

Sen. Kennedy Explains Why He Voted Against Bill

Senator Edward Kennedy was one of the eight senators who

voted against the Senate land claims bill and in a telegram to the Tundra Times explained why he took that action.

Voicing full support for \$500 million cash compensation and the \$500 million in royalty payments, the Massachusetts Senator said he felt the bill should not be accepted by the Senate because the land provisions were not acceptable to the natives.

"We are not giving the Na-

tives anything," the Senator said.

"They have lived on the land from time immemorial. They have never sold it, never negotiated a treaty, never been conquered, and Congress has never dealt with these Natives other than in terms of recognition of their rights."

"We are determining, here and now," he continued, "how much of their own land they are to be allowed to keep, and we must

respect the natives own estimate of their minimum needs."

Kennedy who visited Alaska including rural areas, a little over a year ago in connection with his work as a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education, noted before the Senate that the natives presently claim over 300 million acres of land.

They presently use over 80 million acres of land and estimate the minimum amount nece-

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Sen. Kennedy . . .

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ssary for subsistence and economic security is 40 million.

The bill provides for a grant of about 10 million acres.