

**ALASKA PUBLIC POLICY: CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ISSUES.** EDITED BY GORDON SCOTT HARRISON. *College, Alaska: Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, 1971. 9 x 6 inches, 325 pages. \$5.00.*

There are not many policy research institutes that could get away with what the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research at the University of Alaska here attempts. It is a tribute to ISEGR that the attempt succeeds.

Briefly, this volume is a *potpourri* of articles, speeches and papers prepared by ISEGR staff members for other occasions. All together they come to over 300 pages and cover Alaska's hottest policy issues of native lands, development, oil, the environment and the Alaskan economy. Because the articles were not prepared for one volume there is, inevitably, substantial overlap among the papers. Moreover, despite the editor's attempt to separate the papers under topical headings, there is substantial overlap among the problems, as the authors are well aware.

Since it is not possible in a review to discuss each of the 17 papers, let me instead characterize the tone of the papers and point out a few problems. Almost without exception the papers are cautionary in tone and moderate in spirit. This is in sharp contrast to the inflated rhetoric in the public press of Alaska, and in Washington, over the question of resource development and conservation in Alaska. The authors point out, for example, what forms the economic benefits from oil are likely to take (revenues rather than boom on the North Slope), caution that economic development has rarely helped native Alaskans in the past and is unlikely to do so in the future, and gently push the thoughtful reader towards rethinking his prejudices, snap judgments, and "clear-cut" cases by suggesting the evidence is not all that definite nor the implications that clear.

The only serious omission in the volume is a forthright treatment of the structure of decision-making on the public policy issues of Alaska. George W. Rogers attempts one in his "Alaska: The Federally Owned State," but his framework was restricted—the paper was prepared as a response to the Public Land Law Review Commission—and his outlook too narrow. He retreats into a faith in "the political process of a democratic society". I share the faith, but there is a multiplicity of ways to work within the faith. Some ways work better than others.

*Edwin T. Haefele*

**CANADA'S CHANGING NORTH.** EDITED BY WILLIAM C. WONDERS. *Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1971. 4¾ x 7½ inches, 364 pages, 16 series of maps, 11 tables. \$3.75.*

For years, like its neighbour to the south, the Canadian government ignored the land to the north and its peoples. Interest was aroused during the decade of the 1950s primarily out of fear of attack by a now-tolerated, potential enemy, followed during the 1960s by the probability of natural resource exploration and exploitation and a sense of obligation to the welfare of the natives who reside there.

This volume represents an anthology of the Canadian North by 42 authors made up of 17 from academic institutions, 12 from government, 5 from museums, 2 editors, 1 quasi-government worker, 3 from private enterprise, and 2 of unknown origin. Of the total, 16 were published originally before 1965, so the information for the most part is current. It is organized into 8 chapters dealing with Defining the North, Historical Perspectives, Physical Nature, Native Peoples, Economic Resources, Transportation and Communications, Regionalism and Northern Settlements, and Problems of the North.

Appropriately the first chapter is made up of 2 papers concerned with classification of the North. The first one characterizes northern regions in terms of 10 different criteria while the second deals with the more familiar systems used by the botanist, climatologist, and oceanographer.

Nine papers follow this first section starting out with the theoretical aspects of the exploration and settlement of Vineland in eastern Canada and the early concepts of and the motivations for seeking a northwest passage to Cathay. Three papers trace the role played by the fur traders in the settlement of western Canada and later the Mackenzie Delta, and by immigrants from other northern lands in the development of Canada; included are familiar names such as Edward Umfreville, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Governor Simpson, Hudson's Bay and North West Company which should stimulate the interest of the reader for further reading. The golden age of exploration is well-covered and emphasizes the indirect role played by Lady Franklin and the tremendous "spin-off" in geographical knowledge that resulted from the many expeditions that set out in search of her lost husband. Three papers deal with contemporary history: a biography of Albert