



INDIAN LEADERS AND BIA OFFICIALS—

The new Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Director for Alaska, Owen D. Morken, and the Interior Indian leaders are starting out their acquaintances in an amicable manner. They are pictured after the meeting held here during which the Indian leaders pointed out

some of their problems. From left to right: Area Field Representative, Fairbanks area, Wallace Craig; Ralph Perdue, chairman of the Tanana Chiefs; Owen D. Morken; and Jules Wright, president of the Fairbanks Native Association.

New Director Meets Leaders

Alaska's new area director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Owen D. Morken, stopped in Fairbanks early this week on another leg of what he called a "bird's eye" view of Alaska.

He told local Native leaders Tuesday that this first trip through the state was to acquaint himself with the Bureau's installations in Alaska and to establish a relationship with the people of the vast state.

He arrived in Fairbanks Monday and left late Tuesday for Barrow.

(Continued on Page 2)

New Director...

(Continued from Page 1)

Morken replaces Robert Bennett as area director for Alaska. He came from the post of Assistant Area Director in the Aberdeen area. The Aberdeen area includes the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Native problems in education, employment and vocational training were presented to Morken by the Native representatives. He assured them that "employment of the Native is real close to my heart."

He cited recent trends in the upgrading of education standards in BIA schools. He also told of upgrading of BIA teaching standards that has been accomplished. He said, "Our curriculum is continuing to be developed and accelerated."

Summing up his trip, Morken said, "This is a bird's eye view of the state where I am talking with leaders on current programs and the future outlook. And I am attempting to get a small concept of this massive area (Alaska) in which I'm involved."

Morken's background in the Bureau includes 17 years as highway engineer, and before that other jobs in engineering. He has served as an executive administrator many years.