



GARETH WRIGHT CONFERS— State House candidate, Gareth Wright, right, is conferring with Gov. Walter J. Hickel of Alaska on the

retention of medical clinic in Tok. Gareth is famed for his years of competition in major sled dog races in Alaska.

Gareth Wright Says No Closure for Tok Clinic

Medical clinic facilities at Tok will not be torn down by the State of Alaska, Gareth Wright, candidate for the State House said this week.

"The clinic can stay where it is," Wright said, "and nobody is going to make the Tok people move it."

In a letter from Carl P. Johnson, director of buildings for the State Department of Public Works, Wright was told by Johnson, "On July 1 this department

will assume control of these buildings (presently owned by the Department of Highways). We have no plans to destroy the buildings."

Johnson continued, "I see no reason why they (the clinic facilities) should not continue to be used as long as they are satisfactory to the use."

Fear that the Tok Community Clinic would be moved from its present location was voiced by that clinic's secretary, Mrs. Mae Mattila late in September. She wrote Wright's brother, Rep. Jules Wright who is not seeking re-election.

Jules and Gareth Wright conferred with Gov. Walter Hickel and his assistant Wally Kubley on the Tok clinic matter two weeks ago, when the governor was in Fairbanks.

Jules Wright said, "We called Tok right after we talked with the governor and told the people in Tok we were doing everything

we could to resolve their clinic problem.

Gareth Wright, well known in Tok and the Interior of Alaska for his years of dog racing, pointed out the necessity of keeping a facility in Tok to service the hundreds of people in the area.

"The Tok clinic doesn't just service the people in the town of Tok," he said. "It services many many people—many of them Native friends of mine in places like Tetlin, Northway, Tanacross, and Mentasta."

In a telegram to Wright today, the governor's office said, "Under no circumstances will the buildings, which the Tok clinic occupies, be destroyed."

Wright said he is investigating the availability of funds for upgrading the present Tok medical facility, he would work toward getting such an appropriation if elected to the State House of Representatives.