

H78-65

Mike Gravel

Comments on the alert for U.S. troops because of the Middle East crisis

Broadcast center news, Fairbanks, Alaska

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News broadcast about the United States troop precautionary alert including troops in Alaska concerning the crisis in the Mid-East. Bruce Stasser said that the Alaska National Guard was not put on alert.

Don Young comments about the alert. He said that the United States and the Soviet Union have been pushed into an adversary relationship. The Soviet Union is considering sending troops to the Middle East to enforce the cease fire. He likens it to another Cuban missile crisis. He believes as long as the Mid-East war continues there is a threat to involve the super powers of the world. He believes that the nations of the war should intervene and bring the Middle East conflict to an end.

Mike Gravel talked about the alert. The United States is in a peace-keeping position in the area. He questioned the president's decision to call an alert. He talked about President Nixon's domestic problems. He hopes that the United States is not being drawn into another war. He wonders if there is any need to place all of the troops on the alert. He said the congress will demand more information before making a decision. Mike said at this point he would object to sending troops to the area. He does believe in sending money to supply arms to the area.

Mike Gravel talks about the proposed NASA Earth Resources project at Fort Wainwright. He said they were still waiting on the study of the project by Dr. Fletcher. He doesn't see any difficulty with the proposal. He commented on the troop alert. He said the Russians hadn't done anything that would warrant an alert. He didn't think it was right for the president to call the alert and not explain why it was done. Mike was asked about Senator Jackson's bill to open up the National Petroleum Reserve for exploration and development. Mike said he wanted to propose a bill to open up all the petroleum reserves. He said the difference between Jackson's and his bill was his plans to have the private sector develop the reserves while Jackson is proposing the government developing the reserves. He was asked about running for re-election next year. Mike said it was too early to make a decision.

Mike Gravel is interviewed by Larry Carpenter about the alert concerning the Mid-East. Mike Gravel didn't know if the alert is warranted. He questions President Nixon's motives. He hopes that the United States isn't being drawn into a war in the Middle East. Larry Carpenter asked Mike Gravel's opinion about Cox's firing by President Nixon. He discusses the possibility of impeachment of the president. The pipeline bill is discussed. He doesn't think the president will veto the bill. He believes that the construction of the pipeline will begin in the spring. Mike is asked about the Naval Petroleum Reserve no. 4. He would like to see the reserve opened for exploration and development. He differs from Senator Jackson by wanting the private sector do the work and not the government. He believes that the U.S. needs more energy resources developed. His new chairman

position on the Finance Committee's Energy Committee is discussed. Larry asked about Fort Wainwright. He disagrees with Steven's approach to keep the military there. Mike thinks they may not continue the activity there and the property should be used productively. He has been trying to make the property an earth satellite laboratory used by NASA. He doesn't want the property to stay in the military's hands if it isn't going to be used for military purposes.

Middle East |x Foreign public opinion, Western.
Arab-Israeli conflict.