

# Oil Tycoon Paid Nixon a Secret Visit

By Drew Pearson  
and Jack Anderson

One of the most interesting callers on President-elect Nixon while he was deciding on his Cabinet was Robert Orville Anderson, chairman of the giant Atlantic-Richfield oil complex. For some reason, not explained but suspicious on its face, Anderson rode up to see Nixon in the Hotel Pierre's service elevator.

As a result newsmen, who didn't see him, thought the caller, when his name was made public, was Robert B. Anderson, secretary of the treasury under Eisenhower.

Robert O. Anderson, however, was a more important caller. He brought advice to Nixon which changed his mind regarding the choice of his Secretary of the Interior and may have a direct bearing on current politics. For Nixon was then seriously considering Gov. Tim Babcock of Montana to head Interior. Babcock had the endorsement of 12 Republican governors and up until Anderson's call was considered a shoo-in.

Anderson, however, contributed more than \$100,000 to various committees of the Nixon campaign and is a man who carries weight in GOP circles. He worked his way up as an independent oilman in Roswell, N.M., to a point where he dominated New Mexican Republican politics, and he was responsible for elect-

ing former Gov. Ed Meacham and others to office.

Anderson was so successful in both oil and politics that he graduated from New Mexico's independent oil companies to become head of the giant Atlantic-Richfield combine which has recently helped develop one of the great oil strikes of this decade in Alaska.

## Fabulous Wealth

Up along the northern slope of Alaska a fabulous oil field has been discovered. The oil companies have been very wary about admitting its true value, but some experts estimate it should be worth around \$40 billion. Most of the major companies operate there, but Atlantic-Richfield, the combine of which Rob Anderson is chairman, is one of the heaviest and most successful developers.

Anderson has already found Alaska Gov. Wally Hickel a wonderfully generous and cooperative man. As Secretary of the Interior he could be even more important. For right now there is a freeze on all Federal lands in Alaska.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, perhaps with a premonition of what might be at stake, withdrew all Federal lands from oil exploitation, mining claims, homesteading or anything else on the very same day Nixon announced Gov. Hickel as the new Secretary of the Interior—Dec. 11.

As long as the Democrats

are in power, this vast oil land, together with all other land, remains inaccessible to Atlantic-Richfield and other oil companies until the prior claims of the Eskimos and Indians are straightened out.

But, come Jan. 20, Anderson will see his friend Wally Hickel get control of the Interior Department with the power to turn Federal land over to the State and to the oil companies.

Hickel is already connected with the oil and gas industry. Before he became Governor, he was board chairman of the Anchorage Natural Gas Company, which is part of a complex of oil and gas companies operating along Cook Inlet, just below Anchorage.

Hickel announced that he was resigning as board chairman of this company and putting his stock in trust, though he still remains active behind the scenes in various of his business enterprises.

Note—Another oil bonanza which will come within the jurisdiction of Wally Hickel when he takes office will be the biggest oil field in the world—the shale oil deposits of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

## Censoring Cabinet

When Nixon announced his Cabinet choices he also announced that no Cabinet member was to make policy statements "until he comes into office. If he makes any before

that he won't be in the Cabinet."

Two Cabinet appointees apparently are not taking their chief very seriously.

Last week, Secretary of the Treasury—designate David Kennedy made a statement regarding American policy on supporting the price of gold which sent the price of gold skyrocketing, thereby weakening the dollar. The statement had to be corrected by a quick counter-statement by Nixon himself.

Two days earlier, Hickel had made another policy statement of exactly the type Nixon had forbidden.

Interviewed in Seattle en route to Alaska from the TV Cabinet presentation in Washington, Hickel announced that he would reverse the order of Secretary Udall withdrawing Federal lands in Alaska from oil and mining exploitation and other uses.

Hickel was also asked about the Congresswoman from Washington State who, as chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee, rules on all money for the Interior Department.

Hickel was told that Julia Butler Hansen was apprehensive over his appointment.

"Who's Julia Butler Hansen?" asked the man who will have to get his money okayed by Julia Butler Hansen.