

Ted Stevens Appeals for Unity

FAIRBANKS—The Alaska Native land claims issue is "hung up dead center" in the U. S. Congress, Sen. Ted Stevens warned members of the Republican Central District Convention last week. And unless Alaskans unite it just may stay hung up.

"We've got to get that bill passed if Alaska is to continue to develop itself as a state," he said. "I urge every one of you to be responsible ... to be positive about the fact we've got to get that bill passed."

Stevens believes the land freeze, imposed on Alaska by the federal government, will not be lifted until the claims are settled. He also noted statements by oil company officials that the pipeline from the North Slope will not be built until the claims are settled.

He warned of a growing trend in government to preserve the federal land bank and predicted the conservationists might try and get into the act if claims litigation lingers.

He pointed out that the Case

Amendment to the land claims bill, if passed, would require the state to go before Congress for permission to build the oil pipeline. The amendment is backed by such men as Edmund Muskie and Ted Kennedy, he added.