this—the Fishermen's Cooperative certainly helped Native fishermen earn more money for their fish caught. I know. I fished. I was there, on the Kuskokwim River, in a boat for periods of 24 hours straight, last year and the year before.

Now, given the above and other "facts", what is the answer to the question, "Is the State trying to assist in the development of the Natives of rural Alaska, or.....?"

Sincerely yours,
John Shuler

are burned by carelessness. Who is to blame?

Everybody should be aware that a dropped cigarette, an untended campfire, a firecracker, or a land clearing burn can result in a conflagration which will leave lasting scars on our landscape and cost many tax dollars.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Division of Lands remind you there is a real danger in Alaska of repeating the 1966 fire season. Six hundred seventy-four thousand acres of land were burned over that season.

The tundra covered soils in many parts of Alaska are of little agricultural value, but they are important for reindeer, caribou, and other animals, and for sport hunters. The intermingled lakes, ponds and sloughs are production areas for major flights of waterfowl.

The destruction of ground cover by fire, seriously effects all of these and many other uses of the land.

In Alaska, there are laws pertaining to an individual's liability when he is careless or negligent in the use of fire.

Some pertinent points of the law are:

1. The period from April 1 to October 31 of each year is designated the fire season.

2. Throwing away any lighted material on public or private land is a misdemeanor.

3. Building a fire without clearing the ground around it is a misdemeanor.

4. Leaving a fire without totally extinguishing it is a misdemeanor.

5. Allowing a fire to escape is proof in itself of negligence and is a misdemeanor.

6. Malicious or wanton setting of fires is a felony.

7. In a civil action brought as a result of a violation of the fire laws, double the amount of damages sustained may be recovered.

The average individual would be hard put to pay for the cost of extinguishing even a small forest fire. If his carelessness or negligence resulted in a fire of any size and he were taken to court, he could be wiped out by having to pay double damages.

Therefore for your own protection as well as for the

common good everyone should exercise the utmost caution in the use of fire.

Tanana Valley Timber Resource To Be Surveyed

An Anchorage firm, Air Photo Techniques Inc., was low bidder on the Tanana Forest Resource Inventory Project at bid openings held June 14 in the Juneau offices of the U.S. Forest Service, according to W. Howard Johnson, Regional Forester.

Air Photo's bid of \$11.90 per lineal mile was lower than that of American Aerial Survey Company of San Antonio, Texas, and Mark Hurd Aerial of Minneapolis.

Total cost for the photographic survey will be \$163,482.20. The contract was awarded to obtain aerial photographic coverage of approximately 9,750,000 acres in the Tanana River Valley.

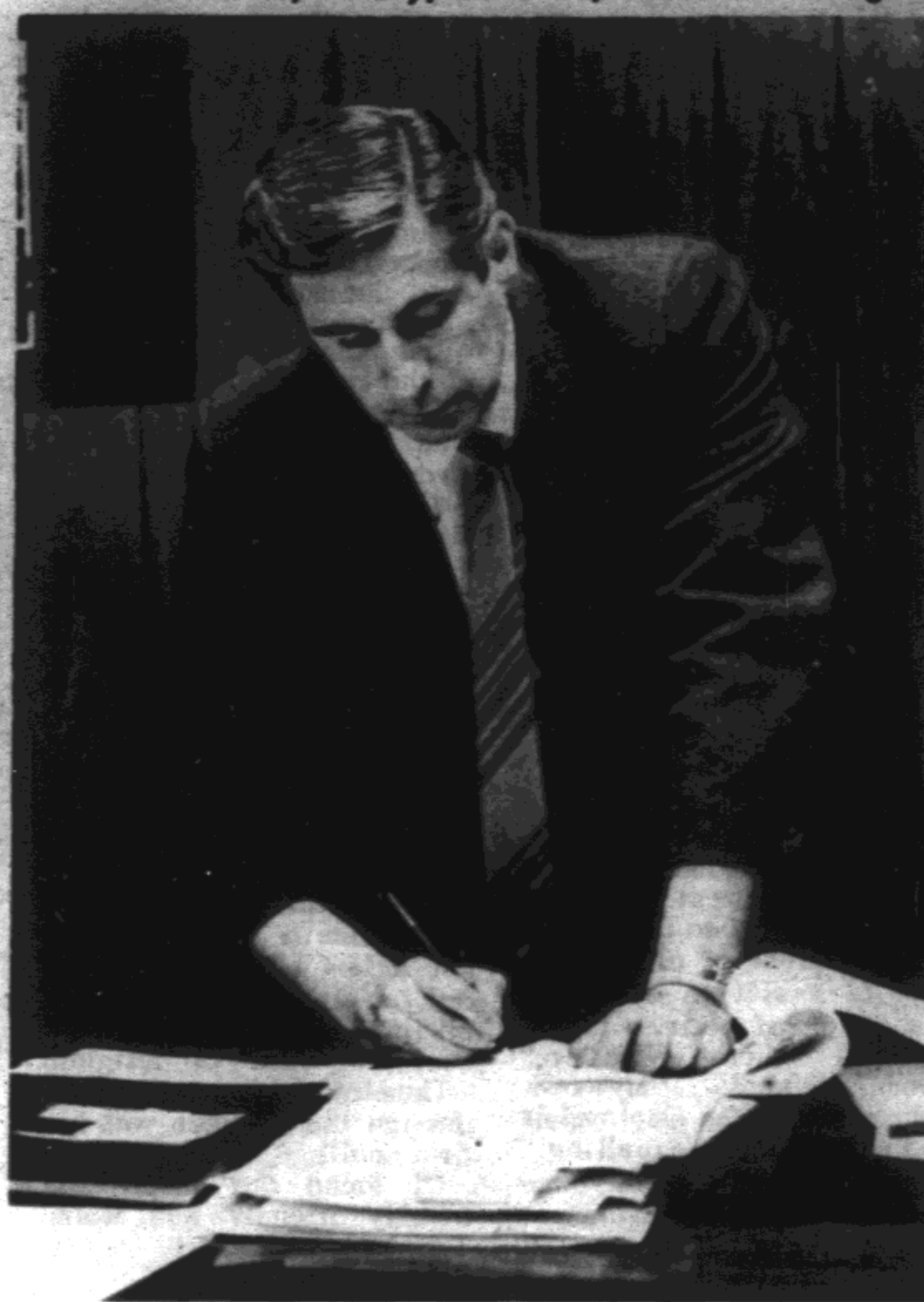
The project was prepared by the Forest Products Task Force of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska and developed through the cooperative efforts of the Alaska Department of Economic Development, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Forest Service. A major part of the funding will be provided by the Economic Development Administration.

Purpose of the aerial land resource survey, the largest to be contracted for in Alaska in the field of aerial photography, is to provide an inventory of the natural resources within the Tanana Valley area.

The survey will employ the use of two aircraft equipped with special infrared camera equipment.

The photo contract covers the extensive Tanana River basin stretching from the confluence of the Yukon River eastward to the Canadian border.

There are approximately 4.3 million acres of commercial forest land supporting an estimated volume of more than 7 billion board feet of saw-timber.



SIGNS PLEDGE—U.S. Senate candidate Mike Gravel signs a Fair Campaign Practices Pledge. Gravel urges that Sen. Ernest Gruening and all other candidates sign the pledge. Sen. Gruening is Gravel's opponent in the Democratic primary election in August.

Gravel Signs Pledge

ANCHORAGE—U.S. Senate candidate Mike Gravel called upon his opponent in the Democratic primary, Senator Ernest Gruening, and all other statewide candidates to sign the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge.

"I think it would leave an excellent impression on the nation if all Alaskan candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives in both parties subscribed to the Fair Campaign Practices Code," Gravel said.

"I anticipate no problems requiring invocation of the code in the contest between Senator Gruening and me, because ours is a difference

based on issues and principals and not on personalities.

"Nevertheless, I think it would be advantageous for all voters in the state to know that all candidates for the Senate and House subscribe to this code."

The Fair Campaign Practices Code was prepared by the Fair Campaign Practices Committee in Washington.

Candidates promise to abide by specified standards of conduct and to refrain from injecting personal issues, rumors, or half-truths into their campaign materials.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anchorage, Alaska
June 26, 1968

Dear Sir:

It was reported yesterday that Senator Ernest Gruening has refused to sign the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge, and he further refuses to debate with his primary opponent Mike Gravel. This should be brought to the attention of all your readers, because it may be the most significant development to date in the U.S. Senate race.

The Alaska Young Democrats requested Gruening and Gravel to debate at their convention on July 13th. Gravel accepted, Gruening refused. Gruening has no real reason to refuse, and gave none.

Gruening charged on T.V. last April that Gravel (who was then not a candidate) was being aggressive. Gruening also said he "expected some mudslinging" in the campaign. But for one month now, Gravel has been campaigning on the issues. There has been no "mud-

slinging" from his camp whatsoever.

A few days ago Gravel signed the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge and urged all other Senate candidates to do so. This pledge was drawn up by a committee headed by ex-Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, in which the candidate promises to campaign on the issues instead of the personalities. Gravel signed, Gruening will not.

Gruening will not debate the issues with Gravel, and he will not sign the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge. I think all Alaskans have a right to wonder why. As a past officer in the Young Democrats, and as Chairman of the Democratic Party for Anchorage, I am asking the question for the people I represent.

And Alaskans deserve an answer from Senator Gruening.

Sincerely,
Gil Serrano