

NSB public safety program applauded

A national authority on police administration has cited the North Slope Borough Public Safety Program as being "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," Dr. A.C. German, Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University at Long Beach and author of several important text-books on police administration writes, "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 updated, made relevant and receive public acceptance."

The enthusiastic remarks came in a review of the Borough's program, begun in 1972 under the leadership of Kim Moeller, Public Safety Director. The program contains three major innovations in providing public safety to Alaska's rural communities: 1) Regionalization by

which public safety services are administered on a region wide (Borough) basis, 2) Generalization by which each public safety officer is trained and responsible for emergency medical care, fire fighting, and law enforcement, and 3) Cultural Modification which tailors law enforcement to the needs of a particular community and makes the resident public safety officer a respected and influential member of the community.

The North Slope Borough recently published a 35-page monograph, "Challenge to the Police Role in Rural Alaska," which reviews the results of this new approach. Germann writes: Every police executive in the United States should have the opportunity to read this monograph — and every criminal justice and fire science and medical and nursing program deeply interested — for it presents what can become a national movement — and ultimately, a demonstration to the larger entities that democratic public ser-

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vices are really possible.

"The whole idea of foreign mercenaries, living in a different world, serving a different people, occupying our communities as if they were conquered peoples, is repugnant to the American citizen, inhumane, and directly contradic-

tory to his most cherished ideals—even if such is the usual case in our ghettos and barrios in our big cities. This monograph is also powerful in its implications here.

"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!"