

Joe Josephson Asks Increase in Land

BETHEL—State Senator Joe Josephson called for a substantial increase in acreage in the Alaska native land claims bill now pending before Congress. The U.S. Senatorial candidate spoke before an Independence Day gathering in Bethel today.

Josephson said "he was dismayed" at his primary opposition's reported support of the land provisions as proposed by the Senate Interior Committee's settlement bill. "The amount of land," Josephson said, "is just not adequate."

"If what the land provision of the committee's bill is trying to do is perpetuate the outrageous injustice to Indian people," Josephson said, "the present proposal suits that purpose."

"But I believe the purpose of the legislation should be not only to make a rightful settlement of the aboriginal claims, but to end for all time the degrading dependent status—at least here in Alaska—which American Indians have had to endure."

"I believe," the Anchorage legislator declared, "that the most forceful influence on Con-

gress right now should be the Alaskan people. We should be prepared to speak for the conscience of the nation, to say boldly and clearly and without bitterness that justice will be done."

Alaska stands divided now on the claims issue," Josephson said, "because we have not accepted the clear mandate of justice which challenges us. If, as some have said, a more equitable land claims settlement will set a 'dangerous precedent,' it will be the same kind of dangerous precedent for justice which has made American strong and great."

"Native groups," the Senatorial candidate went on, "did the state a justice by seeking a Congressional settlement and not crippling Alaska with decades of litigation. We must return their commitment to justice with our own."

"Alaskans should resolve to insist on Congressional action on a claims settlement this year, and should insist that that settlement be acceptable to Native Alaskans."

"If we can get this matter swiftly and satisfactorily out of the way," Josephson concluded, "we can join together and work out the destiny of this great state as one people, equal in opportunity and equal in responsibility."