



RUSSIAN HISTORY is ever present throughout southeastern Alaska, but no where is it as evident as Sitka the historic heart of Russian

America. Cannon, which are reminders of the days when the czars rule reached to the coast of North America, guard Sitka's scenic harbor.

DNR Upgraded to Full Status

JUNEAU — Gov. Walter J. Hickel's office announced this week that the petroleum branch in the Department of Natural Resources has been upgraded to the status of a full state division of Oil and Gas.

The move, carried out as an executive order issued by the Governor, came upon the rec-

ommendation of Natural Resources Commissioner Thomas E. Kelly.

In a report on the proposal Kelly told Hickel the change "poses no budgetary complications," and will not require a supplemental appropriation from the Alaska Legislature.

Kelly's report stated: "The

move to upgrade the Petroleum Branch in the Division of Mines and Minerals to full division status comes after careful analysis of the impact of the oil industry on present and future revenues to the state; and the obvious need of placing greater emphasis on control and effective regulation of oil and gas production to protect the state's interest."

The commissioner also said, "The need for a divisional-level organization for oil and gas matters is apparent in the interest of economy and efficiency."

Udall Special Welcome

A gala crowd of parka clad native people are being readied to meet Interior Secretary Stewart Udall as he deplanes at the Fairbanks International Airport at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

This unique welcoming crowd is believed to be the first of its kind in the City of Fairbanks.

As the Secretary steps on the spanking new red carpet fashioned by Mrs. Vernon D. Forbes, especially for Udall, Miss World Eskimo Olympics Audrey Ambrose will lay a garland of snowball lei around the neck of the visiting dignitary.

Udall said he would meet briefly with native leaders at the airport before being driven to his hotel in a Packard car fitted with American and Alaska flags by Mrs. Forbes.

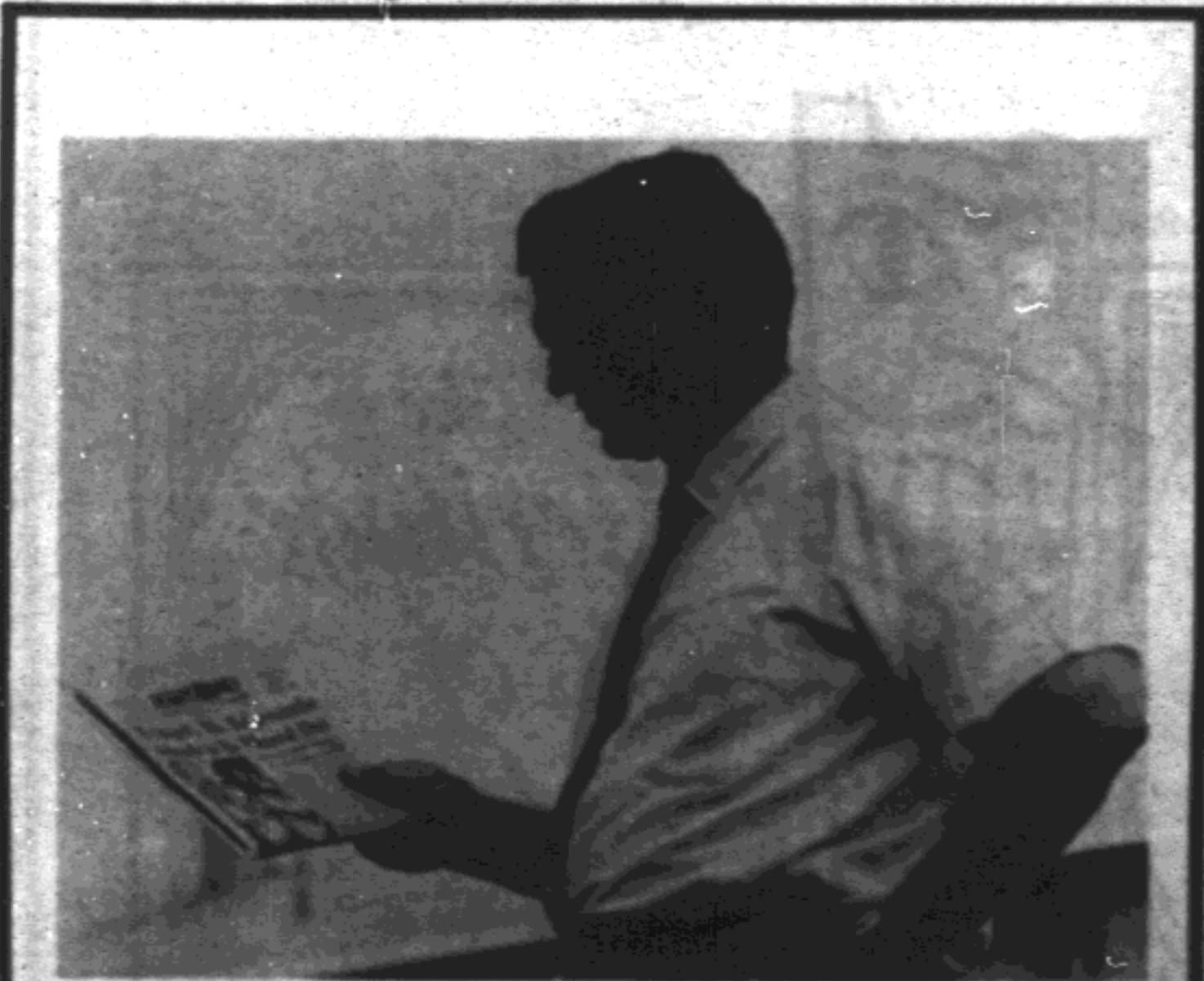
Later that evening, Udall will address the Sixth Anniversary Banquet of the Tundra Times.

Burke Riley said that Udall wishes to have a breakfast meeting with the native leaders on Sunday morning October 6.

Later that morning, he will visit the campus of the University of Alaska and have a question and answer period with the native students. This program was arranged by Jim Ludwig of the KUAC-FM of the university.

Later that day, the Secretary will be flown to some villages in the Interior and Mike Gravel, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, will be flying with Udall.

Secretary Udall will then fly to Anchorage where a tea has been arranged and will meet with the press there.



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