

Fischer: Gruening's Seniority Claim Nil

Former Anchorage Borough Assembly President Richard Fischer challenged Senator Gruening's assertion that he has "much-valued seniority" as a misrepresentation. Fischer, a Democrat, and a supporter of Mike Gravel, claimed today that the facts prove Sen. Gruening has little seniority.

"In his speeches and advertisements, Senator Gruening claims that his seniority is the most important issue in this campaign," Fischer said. "Well, if that is so, then the Senator is in trouble."

"Actually, Senator Gruening ranks 39th among 64 Democratic Senators," Fischer said, "which means that he is not even in the upper 50% of Senators in his own party."

Fischer claimed that it takes

18 to 20 years before a U.S. Senator gains the valuable full-committee chairmanships.

Said Fischer: "Even if Sen. Gruening gets his chairmanship early, it won't be until about 1987, and at that point he will be 90 years old."

Fischer added that it was the young men in the Senate who were its great movers, and he mentioned the three Kennedy brothers, George McGovern, Charles Percy, Joseph Tydings, Walter Mondale and Fred Harris.

"Mike Gravel is in this age bracket," Fischer said. "He is two years older than Edward Kennedy, and he's got the same style. The way to build real seniority is to elect a young man who can achieve a great deal over the next 15 to 20 years."

Stevens Backs VISTA on PHS Aides Pay

Ted Stevens, candidate for the United States Senate, replying to a letter from a VISTA volunteer from Hooper Bay, concerning Village Medical Aides, who are trained by the Public Health Service (copy of which letter is attached) stated:

"I, too, hope that your statement will be reprinted in the newspaper. I know of no reason why the Public Health Service should train medical aides to work with village patients if they are unwilling to see to it that these medical aides receive a minimum wage when they return to their village to work."

"In our trips throughout the Northwest, Ann and I have been impressed with the need for increased medical facilities. Once we ran into a real emergency that required a charter plane immediately because there was no one in the village who had the training that a medical aide has received."

"We seem to be able to pay for medical aides in civilian hospitals and villages overseas through our foreign aid program. In my opinion the needs of our village people should be met before we send our money overseas."

"I am hopeful that your voice will be heard and that something will be done to see to it that these medical aides are paid for their work."

Rasmuson Bids Native BIA Commissioner

ANCHORAGE (Special) — "The next commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs should be an Alaskan."

Those were the words of Elmer Rasmuson this week, speaking from his Anchorage headquarters after completing a tour of western and northwestern Alaska. The Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate is campaigning hard in his self-styled "people-to-people" campaign.

Said Rasmuson, "Our native people are entirely capable of providing a man from among their number capable of heading up a national agency such as the BIA."

Rasmuson originally made his proposal before the Alaska Native Brotherhood convention in Ketchikan several months ago and has consistently repeated it throughout the campaign.

Returning from his swing through western and northwestern Alaska villages, Rasmuson said today "The most pressing problems for resolution for education, health, housing, economic development and land claims are right here in Alaska. Who is more qualified to resolve those problems than one of our native Alaskans?"

Rasmuson said that "no action on a bill to settle the native land claims came until our native leaders, joining with Governor Hickel, became active. Their pressure on Washington was such that our elected officials were forced to move into gear and get a bill started through the legislative process."

Rasmuson said it was his thought "That our people in Washington should have been aware of this problem years ago...and that it proves our natives in Alaska have shown their grasp of the biggest problem facing them, the resolution of the land claims that have been made."

Traveling over Alaska, Rasmuson has logged thousands of miles, talking and meeting with Alaska's natives. "Every-

where I go, whether an Aleut village in the Aleutians, an Athabascan town above the Arctic Circle, or a Tlingit village in Southeast, or an Eskimo community on the coast, I find the natives very much aware of the processes of government. They wonder, as do many other Alaskans, who is listening to them," Rasmuson said.

"Alaska can lead the way for the entire country on the problem of its ability to deal with native problems and programs," Rasmuson said. "I'm certain that an Alaskan native could head up the BIA. What better idea than to have one of our own people, conversant with the problems, directing policy? It would be a refreshing outlook for government."

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Citizens for Gruening Committee, Box 237, Anchorage, CBE Warren, Chairman



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