

Hickel Agrees on Student Power

Washington

Six Duke university students said yesterday that Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel told them young people have the power to defeat Republican candidates in the fall if they work hard.

The students had told Hickel the same thing many of the other students who have met with Administration officials the past few days have said — that they'll go all out to defeat Republicans if President Nixon doesn't listen to them.

"Secretary Hickel is well aware of this," said Jeff Portnoy, 22, East Meadow, N. Y. "He acknowledged that we were right."

Hiram Knott, 25, New York City, agreed with Portnoy. "There was agreement we could defeat Republican candidates."

A Hickel aide standing

nearby as the student reported to newsmen on their half-hour meeting with Hickel said the students were relating accurately what the secretary had said.

The students said they sought a meeting with Hickel because of his letter to the President urging him to pay more attention to the needs of youth.

"We told him that if the only way we can get to the President is in the November elections by supporting candidates who will listen to young people or trying to get those who don't, then we'll do it," Portnoy said.

"I the President won't listen, he'll get defeated in 1970 at the polls." He said he meant Republican candidates would be defeated.

"I think the Secretary is going to react to the President what we said," Portnoy said. "We were encouraged with his attitude to listen and try to understand."

Although impressed by their visit with Hickel, the Duke students said they still felt alienated from the President and the Administration as a whole.

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