

Rasmuson in Denial of 'Rig' Charge

U.S. Senate candidate Elmer Rasmuson, subject of recent attacks that he was attempting to "rig" or "buy" votes of Native people, spoke out in his own defense this week in Fairbanks.

Rasmuson, in Fairbanks for appearances with Gov. Walter Hickel, Congressman Howard Pollock, and Republican candidates, had this to say about the Native support he is getting.

"There has been a charge against me, and I want to talk about it with a great deal of pride.

"You know, I believe in Alaskan leadership, and I believe in our Native people. I was born in a Tlingit village.

"Statements have been in the public press that I had representatives who tried to go out and 'buy' Native votes. Those of us who know the Natives know you don't buy Alaskan votes. That's impossible!

"I am proud of the fact that I have Natives on my staff, both in my business and in my campaign. And if I am elected, I am going to have more Natives on my staff. I have also said that I will never vote for the confirmation of the next Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs unless he is an Alaskan Native."