

GRAVEL: HOUSING MAIN AIM

WRANGELL—"A major commitment is necessary if Alaska is to solve its critical housing shortage," U.S. Senate Candidate Mike Gravel said today.

The tremendous growth rate of the state coupled with rapid increases in construction costs compound the problem.

"It costs \$2,500 more to build a house today than it did two years ago, plus 2.2% more in higher mortgage rates," Gravel detailed. "A \$30,000 home of five years ago, financed over 30 years, will now cost \$9,450 more in interest and \$5,500 more in construction costs."

"These are hard facts for the Alaskan homeowner, the new Alaskan, and especially for the newly-married Alaskan."

To help potential homeowners meet these costs, Gravel, an experienced real estate developer, proposed an increase in public housing funds and private industry cooperation for construction of low and middle income homes.

Such programs have already

been successfully utilized within the state.

"Under the Home Ownership Assistance Program, the Department of Housing and Urban

Development can act to solve this Alaskan problem, and families can wind up owning their home under reasonable and long-term provisions," Gravel said.