

Vincent Price To Keynote Arts Conference

A conference that could eventually lead to the establishment of an arts and crafts industry in Alaska will open in Fairbanks October 13.

Called the Arts and Crafts Conference, the session will last for two days and will largely consist of six panel discussions.

Vincent Price, chairman of the National Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior will be the keynote speaker at a banquet October 13.

The panel speakers, expected to total about 30 in number, are being drawn from many different fields.

Some of the agencies represented will be: the Alaska Federation of Natives, the University of Alaska, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, the Small Business Administration and the National Council for Indian Opportunity.

The conference participants will first direct their attention to whether an arts and crafts industry is feasible and desirable for Alaska.

If agreement is reached that such an industry is needed, the next step will be to decide upon a comprehensive program that will meet the needs of Alaska.

Existing arts and crafts programs will be examined with an eye toward determining whether modification of these programs will do the job or whether a complete new design is required.

Also to be discussed are requirements for successful production and marketing; required skills, technology, and training for the program; and successful programs outside Alaska which the State can learn from.

Lastly, the conference will examine methods of financing.

"The conference summary and recommendations for implementation should present guidelines to be followed in putting the show on the road," Ted Borden, conference chairman said.

"Previous conferences and meetings," he continued, "have always stopped with the identification of problems. 'Let's make sure that this conference results in action, and does not just become another exercise in futility.'"