

HICKEL CANDIDACY IN ALASKA DENIED

Spokesman Says He Won't
Resign From Cabinet

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By WILLIAM M. BLAIR

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WASHINGTON, May 29—A spokesman denied today rumors that Walter J. Hickel would resign as Secretary of the Interior because of differences with President Nixon. The Secretary the spokesman said, will not leave the Cabinet to return to Alaska to run for Governor or any other public office.

The official deadline for filing to run for Governor is May 31, which falls on Sunday this year.

Speculation that Mr. Hickel would resign arose anew after he met with the President for more than an hour yesterday and declined to see newsmen after the White House meeting.

The meeting was the first he had had with Mr. Nixon since he wrote to the President on May 6 to complain that the Administration was turning its back on American youth. In the letter, Mr. Hickel cautioned that further attacks by Vice President Agnew on the motives of young Americans would "serve little purpose other than to further cement" youth attitudes beyond the reach of reason.

Mr. Hickel told aides after the meeting with the President that they had had a "productive exchange" and that it would remain a private matter. They discussed, an informed source said, not only departmental business but also what were described as "sensitive" areas. This was interpreted as being Mr. Hickel's ideas on better communication with young people.

The secretary is known to be among high officials who felt that they were being isolated from the President by his staff and that the administration was not reading the mood of the country about the handling of such issues as the Vietnam war and race relations.

Mr. Hickel, his wife, two of their five sons and a close

adviser left their nearby Maryland home today for a holiday weekend in the Virginia woods. He plans to be in his office early Monday for a staff meeting and a full schedule on departmental business.