

mately 11 million acres. However, as the bill permits the Secretary to patent "up to" two townships, there is every reason to expect that the total amount patented would be substantially less than 11 million acres.

As we received the Interior Bill only last week, and as the land provisions are quite complex, we shall not attempt to discuss the administrative aspects of those provisions. We note, though, that the Secretary has very broad powers in determining what lands are to be retained by any village. In view of the large number of villages, the size of Alaska, and the peculiar needs and characteristics of each individual village, it is hard to see how any Secretary (even one who was Governor of Alaska) could carry out this function in a rational way in a reasonable period of time.

Such delay would seriously prejudice the Natives' rights. Under section 8(a)(1) of the Interior Bill, nearly 90% of the withdrawals terminate after one year. The allotment procedure would surely not be completed in that short time. Indeed, as it might take almost a year to formulate the necessary rules and regulations, and assign and train personnel, these withdrawals might very well terminate before a single acre were patented. Thus, unless years upon years are to be expended in having an administrator decide what each village is entitled to, it is preferable