

Forrest Gerard announces his resignation

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard announced his resignation from that post this month and provided the Tundra Times with the following statement concerning his resignation.

"I have resigned my position

as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for strictly personal reasons. The responsibility for the education of my children has made it necessary for me to make this difficult decision to leave the Department of the Interior.

"Secretary Cecil Andrus assur-

ed me that the commitment to Indian people will continue and the position of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs will be filled. So far, there has been no decision on who will become the next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

"During The last two years, it has been my pleasure to serve the Indian people as their representative within the Interior Department. We have fought some battles. We have won more than we have lost.

"Among the tasks which I believe made a contribution on behalf of the American Indians is the establishment of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior, the devel-

opment of a Management Improvement Program and the implementation of Public Law 95-561, the Education Amendments Act of 1978 and of Public Law 95-471, the Tribally Controlled Community College Act of 1978. I believe these efforts have set the direction for better administration in Indian Affairs.

"I am also particularly pleased with the progress and direction of this Administration in the discharge of the nation's trust responsibility to Indian tribes. Substantial improvements have been made in the areas of minerals, forestry, and trust funds investments. During my Administration, the Bureau has greatly increased the emphasis given to these trust activities in

both personnel and fiscal resources.

"Because of major policy directives we have made, the President's Water Policy has taken on a genuine meaning for Indian tribes who desire to maintain a permanent tribal homeland on their reservations. This was made possible due to the establishment of plans, programs and procedures within the federal government. Other accomplishments in my administration included the passing of the Indian Religious Freedom Act and some settlements of large eastern land claims.

"I will be returning to private business here in Washington, D.C. when leave the government."



Forrest Gerard, center, with Yupiks in Washington in 1978.