

lages are located, are higher than in urban areas. In some Native villages the dollar will buy only half as much as in the lower 48 states. Thus, to evaluate the true worth of the Interior Bill's proposal -- and to err on the side of conservatism -- the \$322 million figure should be reduced by at least 20%.

By any reasonable measure, the Interior proposal is inadequate. Valued at \$322 million, it comes to less than \$1 per acre, notwithstanding the fact that part of the acreage in question contains some of the greatest oil deposits in the world -- not to mention the other resources, both known and unknown.

Nor is the figure made reasonable by comparing it with the amounts received by other aboriginal groups. (We will bypass the question of whether, in the light of the poor treatment which other Native groups have received, past settlements should provide any standard at all.) Although other Native groups have received sums in the neighborhood of one dollar per acre, their aboriginal title was extinguished in the 19th century when land was worth much less and the dollar worth much more. The title of the Alaskan Natives will probably be extinguished in the early 1970's, and unlike the settlements with other Native groups, Alaskan lands have already proven to be of inestimable value.