

GOV.'S RACE A CLIFF HANGER

Wm. Egan Has Slight Lead, Gravel Wins, Hensley Is Trailing

By MARGIE BAUMAN

Democratic U. S. Senator Mike Gravel won an easy second term in Alaska's general election Tuesday, but some question remained in the Congressional race and the gubernatorial contest was a real cliff hanger.

Democratic Gov. William A. Egan and Republican

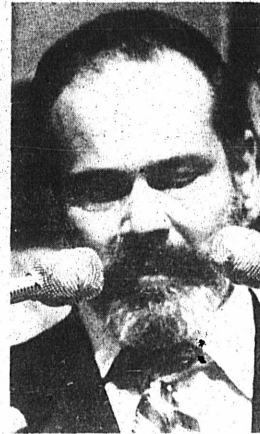
Jay Hammond of Naknek were neck and neck in a seesaw battle as precinct results trickled in early today and it was apparent that the race would be decided



SENATOR GRAVEL



GOV. WILLIAM EGAN



JAY HAMMOND



WILLIE HENSLEY



DON YOUNG

by absentee and question ballots thought to number in total some 8,000 votes — perhaps more.

In addition, an election worker at Anchorage said several hundred residents of rural Alaska had been casting absentee ballots in the election office for two days before the election.

"They were lined up ten deep," she said, adding that it appeared obvious from the campaign workers who brought them in that they were there to vote for congressional hopeful Willie Hensley.

The State Senator from Kotzebue, a Democrat with eight years legislative experience, was making his first try for Congress, but early today Hensley trailed incumbent Republican Don Young, of Fort Yukon, by some 8,000 votes.

Gravel meanwhile was more than 8,000 votes ahead of Anchorage Republican C. R. Lewis, a State Senator active in the John Birch Society. While Lewis attacked Gravel on his voting record and interest in national politics, Gravel was strongly critical of Lewis' affiliation with the ultra-conservative Birch organization.

One veteran election official, who asked not to be identified, said while Gravel's victory appeared obvious that of Congressman Don Young was not necessarily a clear victory yet.

(Continued on Page 6)

Cliff Hanger . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

checks any ballots that the districts may have questions on. The results are expected to be announced by Nov. 15 and that is when Alaskans will know whom their new governor is.

Latest results available early today showed Egan with 37,889 votes to Hammond's 37,779. Both men wound up their gubernatorial campaigns in the Fairbanks area on the weekend before the election — Hammond with a GOP beanfeed at Alaska-land and Egan with several functions including a party at the Silver Spur, a country-western bar on Fairbanks' Sunset Strip.

Hensley also swung through the Fairbanks area during the weekend, for some last minute campaigning that wound up with a walking tour down Second Avenue before catching a plane back to Anchorage about noon Monday.

A victory for Young would mean the first statewide win on all his own for the Fort Yukon legislator. Two years ago the republican party put Young up as its sacrificial lamb in the face of the extraordinarily popular Democrat incumbent, Nick Begich.

In the course of the campaign came the tragic disappearance of a campaign plane carrying Begich, U. S. House Majority leader, Hale Boggs, and two others. Though the plane was never found, Begich polled more votes in that election than Young and it took a special election in which Young defeated nominee Emil Notti to get him into office.

Tuesday night Young was obviously pleased with the outcome and old supporters in an Anchorage hotel "I think we've got it."

Hensley, in contrast, said he was not predicting anything and left the hotel with his wife and infant daughter, leaving behind saddened supporters.

Young pushed his campaign as that of "An Alaskan for All Alaskans," a slogan which was strongly criticized by Hensley supporters as smacking of racism. Young whose wife is Athabascan, denied the charge.

American Independent Party candidate Joe Vogler ran a distant third. With 274 or 434 precincts in, his unofficial tally was 3,418 votes.

— Other Races —

Incomplete, unofficial returns coming in from various areas of the state showed Democrat Nels Anderson, Dillingham, the winner in State House District 16, with Brenda Itta, Barrow, carrying House District 19 for Northwest Alaska. Itta ran unopposed

for the House seat formerly held by State Rep. Frank Ferguson, of Kotzebue and Ferguson ran unopposed for Hensley's old seat.

In House district 17, incumbent Democratic Rep. Phillip Guy, Kewthluk, held a solid margin over Republican Henry Shavings, with 17 of 24 precincts in and in House district 18, Jimmy Huntington, Galena, had a very slim margin over former legislator Martin Moore of Emmonak. Huntington and Moore both ran as independents and were separated by just 41 votes at press time.

In Southeastern Alaska the apparent winners included State Sen. Robert Ziegler, D-Ketchikan; State Sen. Bill Ray, D-Juneau; State Rep. Oral Freeman, D-Ketchikan; State Rep. Terry Gardiner, D-Ketchikan; State Rep. Ernie Haugan, R-Petersburg, Democrat Ed Flynn of Sitka and Democrats Jim Duncan and State Rep. Mike Miller of Juneau.

In the Anchorage area, unofficial returns show Clark Gruening, son of the late U.S. Senator Ernest Gruening, to be the top vote getter in House District 7, followed by Kathryn Ostorsky, and State Rep. Bill Parker, all Democrats. Republican Rep. Tom Fink, who served as Speaker of the House in the 1973-74 session, got the fourth seat in District 7, with one thousand votes less than Gruening.

Other unofficial election results for the Anchorage area were:

House District 8: (four seats) to Democrats Susan Sullivan, Ramona Kelley, Bob Bradley and Sam Cotten.

House District 9 (two seats) to State Rep. Rick Urion and Warren Call, both Republicans;

House District 10 (two seats) to Democrat Willard Bowman and Republican Dr. Helen Beirne, both incumbents;

House District 12 (two seats) to Democrat Helen Fischer and Republican Mike Hershberger.

In the Senate race, incumbent Democrat John Rader won handily in District J, while former Alaska Commissioner of Economic Development Irene Ryan lost to Republican Mike Colletta in District I.

Republican incumbent Joe Orsini was re-elected in Senate District H and Democrat Patrick Rodey was the winner in Senate District G. Democrats Ed Willis and Republican Terry Martin took the two District F Senate seats.

(More complete election coverage will be contained in the next issue of Tundra Times).