

***Editorial—***

# **Commendation for Lowell Thomas, Jr.**

We were pleased and heartened by the stand declared by State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. by publicly opposing Gov. Keith Miller's position on the native land claims.

Sen. Thomas' stated opinion on what the state's position on the claims should be at this crucial period would spell vindication, we think, on the state's role on the land solution in Alaska and which could set well in the minds of great many people in the state today and those in the future. We say vindication because of the hard line position the governor has taken to date against the native claims.

It is indeed difficult to understand why the servant of the state, Gov. Keith Miller, has taken the position he has. It seems to smack the flavor on his part of serving special interests instead of the people of Alaska as a whole. Such men as Sen. Thomas and others might have sensed this possibility and have begun to speak out because the direction Miller is leading his state might be a dangerous one for Alaska and its people.

It is most imperative that the state administration takes a more realistic position on one of the most crucial issues Alaska has faced. Gov. Miller should take a considered hard look at the situation. To heed what Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. has said can well mean salvation for the people of Alaska. We also hope that other men in important positions will join Thomas so the Alaskan public can fall in behind them and force the powers that be to take a more realistic position on the land claims. The Congress would then have a firmer base from which to spring a strong legislation to solve the native land claims in Alaska. And time is of the essence.