

GOVERNOR HICKEL SWORN IN



GOV. WALTER J. HICKEL AT FORT YUKON—Gov. Hickel, who was sworn in last Monday at the capitol at Juneau, is talking to Fort Yukon women during his campaign for the governorship of Alaska. Here he is explaining to Katherine Peter, center, and two other women and a boy, what he

would do with a new Department of Native Affairs. The Republican standard bearer visited many Interior and Arctic communities during the campaign as well as the Kuskokwim Delta and Southeastern areas.

—DALTON PHOTO

100 Well Wishers, Friends Attend Colorful Ceremony

Alaska has a new Governor. Standing among many friends and well wishers, his hand on a family bible, Walter J. Hickel was sworn into office last Monday as Alaska's second governor and its first Republican governor.

The oath of office was administered by Supreme Court Justice John H. Diamond in a short ceremony held on the crowded court room in the Capitol Building in Juneau.

About 100 persons crammed into the small chambers to watch Hickel pledge himself to the responsibilities and duties of Alaska's toughest job — the governorship. On hand for the ceremony were two of Hickel's six sons, Karl, 4, and Joseph, 12, and his wife, Emalee.

A few minutes before Hickel, Alaska's new Secretary of State, Keith Miller, took office.

Both outgoing Gov. William A. Egan and Secretary of State Hugh J. Wade attended the ceremony that marked the end of their eight years in the State's two highest administrative offices.

Shortly after the ceremony Governor Hickel went down to his third floor offices to greet well wishers and begin his term as Governor. The Governor has already made several key appointments in his cabinet, and will be making additional appointments over the next 45 days.

Among the appointments, the new Governor will make will probably be making will be the man to head the new Department of Native Affairs pledged by Gov. Hickel during the campaign. Hickel pledged to ask the legislature to create the new department, and appoint an Alaskan native as its head. The man would have cabinet status as a commissioner.

The new Governor also indicated he would include under the new Native Affairs Department a department to handle legal assistance to native people and groups. Hickel

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indicated that such a department would advise the native's of their rights.

The new governor was also handed the tools to work with by the voting public at the past election when they voted in a heavily republican Senate and House to support the new republican governor.

An Anchorage hotel owner and developer, Hickel has pledged an administration of economic development, which was the theme of his past campaign.

During the next month the Governor will proceed with the shaping of his new administration, he is expected to make additional appoint-

ments and will be busy preparing legislation for the convening of the legislature in late January.

As Governor Hickel occupies one of the most important positions in the State of Alaska, and will operate under a state constitution that gives him more power and control than any other state in the nation.

Often called a model constitution, the Alaska constitution, gives the Governor of the State the power he needs to get the job done, but also therefore makes the governor responsible for both successes and failures.