

Udall Withdraws All Public Lands

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has withdrawn all public lands in Alaska under the authority of the Pickett Act until December 1, 1970, or until Congress passes the native land claims bill, whichever is sooner.

Last Wednesday, Secretary Udall telephoned attorney Cliff Groh of Anchorage and told him that he had withdrawn the order and signed it.

"I think it is a courageous act on his part on behalf of the native people of Alaska," said Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Notti said that the board of directors of the AFN met yesterday in Anchorage to explore the implications of the land withdrawal.