

The Bush Justice Implementation

The Bush Justice Implementation Committee met for the first time with its new staff on August 25 and 26 at A.F.N. Headquarters in Anchorage.

Also in attendance were staff members from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency for the State of Alaska, through which the project was funded.

As previously reported in the Tundra Times, the staff for the Implementation Committee will be visiting villages throughout Alaska for the next nine months to investigate justice delivery problems at the village level.

It is anticipated that the names of the villages to be visited will be published in the Tundra Times along with the dates of visitation as those facts become known.

In addition to its investigations, staff will also act as link between the Implementation Committee and those state and local agencies responsible for criminal justice in rural Alaska.

Based on the staff's investigations, the Implementation Committee will devise programs to address the criminal justice problems identified at the village level.

At its meeting on August 25 and 26, the Committee

established the following priorities for the staff's investigations.

1) Education in both anglo law and customary law practiced in the village.

2) Determining alternatives to the present court system. To include conciliation boards, and village councils.

3) To perform a general investigation of the village law enforcement problems including those associated with trooper retention, constable training, allocation of resources, and employment of village people in the law enforcement system.

The Committee is planning its next meeting for Bethel in the first part of November, 1975. Prior to that time the Bush Justice Staff will have visited selected villages in the Bethel area to determine the specific justice problems in those villages.

Any person who wishes to contact the project about specific criminal justice problems affecting people in rural Alaska are requested to do so by writing to the following address: Bush Justice Implementation Committee, 670 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Phone: 274-3611.