

# Reject State Stand: Josephson

State Senator Joe Josephson has urged the Legislative Council to reject the argument that State participation in a Native land claims settlement would be unconstitutional, and has expressed the hope that the present legislature would be the first in history to participate fairly in a settlement.

Josephson said that the advice given the Legislative Council by Juneau attorney Avrum Gross that state participation would be unconstitutional did not, in his judgment, take into account the federal court decision in the Nenana case.

"This decision," he said, "clearly indicated that the State's

selected land is exposed to potential claims by Alaska Natives."

He said every sovereign state must have the inherent power to dispose of existing or potential adverse claims.

Josephson, who is an attorney, said, "It is ironic that the Attorney General of the State, who argues against state participation on the ground of state sovereignty, would fail to see the constitutional issues in this context."

He said he feared that the State's position would lead to endless litigation.

Josephson is a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate seat now held by Senator Ted Stevens.