

Pipeline Road ?—

Hickel Promises Significant Action

Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel's promised "significant action" on the trans Alaska pipeline during the next few days may be an announcement that construction will start on a highway from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean.

This is the hypothesis that Anchorage Daily Times' Business Editor Al Porter put forward in an article in that paper last Friday, predicting construction may begin in a few days.

The theory is based on several facts. First, that a road is an absolute necessity for construction of a pipeline. With construction camps and equipment already in place along the proposed pipeline route, much could be

accomplished if road work were to begin soon.

Road construction was bogged down earlier this year by the Interior department being unable to issue a permit. Additional information may now enable them to do so, with reasonable certainty the road will follow the pipeline route.

The incorporation papers for Alyeska, Inc., filed in August, list one of the firm's purposes as being to act as contractors to construct a road from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, under an agreement with the state of Alaska.

These papers were filed after the state's road plan was refused by Alyeska in June.