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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Alaska's Digital Archives adds JFK speech

JUNEAU -- On November 10, 1958, at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theatre in downtown Juneau, United States Senator John F. Kennedy spoke before a crowd of about 700 persons.

After an introduction by former Governor Ernest Gruening, Senator Kennedy responded:

"I came to Alaska to pay a debt of gratitude. If I had been successful in receiving all the votes of the Alaska delegation at the last Democratic convention I might have been nominated for Vice President of the United States and my political career would now be over. So I've come here to express my thanks for your not supporting me.

I am one of a series of visiting politicians who are disturbing the peace in Alaska during the last few months. The magnetic effects of Alaska – you've been able to move the Dept. of Interior here – and cause the Secretary of Interior [Fred A. Seaton] to spend more time here in the last month than he has in any time in which he or any other Republican Interior Secretary has found it possible to spend in the past 6 years."

Senator Kennedy continues by urging Alaskans to vote for Bob Bartlett and Ernest Gruening to the United States Senate and Ralph Rivers to the U.S. House of Representatives. All three candidates were elected.

Kennedy's speech is available in Alaska's Digital Archives at: [vilda.alaska.edu](http://vilda.alaska.edu). Search for John F. Kennedy speech. Be advised: a media player that supports MPG or MP3 is necessary.

The public is also invited to visit the Alaska Historical Collections Reading Room, State Office Building, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, where the speech is available on CD, Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Gladi Kulp, 907-465-2926 or [gladi.kulp@alaska.gov](mailto:gladi.kulp@alaska.gov) or Sean Lanksbury, 907-465-1309 or [sean.lanksbury@alaska.gov](mailto:sean.lanksbury@alaska.gov).

The logo for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. It features a circular emblem with a hand holding a torch. Below the emblem, the text "EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

EDUCATION  
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT