



SECRETARY DESIGNATE—Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior-designate, right, is conferring with Alaska Democrat Sen. Mike Gravel in the latter's senatorial office in the nation's capitol. Sen. Gravel said he was greatly

heartened by Morton who showed obvious appreciation of the importance of two of Alaska's projects, the Alaska native land claims and the construction of the oil pipeline.

Secretary-Designate Morton Reveals Claims Interest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of Interior-designate Rogers C.B. Morton has met with Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) to

discuss the outlook for passage of the pending Alaska Native Land Claims Bill in the current session of Congress, as well as

the prospects for the start of construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Following the meeting, which took place in Senator Gravel's office, the Senator said he was "greatly heartened by Mr. Morton's obvious appreciation of

(Continued on page 6)

Rogers Morton . .

(Continued from page 1)

the importance of these two critical Alaska projects."

Senator Gravel said he had received firm assurances from Mr. Morton that the two inter-related items each will have "high priority" on his agenda as Secretary of the Interior.

"The fact that Mr. Morton took the time to come to my office and discuss these matters with me," Senator Gravel said, "is indicative of his desire to help resolve these two crucial matters as quickly as possible.

"He has promised to work closely with me and the other members of the Alaska delegation in pursuing the twin goals of fairly meeting the legitimate land claims of Alaska's natives and prudently developing the State's rich natural resources without adversely affecting her ecology.

"Mr. Morton has given me every reason to believe he will be a progressive and capable Secretary of Interior, in general, and a great friend and advocate for Alaska, in particular," Senator Gravel concluded.