

# *Leaders Wary About New Attorney General*

Edgar P. Boyko's appointment Tuesday as state attorney general was greeted with less than elation by native leaders around the state.

"The appointment is a continuation of Governor Hickel's plan to strip the natives of their rights," Hugh Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, said, at Barrow.

"Natives have no rights as far as Boyko is concerned. The state is already following the policy that Boyko put out. I foresee no great change in it."

Nicholls said he had expected the appointment, but was puzzled as to why Boyko would give up an extremely lucrative law practice for the much lower salary he will receive as attorney general.

State Representative William Hensley at Kotzebue said he was reserving judgement about Boyko. "He's a

(continued on page 6)

# Leaders Wary About Appointment . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

tremendously intelligent fellow, but he's also a shifty old fox.

"At least with Donald Burr (present attorney general), people knew where he stood. He was definite. But it's difficult to say what Boyko will do. I don't know if he has any specific plans."

Eben Hopson, former state senator from Barrow said, "I really don't know him personally, but from what I've read about him in the

newspapers, it sounds like an effort on the part of the governor to maintain his stand. I think the natives are on pretty safe ground though, as long as we are given the opportunity to talk to him. He's persistent, but I believe he can be persuaded to change his mind."

Boyko's appointment will take effect around June 21, according to a release from Governor Walter J. Hickel's office.

Since late January he has served as special counsel to the state on native land claims at a fee of \$17,500. The fee was hotly contested by Rep. Hensley in the state legislature.

"His work on this matter of vital consequence to all Alaskans will continue to hold a top priority rating," Hickel said.

Boyko came to Alaska in 1952 from Washington, D.C. and served as regional chief counsel for the Bureau of Land Management.

From 1957 to 1959, he was assistant general counsel at Tidewater Oil Company where among other duties he handled legal problems connected with exploration activities in Alaska.

He also has headed the Acquired Lands Unit of the Minerals Division in the Washington office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Boyko has practiced law in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and more recently in Alaska and California.

He started his professional career as a chemical engineer and geologist.

He took his law degree in 1945 from the University of Maryland and a graduate law degree from the George Washington University in Washington, D. C.

He graduated from law school with the highest honors, was an editor of the MARYLAND LAW REVIEW and was elected to the Order of the Coif, a National Legal Honor Society.

Boyko is 48 years old, married and has two sons.