

Police authority commends NSB approach to justice

Dr. A.C. Germann, Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University, Long Beach, has words of high praise for the North Slope Borough's Public Safety program which combines the concepts of a "regional" approach to bush justice and provides each village with a public safety officer who is specially trained for and is responsible for law enforcement, emergency medical care, and fire protection. The new program also adapts law enforcement to the particular needs and culture of each village."

Dr. Germann is an eminent national authority on police administration and the author of several important text books on the subject. His remarks came in a review of the NSB program as outlined in a 35-page monograph, "Challenge to the Police Role in Alaska," written by NSB Public Safety Director, Kim Moeller. The monograph was recently published by the North Slope Borough.

"In my considered judgment," Germann comments, "the North Slope Borough Experience is a very modern, very valid, and very advanced public safety operation and represents a posture rarely seen in the upper echelons of American police and fire institutions.

"Every police executive in the United States should have

the opportunity to read this monograph — and every city manager and city council should be informed of its potential — and every criminal justice and fire science and medical and nursing program deeply interested — for it presents what can become a national movement — implementation possible in all but the largest communities — and ultimately, a demonstration to the larger entities that democratic public services are really possible.

"All across the nation now, there is a call for responsiveness to the community, a recognition of the right of the people to determine what levels of security are needed, and an understanding that the old authoritarian posture is really an anachronism in an up-to-date community. (The whole idea of foreign mercenaries, living in a different world, serving a different people, occupying our communities as if there are conquered peoples, is repugnant to the American citizen, inhumane and directly contradictory to the most cherished ideals — even if such is the usual case in our ghettos and barrios in our big cities.)

"This fine monograph — good reading for any citizen of the planet — accurately describes

the traditions, myths, and images of the law enforcement establishment and properly challenges them as 'unnecessary blocks to significant change.' I think that the North Slope Borough Department of Public Safety is setting the pace, molding the standards, and illustrating dramatically that public safety services can be up-dated, made relevant, and receive public acceptance. As Alaska moves away from the traditional Neanderthal postures it can demonstrate to the world that effective and edifying public safety services are not the idle chatter of ivory-towered dreamers but the proud possession of really American communities!"

The monograph written by Kim Moeller and published by the North Slope Borough was also reviewed in this month's Arctic Coastal Zone Management Newsletter and is available from the NSB Anchorage office, 835 "D" Street, Anchorage, AK 99501.



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