

Interior Rates Indian Bills

(AIPA)—On the basis of their relative importance and likelihood of congressional passage, the Interior Department has rated Nixon's "Indian bills" for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. In the light of the recent Veeder controversy during which the rating was released, Interior's priorities are indeed surprising.

In order of importance: financing legislation for economic and business development; self-help bills in contracting and employment benefits; amendment of Johnson-O'Malley Act in education, medical aid and social welfare; the BIA's "house-keeping bill"; and lastly—Interior's option to Veeder—the Trust Counsel Authority bill. The memorandum for record was issued by Morton's assistant for congressional liaison.