

From story by Robert B. Semple, Jr., datelined Walla Walla, Wash., 26 Sep, titled "Nixon Announces New Step to Spur Atom Power Era" [not kept].

...ar  
...ves to-  
...perity with-  
...uch jobs would  
...on" peaceful pros-  
...rather than conflict.

...he visit to the Hanford fa-  
...stop on a two-day cross-country  
...cility was the last intermediate  
...journey that was to reach its  
...climax when Mr. Nixon confers  
...with Emperor Hirohito in the  
...first meeting between an Amer-  
...ican President and the constitu-  
...tional monarch and religious  
...symbol of the Japanese nation.

The 50-minute session with  
...the Emperor—a goodwill ges-  
...ture on the President's part  
...designed to ease some of the  
...present tensions in United  
...States-Japanese relations was  
...to follow a reunion between  
...Mr. Nixon and his former  
...Secretary of the Interior, Wal-  
...ter J. Hickel, at a reception  
...at Mr. Hickel's Anchorage  
...home.

There has been much specu-  
...lation about the origin of the  
...Nixon-Hickel meeting. Sources  
...in the White House, on Mr.  
...Hickel's staff and on Capitol  
...Hill have now provided some  
...of the details.

#### Initiative Laid to Hickel

The thrust of the accounts  
...furnished at the White House  
...and by Mr. Hickel's Congres-  
...sional friends is that the initia-  
...tive for the meeting came from  
...the former Interior Secretary.  
...Mr. Hickel was dismissed from  
...his post Thanksgiving Eve,  
...1970, but still harbors political  
...ambitions and has been seek-  
...ing some way to establish a  
...new and more cordial relation-  
...ship with his old boss.

As long as six months ago,  
...according to these sources, Sen-  
...ator Ted Stevens, the Alaska  
...Republican and longtime politi-  
...cal ally of Mr. Hickel's, began  
...informal conversations with  
...various Cabinet members and  
...members of the White House  
...staff seeking a reconciliation  
...between the two men.

By Senator Stevens's own ac-  
...count, he dealt mostly with  
...Clark MacGregor, assistant to  
...the President for Congressional

Relations; Robert H. Finch,  
...counselor to the President and  
...a political adviser; Eugene S.  
...Cowen, a member of the White  
...House Congressional relations  
...team, and Maurice H. Stans,  
...the Secretary of Commerce.

Although a few members of  
...the White House staff seemed  
...disposed to bury old hatchets,  
...nothing came of these prelimi-  
...nary overtures until Mr. Nixon,  
...in August, announced his inten-  
...tion to fly to anchorage to meet  
...Emperor Hirohito.

#### Stevens Calls Stans

At this juncture, Mr. Stevens  
...accelerated his conversations  
...and called Mr. Stans to ask  
...whether the President might  
...join him at a reception.

The White House staff was  
...divided on the matter. Some  
...argued that Mr. Hickel should  
...not be given an opportunity for  
...public repentance, but those  
...who felt that a meeting would  
...be what one called "the correct,  
...Presidential thing to do" even-  
...tually prevailed. Mr. Nixon  
...himself himself is said to have  
...been receptive to the idea.

Those who favored such a  
...reunion pointed out that Mr.  
...Hickel's recent chronicle of his  
...controversial tenure in Wash-  
...ington — called "Who Owns  
...America," and due for publica-  
...tion Oct.—had been more criti-  
...cal of the White House staff  
...than of the President himself.  
...Mr. Hickel sent advance copies  
...to the White House, and a per-  
...sonal copy to the President  
...was inscribed.

"To my President, Richard  
...Nixon, kind regards, no regrets,  
...Wally."

Mr. Hickel's ambitions are  
...far from clear. Some say he  
...wishes to run for elective of-  
...fice again, and he is believed  
...to have agreed to campaign  
...for Mr. Nixon in 1972.

If Mr. Hickel seems willing  
...to forgive and forget, however,  
...members of his staff seem un-  
...repentant. His press' secretary,  
...Joseph Holbert, has been tell-  
...ing newsmen that the White  
...House, not Mr. Hickel, arranged  
...the reception, adding "they're  
...coming to our turf, we're not  
...going to theirs."