

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

Low, and the discovery of two ice-islands in 1948, followed by an account of a motor-toboggan (Ski-doo) trip to the North Pole which contributed absolutely nothing to northern knowledge; fortunately only one printed page is wasted, and its inclusion does not distract significantly from the other worthwhile papers.

Nine papers make up the next chapter on the physical nature of the North. The first is a humorous account by the Slavey Indian Trapper, John Tetso, of a legend on how the Mackenzie River was made, and although it is not couched in the jargon of the modern geologist, it does give us some insight into the knowledge possessed by the native peoples about natural phenomena of their homeland. In addition to the above other material also discussed are arctic land forms, fluvial processes, organic terrain and geomorphology, permafrost distribution, wind chill, and the threat to the survival of caribou. Perhaps the best paper of the whole series is one on the ecology of snow, by W. O. Pruitt, Jr., who emphasizes snow as a major element in the environment and relates it to the survival and metabolic activity of the indigenous flora and fauna. An article on climate and zonal divisions of the boreal forest formation in eastern Canada includes climatological terms which might be confusing to the non-scientist, but these can be ignored without distracting from its overall presentation.

The native peoples are discussed in the next chapter with one paper devoted to the prehistory of the Eskimo followed by two each dealing with the sociological changes of the Indian and Eskimo brought about by the many influences from the South.

The next section is concerned with the economic resources of the Canadian North and includes 7 papers on the general aspects of natural resources, the forest, and the reindeer. Two are devoted to petroleum, but do not mention the ecological problems, both real and imaginary, that have more recently become an important aspect of its exploration and utilization. The Montferré mining region of Labrador is also discussed and complements well the article on Low presented in chapter 2. There is also included an interesting work entitled "Remarks on Eskimo sealing and the harp seal controversy" which emphasizes how the work of well-meaning conservationists from other parts of the country can create hardship among northern hunters cursed with furselling as their only means of livelihood.

The seventh chapter points out in 3 papers the problems and solutions that have been

proposed for transportation and communication and the impact that they have had and will continue to have on the economy of the North.

The closing chapter is made up of 9 papers dealing with social, ecological, scientific and political problems of the North. One discusses the accomplishments of the Polar Continental Shelf Project, and the terminal paper covers the ecology of the North and its relation to sound development. Three papers are concerned with urban problems, those of both the "cheechakoos" and the natives alike. Closely related to this is an analysis of Canada's northern policy both present, past, and future; also included is a brief discussion of public health, an extremely important aspect of northern human ecology. The first of 2 papers on regionalization deals with "An attempt to regionalize the Canadian North" and complements well the 2 papers included in the first chapter. The second "Regions' and identity in the North: some notes" emphasizes social problems and devotes a single paragraph each to such important problems as diseases introduced from the outside for which the native has little or no immunity, and the disillusionment of the older Eskimo for the contemporary education system which uproots the young from their home environment, puts them in a boarding school, and teaches them the ways of Ottawa. This is just as their brothers in Alaska are "Mt. Edgumbeized", making them the personification of the autobiographical hero, George Webber, in Thomas Wolfe's "You can't go home again". "Canada's northern policy: retrospect and prospect" among other things, emphasizes the still-present fear of many Canadians of being remade in the image of the United States and how this attitude has influenced official thinking in regard to the North.

Professor Wonders is to be congratulated and commended for his selection of relevant papers from the vast literature on northern studies. Although this volume has a table of contents, there is no index and the bibliography has been deleted in all cases with only a few selected footnotes left in, probably because of pressure from the publisher. Still, a bibliographical citation precedes each article if it has been previously published, and the names and addresses of all contributors are listed in the back, so a follow-up for broader coverage of a given subject is possible with very little effort.

William L. Boyd