



NOMINATION HEARINGS — During the hearings Morris Thompson, center, is shown with, left to right: Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska,

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton, Thompson, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Sen. Paul Fannin, R. Ariz.

Morry Thompson Approved

Confirmation of Morris Thompson, Athabascan Indian from Tanana, as the new Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs was recommended Tuesday by the U.S. Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Tundra Times Washington news sources indicate that the Senate will vote to approve the nomination of Thompson

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Thompson Approved

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today and that the 34 year old Alaskan will be sworn in as Commissioner by President Nixon on Friday.

During a telephone interview with the Tundra Times Tuesday, Thompson said, "The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs voted to concur in my nomination today. I am hopeful that Senate action will be forthcoming shortly."

Thompson, who was appointed area director for the BIA in Alaska during February of 1971, will become the youngest Commissioner of the BIA in the bureau's history.

In winning approval from the Senate panel, Thompson satisfied questions from committee members concerning his ability to protect the interests of non-resident Alaska Natives and clarified his relationship with Doyon Limited, a regional Native corporation owned by Athabascan Indians in Interior Alaska.

Thompson, a potential stockholder in the Doyon corporation under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, indicated a willingness to ensure there would be no conflict of interest because of his potential stock ownership in Doyon.

Thompson, who has been promised the authority of a

assistant secretary in the Interior Department, arrives at his new post with widespread support for his goal to create a new catalyst for Indian Affairs at the bureau.

A popular administrator both in Alaska and Washington, he is at the highlight of a remarkable career. Born to the late Warren Thompson and Alice Thompson in Tanana, he attended Tanana Day School and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in 1959.

He attended the University of Alaska and the RCA Institute in Los Angeles, graduating from that school as an electronic technician. He worked in that capacity at the Gilmore Creek Satellite Tracking facility near Fairbanks until January of 1967, when he was appointed Deputy Director of the Rural Development Agency by then Governor Walter J. Hickel.