

Gov. Envisions Village Growth

(EDITORS: The following copy is provided through the courtesy of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.)

FAIRBANKS—Gov. Walter J. Hickel told the NORTH Commission this week that "The time for action is now in moving to open the Alaska Arctic for the full-scale development of its vast resources."

The Governor painted a bright picture of the future of this great area to the north, saying:

"We are going to see villages grow into towns, and towns into cities, and a vigorous, new breed of people working and playing and raising families and building libraries, schools, museums, universities and theatres where there is nothing now but tundra."

"Why can't we do it?" Hickel asked. "We have the men to do it. We have the material to do it. I have said many times that things don't just happen—

men make things happen. We have fiddled around long enough. The time for action is now."

The North Commission, created by the Alaska Legislature to find ways of opening the Arctic to development, began a two-day meeting on the University of Alaska campus this week.

Its chairman, Al Swalling of Anchorage, described the task assigned to the commission as one of "overcoming almost insurmountable odds." But he said, "We welcome this task."

"We believe that what is good for this area is good for all," Swalling added.

Hickel left no question that in his opinion the construction of a railroad is the only way to open up and tap the resources of the Arctic.

He said surface transportation is not going to be built for any one industry, commodity, or company.

"We are going to build our railroad as an initial effort to

bring to the world market place all the minerals that are so abundant in our great north land.

"I see a railroad in the immediate future going through Anaktuvuk Pass...to the North Slope. I see a general staging area, and radiating out I see winter trails, pipelines, and as the permanent value warrants it, further extension of the railroad."

The Governor read a letter from Sen. E. L. Bartlett of Alaska to Transportation Secretary Alan Boyd in which Bartlett said immediate action must be taken to extend the railroad, and urged that \$4 million be spent now in a survey.