

# Senate Hopeful Elmer Rasmuson Challenges Mike Gravel in Debate

U.S. Senate nominee Elmer Rasmuson challenged Mike Gravel, the Democratic nominee, last Friday to a series of debates "on the truly vital issues we must face up to in this campaign."

The Republican candidate said he would debate Gravel "anywhere at any time that is mutually agreeable to both candidates' campaign schedules."

Rasmuson charged that the Democrats' Presidential Convention "dramatized the tragic division which the Administration has brought not only to its own party but to the distress of the entire nation."

He said: "Can a disorganized party give leadership? The incumbent senator (Ernest Gruening) refuses to support his party's nominees for President and for U.S. Senator. Mike Gravel wears the albatross of this discredited

national Administration around his neck. How can the people expect leadership from this type of confusion?"

Rasmuson said, "This is a year to build on, not to weaken. The Republican Party has the strength of unity, the strength to build. I am confident the people of Alaska want a United States Senator who seeks to unite Alaska and the nation, not one who will divide them. We offer the politics of progress, not the politics of chaos."

Rasmuson said the problems

suffered today by the Democratic Party are those of "a struggle for political power." He said, "The whole issue in 1968 is responsible leadership."