

Gov. Egan Lauds Recovery From Great Earthquake Damage

Governor William A. Egan issued the following statement last week regarding Alaska's recovery from the Good Friday earthquake nearly two years ago:

"It will be two years ago on Sunday that our rapidly-growing new State was struck one of the heaviest blows ever to fall on one of our American states. The great earthquake and ensuing seismic sea waves left many of our Southcentral Alaska communities in ruins and took the lives of 113 of our fellow Alaskans. For an awful moment, it seemed that the populous portion of our State, where much of our economic activity is concentrated, had almost ceased to exist.

"But it was only a moment. At Anchorage, Portage, Valdez, Seward, Chenega, Kodiak, Old Harbor, Kaguyak and elsewhere Alaskans quickly came to the aid of their devastated communities. It was certainly Alaska's finest hour. Impressed with the courage and resourcefulness of Alaskans, with their response to a natural disaster unprecedented in North America, the federal government swiftly undertook to help us help ourselves.

"In the nearly two years since the disaster, we have made a remarkable recovery. The job is not finished but there can be no doubt that it

soon will be—and Alaska will have progressed far beyond the level of development reached on March 27, 1964.

"Since that fateful date, impressive gains have been made in almost every sector of our economy. The great setback imposed by the disaster has largely been overcome.

"In those first dark days after the earthquake, I suggested that rebuilding the devastated areas of our State better than they were before the disaster would be the most fitting memorial to those taken from our midst. That memorial is rapidly taking form."