

***Editorial—***

# **State Legislature And Native Claims**

There is a hopeful sign that the Sixth Alaska State Legislature might be establishing a more meaningful position on the Alaska native land claims issue if the utterances of its important members materialize into action. The attitude seems to be a good one and one that could fashion a more realistic one than the current stand by Alaska's governor and the stand that has been taken by the state's Chamber of Commerce and other individuals.

As a lawmaking body of the State of Alaska where its members are elected by the people, the legislators can fashion a position their people back home can live with. They know, of course, that the state needs to have an important stand on an issue which has, and will in the future, influence the lives of the people of the whole state. That influence is not as ominous as some people would like to have Alaska's people think, but it is one that can be beneficial for all.

The land issue now facing this northern country must be viewed realistically. It is a great problem and it deserves no halfway effort to arrive at its resolution. It is a historic issue and it must be thought of as such.