

U.S. SENATOR TED STEVENS AT  
ALASKA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL LUNCHEON.  
October 28, 1994 Anchorage Hilton. Wade Reynolds. President. 100-175  
attendees including Theresa and Margaret (8 years old) Obermeyer

Verbatim transcript of Senator Stevens comments during written questions and responses

WADE REYNOLDS:

“This is outside our purview. You may handle it as you like. After the meeting or you may answer it now.”

SENATOR STEVENS

‘Well, it’s a free country. People have a right to ask questions. ‘Since you were unwilling to move here for 90 days in 1960 when you’d been living in Washington, D.C. you were, therefore, admitted to practice law by reciprocity, please let us know if you ever took a written bar exam and where you are licensed to practice law?’”

Ms. Obermeyer you asked me that question at the Jewish synagogue: you asked me that question at the Chamber of Commerce: you asked me that question at the Rotary Club: you asked me that question at the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce: and I am pleased to answer you once again. I took a written bar examination in 1950 in California and I passed it. I took a written examination in the District of Columbia and I passed it. I came to Alaska in 1952. I entered law practice with Collins (ph) and Clasby (ph) in Fairbanks on motion under the old territorial procedure. I was then appointed by Judge Harry Patt (ph) to be a United States attorney. I served as United States attorney for Alaska in the northern district for 3 1/2 years. I was then transferred by the federal government to the Department of Interior in 1956. And in 1960 when I was ready to come back and find another job, after Nixon lost the election, I decided that I would file a motion to be admitted here by reciprocity. We had then become a state and the people that were involved here who were here during the time the transition took place were. I think, automatically admitted. Since I was in Washington there was another job. I did not seek automatic admission. I did seek admission by reciprocity in 1960. I came back in 1960 and I was here when I was admitted and there was a lawsuit over that was brought by a member of the bar. Challenged that: it went to the Supreme Court. And there’s a Supreme Court case you can read where the Supreme Court of Alaska ruled that I was eligible for admission by reciprocity since I had taken two written exams and I had been a U.S. attorney in Alaska for 3 1/2 years before we became a state. I think that’s a full answer. I hope I don’t have to answer it again.

I want to warn you of one thing There is a stalking statute in Alaska You have stalked me now for a long time and I do not think it’s fair that every time I appear publicly, a non-germane question has to be asked of me because you appear. Thank you very much.”