

'I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend your right to say it.' - Voltaire

Editorial—

Voting Is Power

WHEW! This is some political year! It has been as topsy-turvy as the current-driven field of sea ice grinding and piling on the Arctic Alaska coastline. On the Presidential candidate level, a three-way ticket is being generated and the people—the voters—are in somewhat of a tizzy over the situation.

"How do you think the election will come out?" is the question often heard. As far as we're concerned, this is a hard question to answer. We'll just have to wait for the great "Decider,"—the voter—to do his handiwork on November 5 next Tuesday. The voter is going to be the most important person that day and his majority decision will help to shape the history of our country—and no fooling. There is no getting around him. He's a powerful person.

On a smaller scale but with no less importance to Alaska, is another three-way race—the race for the U.S. Senate seat that was actually left vacant by the primary election loss of Sen. Ernest Gruening, the incumbent, to Mike Gravel. If things had been normal, Mike Gravel would have only one opponent, the Republican nominee, Elmer Rasmuson, but this was complicated by Sen. Gruening's decision to run, nevertheless, on the write-in ticket. For all intents and purposes, it's a two-opponent deal all the way round. However, if Gruening's write-in candidacy generates substantial proportions, Rasmuson could benefit. The odds could be quite heavy against candidate Gravel.

At this writing, Gruening's chances for re-election are said to be slim but how slim is the big question. Gravel's camp seems to be confident, however, even with two opponents against him and the size of Sen. Gruening's write-in votes will have to be weighed against Gravel.

On the other hand, Elmer Rasmuson is making a determined bid for election and he seems to be leaving no stone unturned in the effort. My, we haven't seen so many political candidates work so hard as compared with other years.

And the native people are in the thick of the political embroilment more than ever before. They're experiencing some pressures this year. Their own people have been working on opposing camps wooing their votes. The native people are getting a big taste of political maneuvering never before unleashed in such quantity. This year, politically at the grassroots, our people are really getting their feet wet. That's the way it should be. They're being bombarded with well-aimed political shots and many of their minds are probably asking, "Should I vote for him, or should I vote for his opponent?"

Their minds are dwelling on such men as Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon, George Wallace, Sen. Ernest Gruening, Elmer Rasmuson, Mike Gravel, Congressman Howard Pollock, State Sen. Nick Begich, and many other candidates on the state level.

The native folks, along with millions of voters throughout the United States, will be deciding to vote for

the person they think will represent them best on the governmental level. November 5 is the day when they will help to wield the power of the people—the vote.

We hope that they will come out in greater numbers than ever before to exercise the privilege of casting their ballots.