

Sen. Mike Gravel Fires Barrage At AEC on Nuclear Testing

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) fired another barrage at the Atomic Energy Commission Thursday in an effort to secure an independent review of U.S. underground nuclear testing.

Senator Gravel re-introduced a measure calling for an independent study of nuclear testing program. This measure was directed at pollution problems and was referred to the Senate Public Works Committee.

The bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), Chairman of the Public Works Committee and Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution.

The earlier resolution, pointing

to possible foreign policy problems, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and resulted in a public hearing where leading scientists spoke out against the testing program pending a study.

Senator Gravel was the lead witness during the hearing, held two days before the 1.2 megaton nuclear blast at Amchitka Oct. 2.

The measure would create a 15-man study commission composed of leading scientific experts, Senator Gravel said. They would be appointed by the President and evaluate the environmental risks attendant upon the use of underground nuclear energy.

"We in Congress are continually investigating the known

and suspected hazards related to automobile exhausts, industrial wastes, pesticides and numerous other areas of pollution," Senator Gravel said.

"Certainly we should give no less study to a pollutant—radioactivity—that is more deadly than all other scourges, and a menace which, once created by man cannot be destroyed," he told the Senate.