

## **MIKE GRAVEL**

Mike Gravel represented Alaska in the U.S. Senate from 1969-81. He served on the Finance, Interior, and the Environmental/Public Works committees, chairing the Energy, Water Resources, and the Environmental Pollution subcommittees. Some of his accomplishments include:

- the successful filibuster of the draft, forcing its expiration;
- introduced the amendment, initially opposed by state, federal and oil industry officials, that allowed the construction of the Alaska Pipeline and changed the economics of the state and the U.S. oil supply;
- authored and secured passage of the General Stock Ownership Corporation in the U.S. Tax Code, and negotiated a tentative agreement with British Petroleum Corporation to sell their interest in the Alaska Pipeline to the proposed Alaskan General Stock Ownership Corporation (this effort to broaden the ownership of capital to citizens of Alaska was defeated in the state's 1980 general election);
- initiating a critique of and building worldwide opposition to the non-military use of nuclear fission reactors for the generation of commercial electricity, limiting the environmental threat from the continued production of nuclear wastes and the proliferation of bomb-grade nuclear materials;
- leadership in halting the last series of Cannikin nuclear test explosions under the seabed of the North Pacific, limiting the expansion of this unusual threat to the marine environment and the potential contamination of the food chain;
- authorship and co-authorship of legislation in the areas of water, air, wastes, satellite communications, productivity, taxation, energy, and the environment; and
- co-authored the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, removing the federal government's paternalistic role in the management of native economic affairs.

Mike Gravel served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1963-66, and as Speaker from 1965-66, where he:

- authored legislation designing the structure and budgeting for a regional high school system for rural Alaska, permitting native students to receive their education near their homes rather than travel to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' schools outside Alaska; and
- enacted legislative reforms, securing budgets to provide staffs for members and to expand research and support facilities, initiated electronic voting, and developed a hearing process between sessions throughout the state that fostered citizen participation.

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Books authored by Senator Gravel are *Jobs and More Jobs*, *Citizen Power*, and co-authored *A Political Odyssey*, and the *Kingmakers*. He used his position as a senator to release the Pentagon Papers and facilitated their publication as *The Senator Gravel Edition, Pentagon Papers*, Beacon Press. This publication occasioned litigation, U.S. v. Gravel, resulting in a landmark Supreme Court decision relative to the Speech and Debate Clause of the United States Constitution.

Senator Gravel enlisted in the U.S. Army (1951-54) and served as an adjutant in the Communications Intelligence Services and as a Special Agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps. He received a B.S. in Economics at Columbia University, New York, and holds four honorary degrees in law and public affairs.

Senator Gravel's business career in Alaska encompassed real estate sales and developments in Anchorage and Kenai. His business activities have encompassed real estate, finance, and energy. He is president of The Democracy Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, dedicated to the establishment of direct democracy in the United States.

Senator Gravel lectures and writes about governance, capitalism, Social Security, tax reform, energy, environmental issues, civil rights and direct democracy. He is married to Whitney Stewart Gravel and has two grown children and four grandchildren.