

Ex-officio Post for 'Lone Eagle'

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel announced that Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh, the "Lone Eagle" of Atlantic solo flight fame, has agreed to serve as an ex-officio member of the NORTH Commission, the task force appointed by the Governor to spearhead efforts to open up Alaska's Arctic through extension of the Alaska Railroad.

Hickel said Lindbergh accepted the appointment despite a policy he has followed for more than a decade of "staying away from public projects, and the public eye."

"Gen. Lindbergh has turned down many, many opportunities to serve with important boards and programs around the world," Hickel said, "including a recent invitation to serve on a major U. S. commission on space exploration."

"However, during his visit to Juneau, the general made it very clear that he is deeply interested in Alaska, and that he is willing to help in any way he can, in conserving Alaska's great natural beauty and resources, while also advancing its economic development."

The Governor added, "Gen. Lindbergh's visionary outlook, his great energy, and his vast experience in so many areas of communications and transportation will be of tremendous value to the NORTH Commission."

In a rare public appearance here last Tuesday, speaking before a joint session of the Alaska Legislature, Lindbergh called Alaska "one of the key areas of the world," in an address largely devoted to the subject of conservation.

The speech was Lindbergh's first publicly in 10 years. Earlier he told the Governor he would agree to the appearance because of his "tremendous interest in helping Alaska."

The general flew into Juneau Sunday from Hawaii, accompanied by Sam Pryor, a close friend and member of the NORTH Commission. Both Lindbergh and Pryor

are vice presidents of Pan American World Airways.

The two flew on to Anchorage last Wednesday, pausing in the Cook Inlet city for a few hours before boarding a polar flight for Tokyo.

Lindbergh is the third

person appointed to the NORTH Commission as an ex-officio member. He joins Sargent Shriver, head of the U. S. Office of Economic Opportunity, and Brig. Gen. George M. Jones, commanding officer of the USARAL Yukon Command at Ft. Wainwright.