

Lekanof Predicts Bush In Bag for Rasmuson

One of Alaska's prominent native leaders today predicted a solid victory in rural Alaska for Republican Elmer Rasmuson in next Tuesday's U.S. Senate race.

Flore Lekanof, President of the Aleut League and a staff member of the Citizens' Committee to elect Elmer Rasmuson, reported on his recent trip to Western Alaska and the Aleutian Chain. Lekanof said that "The trend is moving daily to Rasmuson."

He cited three reasons for the trend. He said, "Native peoples like the idea of voting for a real Alaskan—A man born in Alaska. They trust him and like his efforts on behalf of the

native people."

Lekanof said that the Citizens' Committee policy to include native people on the staff and as field workers "proves Rasmuson's interest in our problems." He said that the Rasmuson campaign has taken urban campaign techniques into the villages and found the natives responsive.

"We have allocated some of our advertising budget to hiring local resident field workers in several villages to work in conjunction with local volunteers," Lekanof said, "and it is beginning to show results."

Lekanof said the field men spend their time canvassing their villages and distributing Rasmuson literature. He said they have found that "most natives always voted for democrats because no one ever told them about Republicans."

Lekanof said he has received several letters from natives asking for jobs in exchange for votes.

"We do not hire any workers who try to make that kind of a deal," he commented. "We are interested in telling the Republican story—the Elmer Rasmuson story—not buying votes," he said.

"The native vote has been taken for granted for too many years," Lekanof said. "This year things will be different. The trend is moving daily to Elmer Rasmuson, and I predict he will register a solid victory in rural Alaska."