

Reps. of All Criminal Justice System to Meet

A three day conference on sentencing and recidivism will be held in Anchorage January 15-17.

Representatives of all elements of the criminal justice system, police, prosecution, public defender, correction, parole board as well as legislators and members of the general public will participate in the session focusing on one aspect of the criminal justice process-sentencing and the problems of the repeated offender.

The conference is sponsored by the Conference of Alaska Judges and the Alaska Court System supported by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

The program is being prepared by the National College of

State Judiciary, University of Nevada, Reno.

Among resource leaders provided by the National College of State Judiciary will be:

Dr. Mark Neithercutt, Director of the National Commission of Criminal Delinquency;

Dr. David Fogel, Director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission;

U. S. District Court Judge James M. Burns of Portland Oregon;

Judge Joseph S. Matina, County Court, Buffalo, N.Y.;

Dean Ernst John Watts, National College of the State Judiciary;

Associate Dean James E. Johnson of the National College.

Sentencing is an involved and

important part of the criminal justice process, involving not just the judge, but also police, prosecutors, defense attorneys and correction officer, representatives of all these agencies are being invited to participate in the conference as well as legislators and representatives of the general public.

The conference will open on Wednesday, January 15, with a discussion of the actual sentencing practices in Alaska as viewed by representatives of the trial judges. Department of Public Safety, Division of Correction, District Attorneys office, Public Defender, Parole Board and Division of Mental Health.

Specific topics of discussion during the conference will include: The Recidivism; or repeat offender, Plan Bargaining, correction, sentencing and sentencing alternatives, pre-sentencing reports and sentencing disparity.

On Friday morning, the last day of the conference all participants will engage in mock sentences. Each participant, be he judge, police officer, legislator or citizen, will be given prepared background material of the type used in criminal sentencing.

The participants will then be asked to impose sentence and ex-

plain the reasoning for the sentence.

The morning will be devoted to discussion of these mock sentences.

Superior Court Judge Thomas B. Stewart of Juneau, president of the Conference of Alaska Judges said, "the judges wanted this conference because sentencing is only one step in the criminal justice process but it is a crucial step. All elements of the criminal justice system are involved and we want to bring all of the agencies, legislators and public together for a serious study of this subject."