

SEN. EBEN HOPSON FILES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

Full-Blooded Eskimo First Native To File For Executive Office

By THOMAS SNAPP

State Senator Eben Hopson, of Barrow, has thrown his hat in the race for Secretary of State.

And in so doing he becomes the first Native Alaskan to file for so high a post.

Hopson, a Democrat and mayor of the state's farthest north city, mailed his declaration of candidacy to Secretary of State Hugh J. Wade yesterday.

"My biggest concern is the Democratic Party itself," Hopson said in an interview.

"I feel I can be of service in enhancing the possibilities of retaining the governorship." He explained he felt he could do this by obtaining support in the outlying areas of the state.

In elaborating, he said the conduct of some legislators had not been good for the

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Sen. Hopson Files . .



STATE SENATOR EBEN HOPSON

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Democratic Party and that the Republicans would make a campaign issue of it.

"They always make an issue out of incidents at the legislature but this year I expect them to do so more than usual," he said.

Despite the press coverage over wrangles, Hopson said he felt the Legislature had done an excellent job considering its number one problem, money. He pointed with pride to the bond measures which were formulated for regional high schools, University buildings and improvements, and for roads and airports.

Hopson said he was not aligned with any one gubernatorial candidate and believed if he won the Secretary of State nomination, he could team up with whoever becomes the Democratic choice to run for governor.

Hopson has been on the political scene for nine years. He served one term in the territorial House of Representatives and has served in the state senate since statehood. This session he was vice chairman of the Local Government Committee, a member of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee and a member of the Legislative Council.

Recently he said he had been promised support from Southeast Alaska and he said, "If I do not carry the Northwest District it will be the first time."

Hopson was born and has lived all his life, with the exception of 3½ years during World War II, in Barrow. He has 12 brothers and sisters, and he and his wife, Rebecca, have 12 children, 5 girls and 7

boys, ranging in age from 3 years to age 22.

He has been a member of the Barrow city council off and on for the past 16 years, is a captain in the Alaska National Guard, a member of the Barrow Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Committee for Native Housing which Senator Bartlett organized recently.

As a matter of fact, Hopson leaves tomorrow for Washington, D.C. to testify in support of Bartlett's housing bill.

During World War II, Hopson was stationed for 15 months in Nome, 6 months in Anchorage, and for more than a year was assigned to a tugboat which traveled the Aleutian Chain from Adak and Attu to Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and Seward.