

Wright BIA Head?

Don Wright, recently fired as head of the Alaska Federation of Natives, has been named "among the top three" contenders for commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs by Washington sources.

Wright, one of seven Indians listed as candidates for the spot, faces heavy competition from the others. He endorsed Senator Ted Stevens and President Richard Nixon this year. He also was regional chairman for the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Both Stevens and Senator Mike Gravel will support Wright, their spokesmen say, and are meeting with him at Wildwood, near Kenai.

But support from the AFN is doubtful if Wright gets the BIA post. And other Indian leaders who are unhappy with Alaskan Indians and Eskimos because of the Native Land Claims Settlement Act might also create opposition.

Others named as possibilities are Webster Two Hawk, president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Council; Peter MacDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council; John Artichoker, BIA area director in Phoenix, Arizona; and Bruce Townsend, a Tulsa, Oklahoma lawyer.