

Festive Sitkans Fete Senator Nick Begich; He Calls for 'NASA of the Sea,' ARTCA Program

SITKA—The Volunteers for Begich Committee of this Southeastern Alaska city last Saturday night hosted a highly successful fund-raising dinner for congressional candidate, Senator Nick Begich here. The master of ceremonies for the dinner was Begich for Congress chairman, Stumpy Baughn.

An overflow crowd enthusiastically participated in the evening's festivities which centered around a buffet-style Chinese dinner catered by Mrs. Martha Brown, a local chef.

Head table guests included Mrs. Margaret Petro, co-chairman of the Begich campaign here, Herbie Hope, president of the Sitka chapter of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, his wife, Hilda, president of the Sitka Alaska Native Sisterhood, Father Sonas and Father Mike, both of the Russian Orthodox Church, state Senator Howard Bradshaw, Begich, and Ann

Filler, general chairman of the evening affair.

Senator Bradshaw, who gave his official endorsement to Sen. Begich for Congress, introduced the Anchorage senator.

In after dinner remarks, Sen. Begich spoke of the role of foreign policy and its affect on Alaska. His remarks were also concerned with two of the planks of his six-point fishing program, a depletion allowance for fishing and a "Nasa of the Seas."

In discussing the North Slope oil development, Sen. Begich's remarks were centered around the "ARTCA" program which he has discussed frequently in his campaign.

"It is through an agency such as I propose, an Arctic Research, Training and Co-operative Agency, with funds derived from governmental and private sources, that we can solve so many of the problems of the

North Slope, create jobs, train Alaskans to fill these jobs, and co-operate with private enterprise in the fields of research and development," Begich said.

In his concluding remarks, Begich strongly emphasized the one issue which he said has become one of overriding interest to Alaskans he has met in the last eleven months of his campaign, that of ethics in government.

"No issue is of more concern to the citizens of Alaska than honesty in government and financial disclosure by public officials. Since I introduced the financial disclosure bill in the legislature, I have found that there is an urgency and concern on the part of everyone that we need ethics and morality emphasized in government at all levels," ended Begich.