

ALASKANS THINK YOUNG

Notti's Rural Clout Not Enough To Win In Close Race

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WASHINGTON BOUND — Don Young announces he's on his way to the Capitol following apparent victory over Democrat Emil Notti, in close Congressional race.

A drama which began to unfold when a small plane went down between Anchorage and Juneau last October came to a conclusion yesterday in the special election to name a successor to missing United States Congressman Nick Begich. That office will now be filled by State Senator Don Young, Republican, of Ft. Yukon, who pulled ahead to a victory over his Democratic opponent, Emil Notti, late in the day, Tuesday, March 6.

Both Notti and Young ran strong campaigns based on party alliances. Young drawing strength from connection with the Nixon administration and Notti emphasizing the advantages of liaison with the majority party in the U.S. Congress.

Each claimed he would go to Washington with Alaska's interests foremost and each spoke convincingly of commitment to bush needs.

campaign, Notti had only weeks to mount a strategy while Young had the advantage of several months publicity. Young's name was introduced to the voters early in the general election when his name appeared on the ballot along with that of Nick Begich, who had not yet been declared legally dead.

Many seasoned political observers believe Notti did not have enough exposure to the general public. Although he could point to his activities in Washington politics during lobbying efforts for the Alaska Native Land Claims, Young had

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actual legislative experience in Juneau.

The issue of gun control may have damaged Notti's campaign in the last weeks. A last minute attempt to set the record straight was made by Notti supporters but with only days left before the ballot, the innuendo of doubt on Notti's stand may have taken its toll of voters.

Young showed decisive strength in the urban areas, particularly in Fairbanks and Anchorage, with Notti leading in the bush, and much of the state split down the middle. It was, as most had predicted, a close race with Young drawing slightly better than 50 per cent of the vote.

Young is a former school-teacher, married to a full-blooded Athabaskan from Ft. Yukon, Lula Young. Ft. Yukon is the bush community which saw Young's first political campaign.

Elected to the State Legislature in 1966, Young has since won every state election from that district. Tuesday's vote will send him to Washington, D.C. to serve in national office at a time critical to all Alaskans, a time which is expected to encompass the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline and to see the implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.