

Pegge Considers Running— For Husband's Seat 'If and When a Vacancy Occurs'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Mrs. Pegge Begich, wife of Congressman Nick Begich, has indicated her decision to be a candidate "if and when a vacancy occurs" in Alaska's At-Large seat in Congress.

"I will remain optimistic and confident that Nick will be found and will assume the seat to which he was elected on November 7.

"However, after discussing all of the possibilities and seeking the opinions of my children and family, I have decided that if

and when a vacancy occurs I will seek the Democratic nomination to run in a future special election in the coming year.

"My children have grown up in a home in which political considerations have always been important. They have been aware for a very long period of time of the importance of public service and their father's political philosophy. They have unanimously agreed that I should make a concerted effort to continue their father's work.

"In nearly sixteen years of

marriage to Nick we have made many political decisions and have been active in many political campaigns together."

"I know the full measure of commitment that Nick has to Alaska and to the people of Alaska. It is a commitment I will take most seriously and pledge the same dedication and service to the people of Alaska.

"Throughout the difficult period of the last month, I have been and continue to remain hopeful of Nick's safe re-

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turn along with out friends Russ Brown, Congressman Boggs and and pilot, Don Jonz.

"Our many friends in Alaska as well as Nick's colleagues have been in contact with me through letters, telegrams and telephone conversations. They have, without exception, urged me to continue the work of my husband.

"When I was in Alaska with my son, Nick, for the election, I received many pledges of personal support from Alaskans in all walks of life. To them and to all Alaskans I indicated I was interested in the continuation of Nick's work if and when a vacancy occurred. I know Nick would want it that way and those who know Nick would feel the same way.

"For that reason and after much thought I have decided to be a candidate at that time. This decision on my part at

this time is a pledge to continue Nick's public service and to indicate to the many concerned Democrats, Independents and Republicans my intention of being a candidate.

"I solicit their support and active interest in the political future of our state. In making this early decision we are fulfilling a pledge to the voters of Alaska to insure filling the vacancy as quickly as possible if and when it occurs.

"In the days and weeks ahead, I will continue my interest in the problems of Alaska and the Nation and continue to hear further from all Alaskans. Indeed, I welcome, as Nick always did, their ideas, suggestions, opinions and comments. The continuity of Nick's service to Alaska will remain uppermost in my mind and I pledge myself to that end."