

Hickel calls for action

Alaska rallies against D-2



IT'S A HAPPY CAMPAIGN, and an active year for Wally and Ermalee Hickel. The duo is traveling the state, meeting Alaskans everywhere who are excited about a change in leadership.

Walter J. Hickel has issued a clear call for all Alaskans to support Senators Stevens and Gravel in their intention to filibuster any non-acceptable D-2 lands bill reaching the Senate floor.

In a speech to a packed assembly of Citizens for the Management of Alaska Lands (CMAL) members, Hickel said it's not too late to "stand up and fight this bill," and that passage would "make Alaskan Statehood an empty promise."

Hickel said he had never seen Alaskans so united on any subject, not even statehood. He called on Alaskans to write and cable

their Senators. "Don't leave them standing alone," he urged.

Hickel called on his audience to "examine what appears to be a plan to overthrow every fundamental principle of state's rights, every fundamental principle of free people in a free society."

In 1967, Hickel recalled, he filed suit against the federal government for abrogation of the Statehood Act by freezing selection of Alaska lands by the State. That suit was dropped under Governor Miller, was refiled by Governor Egan but has been allowed to lapse under the present incumbent.

Hickel said Alaskans assumed the Governor, with more constitutional power than any other Governor in America, would lead the battle against D-2. Instead, Hickel noted, outside environmentalists found "they

had friends in court in our administration in Juneau."

Citing the administration's lack of action, Hickel points to Representative Don Young's statement after D-2 breezed through the House. Representative Young said, "If the Hammond Administration had put forth a concentrated effort, we could have won on the House floor. We could have gotten any bill we wanted."

Hickel further called for an amendment to exempt Alaska from Section 603 of the BLM Organic Act which provides all roadless areas of more than 5000 acres be managed as wilderness. Hickel notes it was the intent of Congress to exempt Alaska from that act. He said this is another example of the Federal Government attempting to lock up as much of the land and
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