

Governor Hickel to Veto Musk Ox Bill

Gov. Walter J. Hickel this week declared that he will veto a bill passed by the Alaska Legislature which would have allowed the musk ox to become a game animal.

"If this bill were allowed to become law," Hickel said, "we just as well pass a bill allowing people to go out in the Matanuska Valley and shoot milk cows."

"It would be about as sporting, and about as senseless when we've got a potential million dollar wool industry developing for the Arctic."

The measure, House Committee Substitute for Senate bill 185, passed the House last week on a vote of 24-11 after going through the Senate on a vote of 12-7.

"Opening up hunting of musk oxen is out of the question," Hickel said. "You could hardly call it sport to walk up to a tame animal that stands there looking at you while you shoot it."

The bill would authorize the Department of Fish and Game to issue big game tags for the taking of musk oxen when an open season was declared. The tags would go for \$500 for residents and \$1,000 for non-residents.

The musk ox is a potential source of a valuable wool industry. The wool known as qiviut is worth \$50 a pound according to the wool trade.

Easily tamed, the musk ox is in the process of being domesticated at a research station in College, Alaska under the direction of Prof. John Teal, Jr. The project is funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

Writing from Nome, Hugh Nicholls told Gov. Hickel that he was happy the governor will veto the bill.

"...This spring it is planned to start training men from several villages in herdsmanhood at the University of Alaska, the cost of which is borne by the Kellogg Foundation."

"In addition, the foundation is prepared to bring the equipment, textile experts and training facilities to the initial villages selected for development of local small textile industries which will mean a great deal to the economy of quite a few of our villages eventually..."



ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD—An advisory group to the Secretary of the Interior, the National Indian Arts and Crafts Board members were in Fairbanks last week. The group's chairman is Vincent Price, the famous actor, who was unable to come on the trip because he is now acting in a play in New York. The group was headed by vice chairman Alvin Joseph of Oregon and New York. Other members were: Mitchell Wilder, Fort Worth, Tex., accompanied by his wife; Royal Hassrick, Denver, Col., also accompanied by his wife; and Lloyd New, Santa Fe, N. Mex. New is the director Santa Fe Indian School of Arts and Crafts that enrolls talented

Indians and Eskimos throughout the United States. The group was honored with a no host dinner at the dinner club Switzerland where they gave talks. The group helps to establish markets for quality arts and crafts by native peoples of the country. They also showed keen interest in the education of the native people of Alaska and stressed that native culture, history and traditions should be part of the education. Pictured are, left to right: Helmut Van Flein, head of the University of Alaska art department; Mitchell Wilder; Mrs. Wilder; and Alvin Joseph.

(UA Photo by CHIP DAVIS)



Alaska Business Directory

Gov. to Hold Press Conference in D.C.

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel will hold a press conference for Capitol Hill newsmen at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Beginning a week from Tuesday, March 5, the Governor will hold regular press briefings throughout

the duration of the legislative session, at 9:30 a.m.

on Tuesdays, and at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays.

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