

Adams responds to charges

Charges concerning Sen.-elect Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, made by Anchorage contractor Thomas Gittins in the North Slope corruption trial led Adams to respond publicly last week, according to a statement he issued to the press.

"Acting on the advice of my attorney I have until now remained silent during the trial of Lewis Dischner and Carl W. Mathisen," Adams said. "Being neither a defendant in the case nor as yet called to testify, I have considered responses to media inquiries an improper and unfair forum for myself, the public and those actually accused."

Adams said, however, that

testimony offered under immunity last month by Gittins produced allegations he could no longer ignore.

"These are false allegations that if left uncorrected, hold potential for damage to both my personal and professional reputation," he said. "Lacking status as an active participant in this trial, I am forced to seek another method for a fair and equitable review."

Gittins claimed that he paid \$772,668 between 1982 and 1984 to Adams for his influence at getting jobs for Gittins Construction Inc.

Legislative leaders have said an investigation may be undertaken by the Select Committee on Legislative

Ethics into issues raised by Gittins.

Adams said he would welcome such a probe.

"Through that process I have no doubt I will be treated fairly, cleared of any wrongdoing and shown to have conducted my business activities above any question of impropriety," he said. "Beyond that and more importantly, the evidence will show that the interests of my constituents were foremost in my mind, then and now."

Adams said he has "full faith" in the judicial process to determine the guilt or innocence of those being tried and he remains unwilling to participate in a "trial by press."