Sen. Mike Gravel Fires Barrage At AEC on Nuclear Testing

WASHINGTON-U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) fired another barrage at the Atomic Energy Commission Thursday in an effort to secure an independent review of U.S. underground nuclear testing.

Senator Gravel re-introduced a measure calling for an independent study of nuclear testing program. This measure was directed at pollution problems and was referred to the Senate Public Works Committee.

The bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), Chairman of the Public Works Committee and Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution.

The earlier resolution, pointing

to possible foreign policy problems, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and resulted in a public hearing where leading scientists spoke out against the testing program pending a study.

Senator Gravel was the lead witness during the hearing, held two days before the 1.2 megaton nuclear blast at Amchitka Oct. 2.

The measure would create a 15-man study commission composed of leading scientific experts, Senator Gravel said. They would be appointed by the President and evaluate the environmental risks attendant upon the use of underground nuclear energy.

"We in Congress are continually investigating the known

and suspected hazards related to automobile exhausts, industrial wastes, pesticides and numerous other areas of pollution," Senator Gravel said.

"Certainly we should give no less study to a pollutant-radioactivity-that is more deadly than all other scourges, and a menace which, once created by man cannot be destroyed," he told the Senate.

Tundra Times, Friday, October 24, 1969 SUBSCRIBE NOW

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Former Governor Egan May Run for Governor

Politics in the State of Alaska are stirring and along with them rumors are beginning to drift around.

One of the persistent rumors at the moment is that former Governor William A. Egan will be going after his former office, the governorship of the State of Alaska.

The conjecture is that Egan will announce his intentions shortly after the first of the year in January or February of 1970.

At the recent Tundra Times banquet in Anchorage, the former governor was given an enthusiastic ovation when the Tlingit

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811 8th Ave., Anchorage -Serving Alaska since 1939master of ceremony Jim Thomas announced the presence of William Egan.

The banquet audience of over 600 people represented an important cross section of the population of the state.

In less degree of conjecture is that state legislator Wendell P. Kay will again seek the governorship of Alaska which would pin him against Egan in the primaries if the latter decides to run. Egan and Kay are Democrats.

On the Republican side, the incumbent Governor Keith H. Miller has already announced his intentions to succeed himself.

Rumors are also rampant that Congressman Howard W. Pollock R-Alaska, might seek the office of the governor. Rumors also have it that Senator Ted Stevens a Republican, might also seek this office.

Former Governor Egan was narrowly defeated for governorship by the former Republican Governor Walter J. Hickel in the election year of 1966. Hickel was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Richard Nix-

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