



**POLITICAL OPPONENTS**—Depending on the outcome of the primary election, the two men, Sen. Ted Stevens, left, and State Sen. Joe Josephson might oppose each other in the general election of 1970.

## Stop Claims Backlash: Stevens

Sen. Ted Stevens cautioned that the white backlash on the native land claims issue "must stop" or the development of Alaska will be postponed for 20 to 30 years during a speech in Fairbanks on Tuesday.

Speaking at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Chamber of

Commerce at the Traveler's Inn, the Republican U.S. Senator explained that no congressional settlement on the land claims issue will be forthcoming if the backlash continues.

"And I am convinced," he said, "that a settlement in this Congress is absolutely essential."

For, if Congress does not act, the matter will go to the courts where a settlement might not come for 20 to 30 years of hiatus in its development."

Stevens, who will be asking the people of Alaska to return him to Washington in the election this year, emphasized that he had

(Continued on page 6)

# Sen. Stevens Urges . . .

(Continued from page 1)

received many complaints from people who opposed the support he had given the natives.

"I don't believe," he said, "that you should make a decision on the basis of how many votes you can get for taking a certain stand."

Drawing laughter from the 50 or more Chamber members, Stevens added, "I got there (the Senate) by an act of God and it will probably take an act of God to keep me there."

The Anchorage attorney was twice an unsuccessful candidate for the seat before being appointed to the post following the death of E.L. Bartlett in Dec. of 1968.

Concerning his specific stand on the native land claims issue, Stevens explained that he and Sen. Mike Gravel have dropped their compromise stand at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The senators' proposal had called for a \$500 cash settlement, \$500 million more derived from a 2 per cent royalty on state and federal oil lands, and legal title to 10 to 12 million acres with surface rights to about 35 million acres.

The AFN's position calls for legal title to 40 million acres rather than 10 to 12 million leading the organization to make its request.

When questioned on the stand that he is now taking, Stevens explained that the proposals from various parties have been rejected as units and that the different sections of the various positions have all been thrown into the hat and will be considered individually as the committee seeks to come to some agreement.

Noting that the work of the committee could not be revealed to the public at this time, the senator added that the group hopes to present a proposal by the end of the month for senate action.

Stevens expressed regrets that the AFN had not approved the compromise, because he said he thought the proposal might have

had a chance.

"Gravel and I tried to work out some way to preserve the land use where that use was first and necessary to maintain a subsistence economy," the senator said.

Raising his voice slightly in emphasis, he said that the cash compensation is not excessive for the lands in question.

"The \$500 million is probably one of the lowest settlements that has been made," he stressed, "and I get disturbed at Alaskans who will not look at the equity of the situation."

During his speech, he also explained that, to his knowledge, none of the records from the Fairbanks Land Office would be moved to Anchorage as had been reported.

The only changes taking place involved sending two adjudicators and one draftsman from the Fairbanks to the Anchorage office.