

Reports U.S. Military to Buy Fruits, Vegetables Grown in State

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel has reported that the United States military has already decided to send a purchasing officer to Alaska next June to buy the fruits and vegetables grown by Alaskan farmers.

This decision is a direct result of the Senator's repeated urgings in recent years that the

military make its plans known before the growing season commences.

In the past, the military waited to make its decision until after the growing season was in progress.

Even then, Senator Gravel was forced to pressure the Defense Supply Agency to make its decision so that the Alaskan

farmers would have this market for their produce.

As a result of the uncertainty, the farmers were unable to take into consideration the military market when planning their spring plantings.

"This year," Senator Gravel said, "the farmers of Alaska know long before the planting season arrives that the military

will be interested in buying their crops. They, therefore, can plan larger crop sizes in anticipation of this demand.

"I expect," Senator Gravel added, "that this information will permit Alaskan farmers to plant their largest crops in history."

"It is accepted fact, verified by experts, that when a market

is anticipated before planting, the crop size is increased, and the variety of produce planted is adjusted accordingly.

"In the past, Alaskan farmers have been able to meet the military's late demand only for potatoes and lettuce. This left twenty-one other types of produce for which the tardy demand exceeded the supply."

"This year, we can look for the supply meeting the demand in all categories."

"This decision makes sense. It is extremely sensible for the military to supply its Alaskan bases with produce grown in the State."

"This decision, made at this time, will permit this to happen and avoid the needless expense of importing produce into the State," Senator Gravel said.

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Alaska Drivers Congratulated

"Alaska's drivers are to be congratulated for lowering the death toll on the highways so far this year," Commissioner Emery W. Chapple, Jr. of the Alaska Department of Public Safety said.

Commissioner Chapple cited figures showing the death toll to be 11 under the 64 at this time last year.

"Unfortunately," the Commissioner added, "traffic safety is not an item which you can dismiss by saying 'well done.' Traffic safety is a continuing thing."

"New generations grow up to use cars every year, and every year we must do our utmost to make the newcomers conscious of their responsibilities on the road."

"The holiday period is upon us again this year. The usual parties will be held with the usual drinkers taking part with the usual drunks getting behind the wheel and the usual deaths occurring."

"It doesn't have to be this way. If we all consciously work toward a goal of no deaths, and in doing this walk, or take a cab, or bring along a non-drinker to drive, or stay at home, we might get by without a traffic fatality."

"Let's put traffic deaths on a permanent holiday."

VA Urges Vets to Return Income Questionnaires

JUNEAU, ALASKA — H. D. Anders, Veterans Administration Director in Alaska, urged Alaska veterans, widows and parents who received income questionnaires to complete and return them promptly.

Anders explained the reason for this suggestion is that past experience shows many questionnaires are lost, misplaced, forgotten or otherwise delayed if they are not returned promptly.

"When this happens, VA's determination of amounts due pensioners during the upcoming year is hampered, since questionnaires provide information essential for this computation," the director said.

"If the questionnaires are returned after the deadline of January 15 or not at all, some pensioners may receive late checks, small checks, or no checks at all," he stressed.

Anders pointed out information concerning the questionnaire may be obtained by contacting the VA Regional Office, P.O. Box 1288, Juneau, Alaska, or 429 D Street, Anchorage, Alaska.