

NIXON APPOINTS HICKEL SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR



NEW INTERIOR SECRETARY—Gov. Walter J. Hickel, the newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, is shown greeting a man and a bevy of native children during his swing to the rural areas last fall inspecting National Guard units in villages. The governor has developed a fine rapport with native people in his two years of office in Juneau.

Emil Notti Praises Appointment

"He brings to this office the problems of Indians and Eskimos of his state," said President-elect Richard M. Nixon as he introduced Gov. Walter J. Hickel of Alaska to the nationwide audience and designated him to be the next Secretary of the Interior.

Gov. Hickel will take the place of Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, the man Hickel on more than one occasion disagreed with during his two years of governorship of his state.

The most glaring of these was the governor's opposition to

(Continued on page 6)

Nixon Appoints . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Udall's inposition of the land freeze on much of Alaska's land area that is encompassed by native land claims.

Secretary Udall has sought to keep the freeze on until Congress acts on the solution to claims and awards made to the native people on lands lost.

The press in Alaska is speculating at the moment that the land freeze situation will be one of Hickel's urgent targets of work once he is officially installed as Secretary of the Interior.

The native leaders are also speculating how Hickel will proceed on the land freeze situation. They are wary and wonder whether the new secretary will impose some means of protection for native lands if he influences the lifting of the freeze.

Gov. Hickel's meteoric rise to prominence in the space of two years is the talk of the state. All but unknown in public circles, but well known in business circles, Hickel ran for governor over two years ago and defeated the incumbent Gov. William A. Egan.

Gov. Hickel quickly distinguished himself as a forceful man. He locked horns with the government on behalf of his state principally on the Jones Act as it applies to Alaska.

The governor's dynamic personality was noted by prominent

people of the country, and one of these was the President-elect Richard Nixon.

The two men seemed to hit it off well from the start. One of the manifestations of this was Gov. Hickel's energetic effort throughout the country campaigning for Nixon for President.

The governor, before he takes office, has another serious job to perform. He will have to appoint a successor to the late Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett who died last Wednesday morning.

Hickel, a Republican, will appoint a man from his party. The man who is being considered more than others is reportedly to be State Sen. John Butrovich of Fairbanks.

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, when contacted by Tundra Times has this to say about Nixon's appointment of Hickel:

"The appointment of Gov. Hickel as the Secretary of the Interior will prove to be of great benefit to Alaska. The governor knows the problems of Alaskans and has worked with native people to solve the land problem.

"He is as interested as we are in a fair solution."

Notti said that if Nixon had appointed someone else, it would take that man two years to get some idea of the problems in Alaska.