

'No Intention of Resigning...'

Special to The Examiner

LBJ RANCH (Texas) — Interior Secretary Walter Hickle, one time Golden Gloves fighter whose ability to take it exceeded his pugilistic skills, has made up his mind how he will leave the Nixon Administration — if he does.

He will not jump. He will have to be pushed. He won't resign, he has told close friends. The President will have to fire him to get rid of him.

Letter Read

At the Florida White House, a presidential spokesman said:

"I know of no intention for Secretary Hickle to leave his post."

Hickle is the latest Washington cocktail circuit nominee for liquidation by the

Nixon Administration.

The predictions follow the resignation of Robert Finch, Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary, transferred to the White House as a presidential counselor on domestic affairs.

The Interior Secretary represented President Nixon here yesterday to accept transfer of the deed to the Lyndon Baines Johnson boyhood home as a historical site.

He read a letter from Nixon that characterized his predecessor as a "great American." Hickle, former Governor of Alaska, added President Johnson was a "great American and President."

Ten thousand witnessed the ceremonies.

Stealing a moment from the non-partisan dedication, Hickle said:

"I have no intention of resigning. I'm going to serve as long as I can be of service to the President."

Likes Job

Earlier he told Anchorage political colleagues:

"I have no plans other than to try and survive as a cabinet member."

They added:

"He doesn't want to be canned. He likes the job. He has no place to go but back to business. If they get him out of that job, they're going to have to lower the boom."

Hickle is a self-made Alaska millionaire who made his money in housing and construction. He was stubborn in

business. He did what he wanted to do despite the odds — as when he built the 12-story Captain Cook hotel atop the Anchorage earthquake fault.

He became bored with business and turned to politics.

Four years ago he defeated the incumbent Democratic governor of Alaska, early joined the Nixon for President bandwagon, and was named to the cabinet January 24, 1969.

He was the first Cabinet member to chide the President for what he considered lack of communication and understanding with youth and their actions.

After accepting title to the

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Hickle Refuses To Quit

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Johnson Historical Site. Hickle departed the 90 degree temperature of the Pedernales in the harsh plains of West Texas to return to Washington.

There the political climate may be hotter than when he flew to the Southwest.

He has urged Congress to reduce the voting age to 18.

He argues that if 18 year olds are sufficiently responsible to fight for their country, they are sufficiently responsible to vote.

Nixon opposes legislation to give the vote to 18-year-olds.