

Special Session Opposed—

Josephson Troubled

State Senator Joseph Josephson said last weekend he is "deeply troubled" by Governor Miller's call for a special legislative session on the pipeline road question.

In a statement issued today by Josephson's U.S. Senate campaign headquarters in Anchorage, the Democratic legislator warned that the special session could "produce no miracle solution" and would "only create further tragedy for the swelling numbers who have been lured to Alaska by irresponsible Republican drum beating and now would be encouraged to remain in vain hopes of a quick resolution of

the problem."

"The mass concentration of unemployment now facing Alaska," the Senator's statement went on, "involves not only the pipeline delays but is inseparable from the disastrous national economic politics of the Nixon administration. Someone has got to take the responsibility to tell the President that by deliberately increasing unemployment around the nation he has created a crisis in this state."

Senator Josephson called "irresponsible and irrational" the Republican Governor's press releases that the TAPS road would be under construction soon.

Josephson also objected that the Governor's call was not nearly comprehensive enough.

"If we're really concerned about unemployment, we may have to look into a range of possible solutions: programs to build roads, schools and needed public facilities. The Governor has denied the Legislature the option of acting on such programs in this special session."

"Finally," the Senator's statement concluded, "I object to the call for a special session on construction of the road when the Governor has taken no action to resolve the legal obstacles to road construction. The question of the Native claims and the present injunction by the District Court in the District of Columbia must be met head on."

Josephson called on the Governor to get these matters settled before the special session begins.