

BLODGETT EYES U.S. SENATE

State Sen. Robert R. "Bob" Blodgett, D-Teller, has formally announced his candidacy against incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening who has served in the U.S. Senate since statehood.

Blodgett is challenging Gruening in the August 27 primary election.

The Teller Democrat has served in the state legislature since statehood as a State Representative until 1964 and thereafter as a senator.

In 1966 election Blodgett defeated another longtime Democrat in the legislature, Sen. Eben Hopson of Barrow in the primary when the two legislators battled for one seat imposed by reapportionment that combined their two districts.

Sen. Blodgett cited the following as his reason for

opposing Sen. Gruening:

-Gruening has failed to devote his attentions to the domestic problems of the people of Alaska.

-That many people know that Gruening is 82 years old and too old to carry on for leadership for government and business that should be handled by younger more energetic people.

-That great numbers of Democrats, independents and Republicans alike are dis-

pleased with Gruening's position on Vietnam.

-That Gruening has failed to bring housing for the rural areas of Alaska.

"Unfortunately," Blodgett said in his announcement, "Sen. Gruening has concentrated on international issues instead of our domestic problems on the Washington level. Alaska has huge domestic needs and goals—more than any other state."