

# Chain Reaction

WASHINGTON—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said now that the Senate has passed the 200 mile fisheries bill, he hopes he is wrong in his fears that it will “start a chain reaction around the world” and thus hurt international negotiations at the Law of the Sea Conference.

Gravel said he opposed the bill because he felt other nations would follow the U.S. lead in taking unilateral action “as they perceive it” and damage chances of reaching international agreement that would protect Alaska’s salmon stocks.

The Alaska lawmaker said he sought to get a compromise amendment to implement a fish conservation program to restore fish stocks that are depleted. Although 37 senators supported the effort to work out a solution through a 1958 Geneva agreement, the amendment was withdrawn before a final vote on it.

Gravel said he will continue his efforts at the Law of the Sea Conference to get an international agreement that will effectively solve the fisheries problems, especially for Alaska’s salmon stocks, which swim beyond 200 miles.

The bill, which passed the Senate by a vote of 76 to 19, has a provision to delay its enforcement until July 1, 1977. Gravel voted for the July 1 enforcement date, but voted against the bill on final passage.