

Justice Boney's Work Will Be Continued

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

September 20, 1972

Dear Editor:

I read the September 5th edition of your newspaper with great interest. The articles by Jacqueline Glasgow dealing with "Bush Justice" were extremely well done, and it is unfortunate that the man who made the most significant contributions to improving the criminal justice system in rural Alaska was the recent victim of a tragic accident.

Chief Justice Boney's intense concern with this problem motivated him to convene the "Bush Justice Conference" at Alyeska in 1970. Much of the work which is presently being conducted at the University of Alaska and elsewhere throughout the state was initiated on the basis of the recommendations which resulted from this conference. Justice Boney's opinion in *Alvarado v. State* which he wrote in 1971 also contributed significantly to bringing justice closer to the villages and smaller rural communities.

The Court System, the

Department of Public Safety and other state agencies have continued to work closely in implementing the recommendations which Justice Boney was instrumental in formulating. The Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Courts has conducted a series of training courses for Village Police Officers for the past two years. These have coincided with training sessions for the village Magistrates, and one is currently in session in Bethel at the present time. The Public Defender has also added paralegal native assistants to his staff at Bethel, Anchorage and Fairbanks. We hope to continue and expand these programs in the future.

Although a great deal of work remains to be done, there has been a measure of significant progress and we are hopeful that all of the recommendations of the Bush Justice Conference can be implemented and that the good work which was begun by Justice Boney will be continued.

Sincerely,

John E. Havelock
Attorney General

CAPITOL MOVE PROPOSED

Let us move the capitol!!

There may have been a time, once, when the capitol city was also the population center of our people. But over the course of the years that population center has steadily shifted westward. That shift shows every sign of continuing, according to census data, so that the present capitol site is too far away from the people as a whole. As a consequence, the present site is to the advantage of the residents of a small remote geographic area, instead of benefiting all citizens. True, this may provide a political balance preserving the rights of an otherwise forgotten minority, but we should not let this deter the majority.

Climate, too, should play a part in the capitol relocation. The present site is prone to insufferable summers, bitter winters and howling winds. Surely we can find a better place for our capitol city, but when we do, we will have to give greater attention to environmental and ecological factors than we have

done in the present capitol.

Relocating the capitol will give us the opportunity to have an enriched cultural life, lowered crime rate, and better housing conditions than are possible in the capitol's present location, but these are not the main advantages of relocation.

The major benefits of moving the capitol have to do with the construction of the required new government buildings. This essential part of relocation aids the economy, both by making millionaires of those far-sighted entrepreneurs owning land in the new location, by spending millions of taxpayer dollars to enterprising capitalists owning companies that sell low-cost building materials, and by lowering the welfare rolls by providing high-paying construction jobs for all those with friends in the right places.

Now some will say that this is too costly a program, that we could spend our limited resources in a wiser manner since we already have an expensive government building complex in the present capitol. This is a short-sighted view, a historical fallacy, since we should always ignore past costs in making decisions about the future. Besides the present capitol city buildings will not go to waste: they can be turned into museums and travel agency offices. For, the relocation will make the old

capitol a new tourist mecca, aiding tourism by forcing the visitor to see two capitol cities, old and new, instead of one.

The politicians, though, will benefit most from this construction, and that is as it should be. We all know that politicians need some visible monument to point to after their years in office, and neither graft nor favoritism sits so well in the public eye as does the construction of yet another building paid for by the citizenry and named after an otherwise forgotten and obscure politician. These buildings are rewards for the politicians' years spent in public service, and the most important asset of the capitol move lies in the fact that so many more politicians will be able to have new public buildings named after them.

With these incalculable and invaluable benefits firmly in mind (and there are sure to be others as yet undreamed of) let us willingly prepare to pay for moving the capitol: from Washington, D.C., to Boulder, Colorado. The very name of the place will show our country's enemies the implacable nature of our determination.

Sincerely and cordially,

Joseph A. Sonnenman
Juneau, Alaska

Letters from Here and There

Familiar Subject: This Writer Would Move the Capitol