

H78-62-01/02

Red Boucher and Mike Gravel

KTVF news

February 15, 1974

Red Boucher talks about Alyeska and the plans for the use of Fort Wainwright. He believes that Fort Wainwright will be maintained for military purposes. He thinks that local and state government and the oil industry must work together. He believes all the information should be shared openly.

The interviewer asked him what his political plans are for the year. He has enjoyed serving as Lt. Governor to the state. He plans to file for the position in 1974 again with Bill Egan running for governor. He has always been involved with the Goldpanner baseball team and still is. He thinks it is a fantastic program.

The interviewer asked Mike Gravel if he criticized Ted Stevens for drafting the emergency legislation for energy. Mike Gravel said Ted Stevens served on the committee that drafted the legislation but he did not criticize Ted Stevens. He thinks it is up to the people of Alaska to make their own judgments. He believes it will cost Americans and Alaskans money. He thinks it will cause people to drill abroad and increase costs. He doesn't think inflation will be stopped by the government. He believes in a policy of abundance not scarcity. The interviewer asked Gravel about Petroleum Reserve no. 4. Gravel would like to see Petroleum Reserve no. 4 opened and leased on a royalty basis. Stevens does not believe it should be opened. Gravel believes it should be added to the inventory. Stevens thinks it will affect the price of leasing lands. The interviewer asked about Alyeska leasing property at Fort Wainwright. Gravel believes that the local business community needed to be protected and Alyeska understands that. He wanted to get the post in the hands of the borough and now the rental money will go to the Army. He arrived on the Concorde and comments on his trip.

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Mike Gravel

Larry Holmstrom, interviewer

Red Boucher talks on the KFRB Beeline radio program. Red Boucher talks about an initiative procedure to move the capital from Juneau. He thinks that moving the capital may be in the legislature, too. It could be included on the primary or general ballot. The interviewer asked what the feeling in the state is about a capital move. Red said that he has the responsibility of carrying out the people's wishes. He tries to avoid generalities. Some parts of the state want the move as a matter of convenience. The southeastern part of the state views it as a matter of survival. Red sees it as a stressful decision and divisive to the state. The interviewer comments that Red was mayor in Fairbanks eight years ago and was the first person to break down the walls between Fairbanks and Anchorage. He would like to improve communication from the capital. It could be used for medical and educational purposes. The state needs to be a united Alaska. He intends to run for Lt.

Governor. He has enjoyed the position. He explained that in the primary the Lt. Governor and Governor run separately. Interviewer commented about Governor Egan running for his position again. Wally Hickel is running for the position, too. Red Boucher discusses the possibility of other candidates.

The interviewer asked him about Fort Wainwright. Red Boucher talked about the base. In 1968 they approached the army to annex the base so the city would have first option on the property. There are facilities on the base that the community could use such as the schools. He isn't opposed to Alyeska using the base as long as it does not harm the community of Fairbanks. He thought the public relations approach was not handled well. He thinks the operations shouldn't be so secret. He said this is an Alaska resource and Alyeska should be a good neighbor and part of the community. Scoop Jackson is discussed. Discussion of contracting for vehicles out of Anchorage instead of in Fairbanks. There is one company, Atlantic Richfield, that was good with public relations and buying within the company. Some of the other companies are too busy to bother with Alaska. He believes Fairbanks interests should come first. The interviewer asked what Red thought was going to happen in the next few months. Red thinks in the next few months and decade Fairbanks will be the supply center. He thinks there will be some administrative offices here. He thinks more exploration will happen because of the pipeline. He suggested that Dunbar on the railroad be annexed to the borough for an industrial area. He thinks it would be a disservice to Fairbanks to allow unchecked growth. He at one time suggested that the North Slope be annexed to the borough.

Mike Gravel

Mike Gravel talked about his trip on the Concorde. Mike believes that the United States will remove a ban on supersonic transport. The military is building this type of transport. He talked about the why the Concorde aircraft is ideal for travel in Alaska. Question from a caller about Mike Gravel voting for the SST. Mike said he did vote for it. A question from a caller about selling wheat to countries that sells oil for increased prices. Mike said that the cost of wheat has also increased. Mike talked about embargoing soybeans. Larry said that some people have suggested that the U.S. increase their prices when oil goes up. Mike explained selling on the world market. Mike believes in a freedom of price market. Any time there is government involvement that makes problems. Larry reads about Mike's approval rating for his voting for women's rights. A question from a caller about losing federal support for legal services. Mike thinks it might be because of the withdrawal of federal funds in general for legal services. A question from a caller who asked about Stevens going against Alaska on the energy bill. He also wanted to know why the U.S. can't manufacture SST. Larry explained the energy legislation before the Congress that Mike Gravel objects to. Mike answers the second question first. He thinks it is ridiculous that the plane will not be manufactured here but they are tested here. He thinks the U.S. should be manufacturing it. Mike isn't sure what Stevens's reasons are for voting the way he did on the energy bill. Mike is strongly opposed to the emergency energy bill. Price gouging was on the bill. It was voted down in the Senate. It came back to conference with the idea to roll back the price of oil. Mike cites the problem when the price for chicken was frozen. The inflationary problem with oil problems was because of Arab actions. We are becoming more and more dependent on foreign oil.

H78-62-02

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Mike talks about a bill he voted for to give an additional tax deduction for monies spent on education. Caller talked about a bill for student loans. Mike corrects her that the legislation that she is talking about was at the state level and not at the federal level. Larry asked about the omnibus energy bill that is before the congress. Mike is on a finance committee. One of the parts of the bill covers a trust for research and development to try to make our nation self sufficient for energy. He hopes there is a breakthrough in energy efficiency. He considers the energy crisis a real crisis. He thinks the financial crisis could be serious for the United States. Another question from a caller about stopping the Food and Drug Administration from limiting vitamins. Mike said he is opposed to the government limiting dosages. He thinks the government is taking the wrong stance. A question from a caller about halting the flow of money to South Korea, South Vietnam, and others. Mike said the military aid to these countries is a waste of money. He believes in self determination for this country and other countries. He said in the recent past things looked bleak and comments about taking away the veil of secrecy in government. In a democracy you can only operate if the people know what is going on. He has more hope for a democracy today than there has been in a number of years.