

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study on the Administration of the Jamaica Police Force is twofold. Firstly, the concept of institution-building will be applied to development in the Jamaican society. The importance of this exercise lies not only in the benefit to be derived through application of this concept to the environment, but also to emphasize that without it, an appreciation of British colonial administrative thought and practice in the Jamaican context, is vague, if not impossible. The second aim is to postulate an institution-building model for the Jamaican Police Force. This analysis draws on the theoretical framework of administrative institution-building, in an attempt to characterise linkages between the colonial and contemporary structural and organizational factors determining the administration of law-enforcement in Jamaica.

This paper contends that the conservatism in colonial administrative thought and practice as well as policies pursued by colonial governments have constrained the development of genuine law-enforcement institutions capable of solving certain problems in the Jamaican society. In addition, colonial administrative thought and practice produced limited administrative reform and stultified development administrative approaches. Despite the emphasis on law and order, this approach has encouraged the persistence of weaknesses and problems and inhibited the implementation of change in the administration of law-enforcement in Jamaica.

It is being further mooted that the administration of law-enforcement in Jamaica requires the establishment of innovative institutions capable of solving environmental problems generally affecting police-community relationships.

The promotion of social and economic progress in post-colonial Jamaican society requires a police service that is instrumental in leading innovation and change. Such police force and its bureaucratic machinery must be able to relate to the society in which it operates, performing the important roles of mobilization, arousing mass consciousness, solving crimes and assisting in building confidence within the community.

In effect, law-enforcement must be viewed as an instrument of development, it must be considered crucial for the effective implementation of relevant social change in Jamaica.

It follows that the re-orientation of attitudes and behaviour of police officers themselves as well as the quality of their relations with the community they serve, are some of the critical instruments that will make them effective change agents in contemporary society.

This new and potentially innovative approach to policing in Jamaica would be founded on institutionalising the new concepts and structures that have proven themselves as adaptive and problem-solving mechanisms.

A new organizational outlook for the police is also necessary in order to develop a more responsible and flexible style. This must be the result of experimentation in institution-building at the level of the police force itself, the national community and their "external" environment. Without the facilitating mechanisms of 'management' and new concepts of social control, desired change in policing would be difficult to achieve.

This thesis reflects on some of the strengths and weaknesses inherent in the institution-building process under colonialism as

well as the ideas around which the process should evolve in post-colonial society such as Jamaica.

The first chapter will therefore, outline elements of institution-building and its applicability to the analysis in the remainder of the paper. From this perspective, the thesis will offer a critique of two writers who have expounded on the subject of institution-building in the traditional fashion as well as one writer who has assessed colonial institution-building and administrative thought and practice.

The second chapter will assess police response to environmental changes in Jamaica during the colonial and post-colonial periods by reviewing the social system and the administration of law and order. This chapter will suggest from the point of view of institution-building as introduced in the first chapter, some of the real issues underlying conflicts with the police and community in Jamaican society.

Chapter three will reflect on some of the sociological variables which occurred in Jamaica under the Westminster two-party political system and the rising expectation of the masses. An assessment will be made of the influence of global factors such as international drug trafficking and government policies regarding the prevention and detection of crime in the post-independence period.

Chapters four and five will examine the response of the police force to the requirements for change, increasing crime and public order incidents as well as weaknesses in the techniques utilised by the police and assessment of police community relationship.

Elements requiring modernization including employment terms,

management and technology will be examined, for modernising the Jamaican Police Force as the society enters the twenty-first century in the knowledge of the realities of art and culture and the fundamental problems of crime and violence.

Chapter six will embody statements and recommendations regarding the role of a reorganized police force in the future development of Jamaica.