

Indian Omnibus Measure Posed for Public Comment

(EDITORS NOTE: In the following statement, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall supports the Indian Resources Development Act, better known as the Indian Omnibus Bill.

Secretary Udall implies that this bill has wide Indian support. "Not true," said the editor of the Navajo Times, published at Window Rock, Arizona.

"The majority of tribes who have publicly taken a position on the bill have opposed it," Editor Chet Mac Rorie asserted.

"Indian leaders have indicated they were in favor of such sections or titles as the revolving loan fund. They do not want the bill passed as a package but request it be broken up into separate bills covering the title contained and hearings be held on each of the separate titles separately.

"In this way they indicate they can reject the bad and accept the good provisions of the legislation and inform Congress of which they want and which they do not want."

Alaskans are being asked to examine this bill carefully in the next few weeks and to write their opinions to their regional Bureau of Indian Affairs office, for transmission to Washington, D.C.

Persons also can write directly to Robert Bennett, Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20242.

A limited number of copies of the bill are available on a first come-first served basis at regional B.I.A. offices. Secretary Udall's statement follows.)

