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# State Versus Hickel Land Freeze Suit in San Francisco

The test case involving lands in Alaska and which has been labeled, the State versus Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, will begin in San Francisco at 9:30 a.m. on November 14.

The State of Alaska will seek to win its case it filed over a year ago to have the Interior secretary lift the land freeze in Alaska that the former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall imposed in 1966.

Widely known as the "deep freeze," Udall disclosed his intentions at the 6th anniversary banquet of the Tundra Times on October 5, 1968 in Fairbanks. Secretary Udall was the principal speaker at the banquet.

Udall and the then Governor of Alaska Hickel chided one another during their speeches on the evening of the banquet.

Walter Hickel, who is now Secretary of the Interior himself, will be the target of the State in

the suit.

The freeze was imposed to protect the accustomed lands used and occupied by the native people of Alaska from state land selections until the settlement of the land claims.