

Calls for Native Involvement in Law Enforcement

According to Paul Davis, director of the Copper Valley-Tanana Development Corporation, that corporation has drafted a resolution calling for recruitment of Alaska natives "into all levels of the various law enforcement programs" and assistance for native communities to provide "their own local law enforcement programs."

In a letter to the press and federal and state officials, Davis said, "Participation by Alaska natives in functions which they definitely should be a part of has been greatly if not totally lacking in this region. Law-making decisions and law enforcement are certainly some of these functions."

Davis continued, "There must be action taken to provide these people with the opportunity to take part in state programs concerning their state."

The resolution is as follows:

"WHEREAS law enforcement problems have become a major concern in many of the villages in the Copper Valley-Tanana Area; and

"WHEREAS it is presently very difficult to get State Police assistance in many villages; and

"WHEREAS in some areas of our region the State Police do not appear to be sympathetic to the native peoples and their problems; and

"WHEREAS there are no native policement within this region;

"NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Copper Valley-Tanana Development Corporation requests that all State law enforcement agencies take steps to:

"1. Recruit Native peoples into all levels of the various law enforcement programs.

"2. Assist Native Communi-

ties in providing their own local law enforcement programs.

"IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alaska Legal Services and the Regional office of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program take whatever steps are necessary to implement the goals of this resolution."

The resolution was signed by Harry A. Johns Sr., vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Copper Valley-Tanana Development Corporation.