

White Collar Crime

Gov. Jay Hammond announced recently the creation of a special task force on Organized and White Collar Crime within the State of Alaska.

The task force was formally established this week as a result of a meeting in Anchorage between Commissioner Motley of the Department of Commerce, Commissioner Gallagher of the Department of Revenue, Commissioner Burton of the Department of Public Safety, Attorney General Gross of the Department of Law, and other officials in those departments of state government.

"It has become apparent in recent years," Hammond said, "that increased economic activity within the state has given rise to a new form of sophisticated criminal practice. Information available to the Department of Public Safety indicates that we are seeing in this state for the first time the kind of organized and white collar crime involving manipulation of corporations and fraudulent fast buck schemes that other states have had for years.

"We have the resources in state government to deal with these types of offenses, but we have never coordinated those resources before. We now plan to have qualified agents from Commerce and Revenue work as a regular unit with attorneys from the civil side of the Department of Law who are well-versed in accounting procedures and attorneys from the District Attorney's Office who have experience in the prosecution of this sort of case.

"A special unit from the State Troopers will be working with this group in investigations. We hope through the combined efforts of these state departments to move swiftly to control organized business type crime before it gets any real foothold in this state."