

March, 1974

Vol. II, No. 3

25¢

# NEPA NEWS

The Voice of The New England Prisoners' Association  
Prisoners, Ex-Prisoners & Supporters



## Hearings: Civil Rights Commission in N.H.

by Monty Griffith-Mair  
CONCORD, N.H. March 7 & 8 --

A two-day session on the "New Hampshire Corrections System-- Current Conditions and Proposals for Change" was held by the N.H. Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, at the Federal Courthouse here.

But the civil rights committee was prevented from holding interviews with at least 24 prisoners from the N.H. State Prison by order of Governor Meldrim Thomson. According to Sylvia Chaplin, chairperson of the committee, "an impasse has been reached in neg-

otiations with Gov. Meldrim Thomson on the Committee's ability to interview inmates." In fact, Thomson had no intention of ever allowing prisoners from the NHSP access to the committee hearing.

NEPA & N.H. Legal Assistance promptly filed suit against Thomson and Warden Joseph Vitek. The suit asks that the prisoners be allowed access to the committee inquiry. Adjourning the two-day session, the committee said it would reconvene the hearing when it became possible to interview prisoners who had requested to be heard before the committee.

Assembling in Conference Room

304, the first-day of testimony began with Roger Crowley, Executive Director, N.H. Crime Commission. He was asked to speak about the role of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funding of the N.H. Crime Commission's activities. Crowley threw little light on the matter. Crowley was asked why LEAA denied funding for an Inmate Legal Assistance Program at the NHSP. He replied, "We don't have the funds right now." Crowley denied there was anything "political" behind the Crime Commission's refusal.

(cont. on pg. 14)

## Waiting on the Outside

by Shelley Cooper Neill

(This is the first of a series of articles that will explore the experiences of family and friends who are waiting on the outside-- ed.)

The two women interviewed for this first of three articles have chosen to remain anonymous in that they feel those men on the inside for whom they are waiting might suffer retaliation (specifically parole denial) because of the statements they have made. For clarification purposes they will be identified here as: Lisa and Susan.

How do you feel about having to go through a prison to see someone whom you care about?

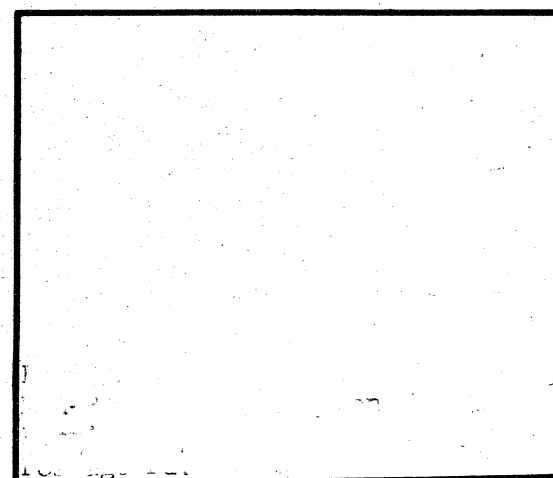
Susan: Very frustrated. It's always in your mind that they could be killed and where are you? You could be having supper, you could be at work, and here are people who you love and care about that anything could be happening to. My man's been beaten on before. It happens a lot. Lisa and I have talked about this a lot.

Lisa: It's one of the main things I think about. What's happening to him when you're not there. What are they doing to him now. He once was shipped out halfway across the country.

They didn't notify you that he was being "transferred"?

Lisa: Oh no.

(cont. on pg. 3)



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Franconia, N.H. 03580

I hereby authorize the New England Prisoners Association to represent me in regards to discovering if I am one of the persons listed as a "dangerous special offender" in the report of Socio-Technical Systems.

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If you are interested, clip the coupon and mail to NEPA NEWS.

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Mail to NEPA NEWS at above address

NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES

On April 15, 1973, the New England Prisoners Association was formed as a result of the first annual New England Prisoners Conference held at Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. The New England Prisoners Association is a coalition of prisoner support and prison reform groups as well as a mass membership organization throughout the six New England states. These groups and persons, though diverse in resources and emphasis, are unified around discovering positive solutions to the problems that today's prisons present.

Prisons were originally conceived as a progressive response to inhumane treatment, but to date their hallmark has been one of failure and human destruction. This failure has been costly in terms of human waste and sacrifice, the loss of resources to society and at a great expense to the individual taxpayer.

We recognize the fact that prisons in our society are a by-product of and directly related to poverty, racism, unemployment and the other ills of our society. The programs of the New England Prisoners Association and its affiliates deal primarily with the injustices existing in the criminal justice system. We realize, however, that the problems of prisons cannot be resolved unless they are seen as part of a larger movement for massive social change.

Prisons must be phased out as they are not beneficial to an egalitarian society which recognizes the human and civil rights of all prisoners.

In line with this philosophy the New England Prisoners Association addresses itself to the following areas:

- 1) to work for the abolition of prisons and the prison system;
- 2) to promote and assist ex-prisoner organizations and to coordinate communications among these groups;
- 3) to support prisoners in their constitutional rights to organize collectively;
- 4) to develop educational programs about why prisons exist, how they work and what their actual results are through the NEPA NEWS, speakers bureau, workshops and literature;
- 5) to examine existing prison conditions to determine proper action necessary to alleviate injustices inflicted on prisoners, especially regarding transfers, censorship, visitation, and medical and educational facilities;
- 6) to attack the increasingly widespread use on prisoners of certain psychological and medical approaches including, but not limited to, behavior modification, chemo-therapy and psychosurgery;
- 7) to organize and assist the families and friends of prisoners;
- 8) to provide means of transportation and communication to families and friends of prisoners;
- 9) to develop quality legal assistance for prisoners;
- 10) to develop and promote legislation consistent with our philosophy;
- 11) to explore and develop existing and possible community alternatives to prison;
- 12) to develop financial assistance to NEPA and its various affiliates;
- 13) to issue news releases, hold press conferences and develop contacts with the press and media.

NEPA NEWS is published monthly by the New England Prisoners Association and the Community Services Center at Franconia College. Our address is NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580.

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We are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, though we welcome the submission of any printable material. We appreciate it if manuscripts are double-spaced.

Articles in NEPA NEWS do not necessarily reflect the policies of NEPA. Because NEPA recognizes the need for debate and discussion of goals, strategy and tactics, material in NEPA NEWS may be printed for that purpose.

MEMBER: Liberation News Service

You will note a lack of material from Connecticut this issue. The reasons are twofold: 1) the limited number of strong outside support groups and 2) the fact that we can not get papers and some correspondence into Somers and Enfield. We have taken action to file a law suit in order to eliminate this censorship in Connecticut.

Gay sisters on the outside have expressed interest in writing to gay sisters on the inside, either as helping hands, or just to correspond. Those interested, write, Gay Sisters %S.C. Neill, Women's Ed., NEPA News, Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. and they will be forwarded.

A GIFT FROM IMPERIALISM

A study recently concluded by the National Coalition Against Prisons revealed that 20% of the population of Massachusetts prisons now made up of Vietnam Era Veterans.

RESOURCE MANUAL

NEPA NEWS is compiling a N.E. Prisoners Resource Manual. If you represent a group that we have not contacted, please write to Shelley Cooper Neill, NEPA NEWS, with information about your organization. Each person on the outside who joins NEPA will, if they pay the \$4 enrollment fee, receive a copy. It should be compiled by late April or early May and will be sold for \$1.50.

"3,000 YEARS AND LIFE"

presented by

NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS' ASSOCIATION  
with  
panel and discussions  
Public Library auditorium  
405 Pine St.  
Manchester, N.H.

April 10, 1974  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

We have a new Graphics Editor at NEPA NEWS, (Kathy Teuteberg) She welcomes all drawings, sketches etc... from all interested parties throughout New England. Your support is appreciated as this is an integral part of NEPA News.

CORRECTIONS

We blew it several times last issue. The painting on page 6 is by Mr. Williams of Windsor Prison, Vt. The photo on page 18 of Alger Hiss and on page 19 of Ralph Abernathy are both by Bill Morey. The photo on P. 22 was of Martin Sostre.

Our next issue will not come out till the first week of May and will be a special, double issue. As features of the supplement will be 12 Hogarth prints with text on the historical origins of crime in England, and several pages of old prints and engravings of prisons and prisoners. We also will have a special article on the work-process in prisons today.

# Waiting on the Outside

How did you find out?

*Lisa:* From his mother: she read it in the newspaper.

What kinds of supportive things can you do while you're waiting on the outside?

*Susan:* Work on his legal defense. Work so that you can pay a lawyer; supporting yourself as well.

If you're married and your husband is in prison, is there any kind of compensation for you, an allowance?

*Lisa:* Not through the prison.

*Susan:* If a woman is married to a man in prison she can file separation papers, and if there are children she can receive A.F.S.C.

Do they assign a social worker or someone you can go to for help?

*Lisa:* Not through the prison.

What kind of things do you think should be set up to help people who are waiting on the outside?

*Lisa:* I don't think anything should or could come through the prison system. I think a good place to start is with the Family Center. I'm all for that. I think the main thing is just to have a place for people to go to for anything, for questions, feelings: just somewhere to stop in and ask. Because some people have no place, no one to go to.

*Susan:* There are a lot of just plain lonely times.

Do you see a Family Service Center functioning in any other way; in addition to being a place for people to go to talk about what they're feeling?

*Lisa:* For basic needs, job referrals and transportation to and from the prison.

The prison doesn't provide any means of transportation?

*Lisa:* No, the prison doesn't.

*Susan:* Even legal contacts. We didn't know who to contact or what to say. We learn from talking to each other.

Do you think most women are in a position to know their legal rights? Do most of them have the information you have?

*Lisa:* I can only speak for the women I know in New Hampshire. Quite a few are getting to know more and more. Much more so than a few years ago.

Would you like to be involved in a situation where you could help?

*Lisa and Susan:* Oh yes definitely.

Lisa, can you tell me something about the man you are waiting for?

*Lisa:* He's very outspoken. He says what he feels.

What are they doing to 'rehabilitate' him?

*Lisa:* They've given him drugs. Thorazine and valium. They say he's too emotional and they have to 'calm him down'. At one point they were giving him an awful lot. He felt like he was losing his mind. So he refused to take it, and they locked him up for a week until he'd take it.

Who administered these drugs?

*Lisa:* The guards did. This happened within a few days after he testified for another prisoner in court.

How does he feel about NEPA?

*Lisa:* He's into it as much as he can be.

Do you think being actively involved with NEPA could cause retaliation on the part of the prison administration?

*Susan:* Vitek is completely against it. It's showing him up, showing the people. The more people know about what's happening, the greater the chance for change.

*Lisa:* A lot of people know about NEPA. Unfortunately there are some people who are afraid to become involved because they know it could hurt them when their parole comes up. Because of all the things they read in the papers. Look at what happened to the prisoner who wrote a critical letter to Loeb; they put the letter in his parole file and he lost his trusteeship.

Has your man talked about what he wants to do when he gets out?

*Susan:* He wants to help the people, especially those on the inside. Set-up communication. He is upset about the kind of things that are happening inside.

*Lisa:* The parole board asked my old man why he wanted to get out! They asked him to let them know when he thought he was ready to get out. What a ridiculous thing to say!

*Susan:* Their whole thing is not to build responsibility and self-respect. Instead it's making them conform. It's making them act like everyone else. I see that as the whole systems' thing. They want people to stay in their place, making money for the state so that the heads of state can manipulate them. The prison administration is a part of that system. They work together hand and hand to create that. The only people who get to be 'trustees', those referred to in Loeb's paper as "good reformed people", are those people who, if the ad-

ministration told them to jump out a window, they'd jump.

*Lisa:* They're imbedding fear in these people by saying: 'See what happens if you go wrong, see what'll happen if you do it again.'

*Susan:* That's their objection to NEPA, too much truth and realism: everyday people talking about what they feel.

What do you think would happen if the prisoners had some real input into how to run the prisons?

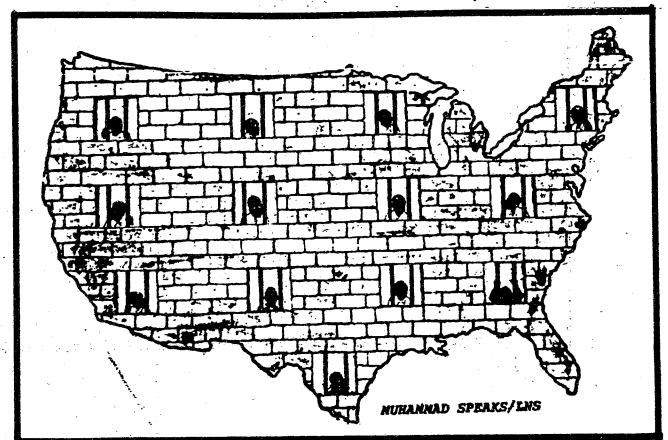
*Lisa:* I think the prisoners could do it and I don't think they'd get out of hand. I think they could go about it in an organized way. The Inmate Grievance Committee proves that.

*Susan:* I think they should begin to give prisoners some responsibility. It would build incentive in them to do good things. If you're not given the opportunity you'll never learn anything.

Within that body that is taking form as a Women's Caucus within NEPA, considerable discussion took place after this article was typed as to its strength and the practical and tangible results for those women waiting on the outside. Specifically where and to whom can a woman go when she feels alone and confused. We have discussed in this article the work that is being done through The Family Service Center in Concord, N.H. In addition to this center see the back page for other listings of Prisoner Community Centers in New England.

In terms of legal assistance: N.H. Legal Assistance, 88 Hanover St., Manchester, N.H., 668-2900, Contact George Bruno. Rhode Island: R.I. Legal Assistance, 56 Pine St., Providence, R.I., (401) 274-2652, Contact Cary Coen. Connecticut: Civil Liberties Union, 57 Pratt St., Hartford, Conn., (203) 246-7471, Contact Frank Cochran. Massachusetts: NCCC, 120 Boylston St., Boston, Mass., (617) 423-0454, Contact Patti Brogan. Maine: Pine Tree Legal Assistance, 565 Congress St., Portland, Maine, Contact Tom Benjamin. Dansinka and Kapantais, 207 Maine St., Portland, Me., (207) 696-3132. For those women, and other people waiting who need a helping hand, some understanding, whatever, send letters to Shelley Cooper Neill, Womens' Editor, NEPA NEWS, Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. 03580. and they will be forwarded to women within NEPA who are also waiting or have waited and are interested in helping.

Drawing by Jimmy Woodman, Bridgewater.



# I'm only bleedin', Ma'

by Howard A. Lund, MSP, Thomaston

The future belongs to those, like yourself, and August(Gus) Heald, who are fighting the very existence of prisons! with every legitimate means at your disposal! Both of you well know, that every jail and prison in this country is a torture chamber because of the sick techniques used to institute and maintain repression. A penthouse at the Waldorf-Astoria would be just as much a Dante's Inferno as any prison, if the occupants had to observe the daily, "routine" sacrifices, most prisoners are forced to patiently endure, in a psychological atmosphere continually changing dimension, intensity, and character.

You do not know me. Therefore, I should point out to you, that prior to being railroaded through a kangaroo court on a phony murder charge, I attended three different universities for six and a half years and lived in five different countries in Europe for eight years. I am placing these facts before you to qualify my statement that I would be very ashamed to be caught in casual conversation on the street with the ilk of Gov. Meldrim Thomson, Prof. William Curran, Maine State Senator (R) Walter Hichens, Maine State Rep. (R) Roswell Dyer, and Vermont State Senator (R) Fred Westfall. I hope they feel the same.

These are ignorant men: trying to resolve an area of legitimate public anguish, by implementing their ignorance with advanced technology, plus pseudo-scientific jargon invented and peddled by Socio-Technical Systems, Inc., Boston, Mass. Furthermore, in view of the remarks Senator Hichens has made about Augustus Heald, remarks published in NEPA NEWS, my four years of acquaintance and association with Heald obliges me to point out that Sen. Hichens is not only an ignoramus but a liar as well, and should be properly blamed for both failings because of his position in the body politic.

During September, 1973, I was asked to take on the burden of editing THE COASTLINE by the preceding editor. Gus Heald was my assistant editor. Even though I was well acquainted with him, I found it is indeed a rare pleasure to work with him in matters as critical and supersensitive as those a prison newspaper is concerned with from day to day. Not only is Heald a walking, talking, pipe-smoking historybook of instant recall regarding Maine State Prison, but a legal library of formidable talents. Also, I found that, once having committed his loyalty, it is unwavering in tough prison cross-currents.

What the Prof. Currans and Gov. Thomsons of this country are confessedly ignorant of is the basic fact that I, or Augustus Heald, or any other prisoner in the United States of America, has a constitutional, legal and moral obligation to be dangerous

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to anyone who threatens our life, our freedom (without due process) our family or our friends. Consequently, the need arising from the natural scheme of things for men to be dangerous stretches all the way back to the first homo-erectus devised by the evolutionary process over three million years ago. Nor does the need I now speak of create danger because of the mythical syndrome invented by the intellectual dwarfs, Curran and Socio-Technical Systems. Men in prison are dangerous because they are threatened with sophisticated forms of extinction in the hands of simple-minded wage earners who claim they are "only doing their duty" or "just following orders" as five or six of them are wrestling you to the floor to stick a needle in your arm or ass.



Words on systematically falsified records do not alter or justify the deeds which, in point of fact, are crimes committed in the names of "rehabilitation," "therapy," or "Behavior Modification." Prisoners determine their responses according to the legitimacy of what is about to be done to them, or is being done to them. The only way prisoners can see these so-called records is by storming the offices where they are kept. If professor Curran is seriously proposing that falsified records are an adequate basis in reality upon which he may invent the "scientific" syndrome-category "special offender: exhibiting excessively aggressive, assaultive, volative, acting-out behavior, etc.", he ought to be laughed out of the scientific community as a quack and Harvard U. as a fascist Dr. Strangelove. I can understand that he would

want to rip off LEAA for \$189,000, but that he would foul his reputation as a Harvard professor is an act of desperation only psychoanalysis could benefit from unraveling. Furthermore, to blithely assume, for the purposes of a \$189,000 "scientific report", that the underpaid, undereducated clowns who generate prison records are "objective data gatherers" is just as insulting to my intelligence as describing two dogs fighting over a bone as animal lovers.

In the only edition of THE COASTLINE I was able to publish as the editor, the Oct. 73 issue, I wrote an editorial entitled "Psychotechnology (Orwellian Logic)" and printed a document put out by the Federal Prisoners Coalition at Marion, Illinois, entitling it "Killing Us Softly." Both articles described the cunningly calibrated steps of behavior modification annihilation. Since then, I have been fired from the editorship by the warden, Garrell S. Mullaney, written up on disciplinary reports eight times, denied furlough twice on the strength of suspicion of escape dating from Dec. 71, locked in a cell about fifty days, viciously harassed while out of lock-up, continually lied to by a clique of guards and staff, and told while in lock-up, by a con, that I'm crazy and he's smarter than I am because he's not locked in a cell twenty-four hours a day. Not to mention several other matters which could have blossomed into critical matters because I was locked up. How the sharks do swarm when they smell blood.

At any rate, those eight lock-ups would definitely qualify me as one of Prof. Curran's special offenders, if I had gotten them while he was gathering his data, and if he had decided to strike MSP for a record check. Prof. Curran assures me, in the summary of his findings, that this is a respectable scientific methodology and therefore ex-editor Howard Lund, suddenly become special offender, has no cause for alarm. Or, to use Prof. Curran's choice expression: "I hope no one would jump in and, you know, have an erection complex," if this special offender syndrome were used as a diagnostic basis for whittling on my brain. O, excuse me, Prof. Curran, I forgot: you specifically stated to the press that you have no responsibility for phase II. Therefore, by logical extension, I should place the full blame on the guy who uses the knife and ignore his protests that he is only implementing a "scientific diagnosis" of "special offender." So, there really isn't anybody to blame or criticize, and anyway, just think (and it's now because later may be never) after that small, inconsequential part of your brain is gone, you won't even notice it. Honest!

Well, in any case, Professor

# Mullaney's Camp

Well here it is Saturday, and its been 63 days since I've seen the yard. I was in Segregation for 61 days on what is called an Administrative Hold. Then I was moved to a cell and locked in on the same hold. I've asked what the punishment is for and have been told that there isn't any.

Well, while in Segregation I got all of 15 minutes to exercise, which was about 10 or 12. You see the guards here run Segregation the way they want. I had no other privileges except for the last 2 days, which was two and one half hours extra of radio and lights. The food was terrible. It came in small quantities, cold, and never did we have the variety that you have in the mess hall. The harassment was plentiful with a lot of name-calling. I got two showers a week with clean cloths. My personal hygiene is A-1 and during these 61 days it suffered tremendously. I requested to get out but my requests were ignored. I asked so many questions that they hated to come around. I got two answers: 1) you won't get out; and 2) I was refused furlough to the yard so as to get some fresh air and to get some good exercise.

I'm in my cell now, as I said, under the same hold. And as usual I can get no answers. I don't know how much longer I'll be here but I expect for a while. When I ask "when", they just stand there dumb-founded.

I get no visits from the streets and they refuse to let my friends in here to visit me. In fact, the only ones who are supposed to rap with me are the members of the Inmates Advisory Council.

This place is unbelievable. The cops all think they're someone who should be praised. They love to harass inmates and even come to work drinking. BOOZE

William Curran may be ignorant of valid scientific methodology and reasoning; he may be a quack in his chose profession of medicine; he may be a disgrace to his professorship at Harvard U. for forging another shameful instrument of destruction based on the old formula, a whimper at a time till death do us part; but by God ol' Bill Curran, you are one helluva businessman and con artist. Every prisoner in the good ol' USA can admire the undeniable fact that you sold three volumes of worthless trash to the LEAA for \$189,000!

"It's all right Ma, I'm only bleeding."

Therefore I welcome NEPA NEWS into the ranks of those who are unalterably opposed to the practice of psychotechnology in the currently existing prison setting. Your January 74 issue (Vol II, #1) blasted hell out of the bastards. And even though I am still bleeding you gave me support and solace. I need people like you. Right on!

March

that is. They like to strong-arm the inmates too.

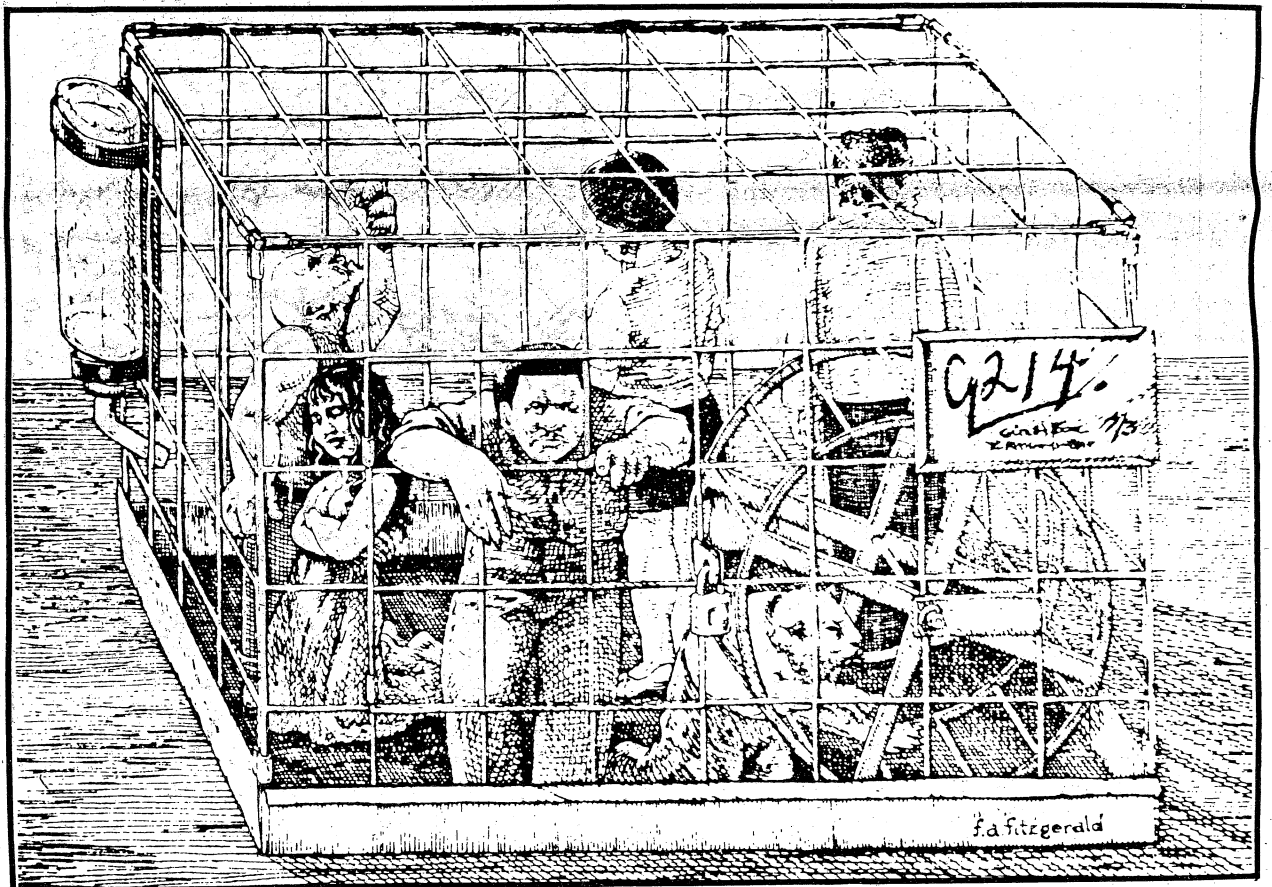
The WARDEN and his JR. STATE TROOPERS are another thing. They use the outside programs to manipulate inmates. The slightest sign of outspokenness is a no-no. That is, if you plan on a furlough or any of the programs. When they see that they can't rule your mind they pass the word and you're doomed if you're not strong or masochistic. They try to brain-wash you and torture your mind in many ways. You can bet I won't get any goodies after they read this.

We inmates try to cooperate, but they refuse. They give us anything and they got 100 ways to take it away. They are all incompetent fools.

I thought that they had rules they have to follow, but I guess not, for they do just what they want, RIGHT or WRONG. You get written up for just about anything. They are good with pencils.

Well, this is just part of Mullaney's Torture Camp. I could go on and on, but I must go.

IN THE STRUGGLE  
Charles E. Emery  
MAINE STATE PRISON



## Vigil for Prisoners

NEPA Director Phil Shaw has organized a special event for prisoners and their families on Good Friday, April 12. The plan is as follows: At 12:00 noon on Good Friday NEPA members and other prisoner supporters will assemble at one of the Catholic Churches in Portland, Me. They will stand in silent vigil for a short time; then they will march to The Chancellory, the office of Portland's Catholic Bishop, Peter Gerety, about two miles away. There they will ask the Bishop to pledge to the prisoners in Maine and to their families the collections from Catholic Churches on Easter Sunday.

We believe it is time for all religious people to stand up and

## Thomson Attempts to Cripple Legal Aid

During this past week Governor Thomson announced that he was requesting ACTION-VISTA to remove the eleven VISTA volunteers from N.H. Legal Assistance by March 25, and to refuse to authorize any future VISTA volunteers to work with N.H. Legal Assistance.

At present almost half of N.H. Legal Assistance legal and paralegal staff are VISTA volunteers. There are three VISTA attorneys and eight VISTA paralegals. These 11 VISTA volunteers have been locally recruited and receive approximately \$55.00 salary per week. Any readers who wish to record their objections to these dismissals may write to the Governor to request him to change his mind. Also one may contact Ms. Ninette Jones, Regional Director, ACTION, McCormack Federal Building, Boston Mass., and George Cordova, Esq., General Counsel, ACTION, 806 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

be counted on the issues of prisons. After all, Christ himself was a convict and the object of state exploitation. We encourage NEPA members and prisoner supporters throughout New England to organize similar events at the State Chancellory in their own communities for those held captive in their states. Cardinal Madeiros of Boston has stated that "prisons must be abolished as we know them." Similar sentiments have been expressed by the Priest's Senate and various senates of Sister Communities. It can't happen unless you make it happen.

(For more information, contact Phil Shaw, NEPA, White Bridge Rd., South Windham, Maine.)

# SCAR News

At the recent Jan. 29, 1974 M.S.P./I.A.C. elections all five seats and the secretary's positions were filled by SCAR members. They are: Gus Heald, chairman, Tim Flaherty, Richard Picariello, Joe McDonald, Reginald Berube, and Michael Niemczyk, secretary.

The following improvements have been or soon will be enacted as a result of the councils first meeting with the Warden:

- 1) Removal of the tables from the visiting room to make for more informal visiting.
- 2) Outgoing mail can be sealed
- 3) Fewer restrictions in the media Review Committee
- 4) More late T.V. and viewing privileges
- 5) Permission for inmates to receive more personal clothing
- 6) Furloughs for persons awaiting bail or on appeal after completion of 1/3 sentence
- 7) Phone booth and two calls per month
- 8) Yard crew to receive extra good time
- 9) Allowing I.A.C. members to attend outside meetings
- 10) I.A.C. to oversee and make accounts in the Showroom and on a weekly rotating basis to work in the showroom
- 11) Conjugal visits policy to be further discussed with the Commissioner
- 12) Three inmates to work on priority projects on State time for the purpose of building the inmates benefit fund. There is a possibility that the fund could later be used as a bail fund.

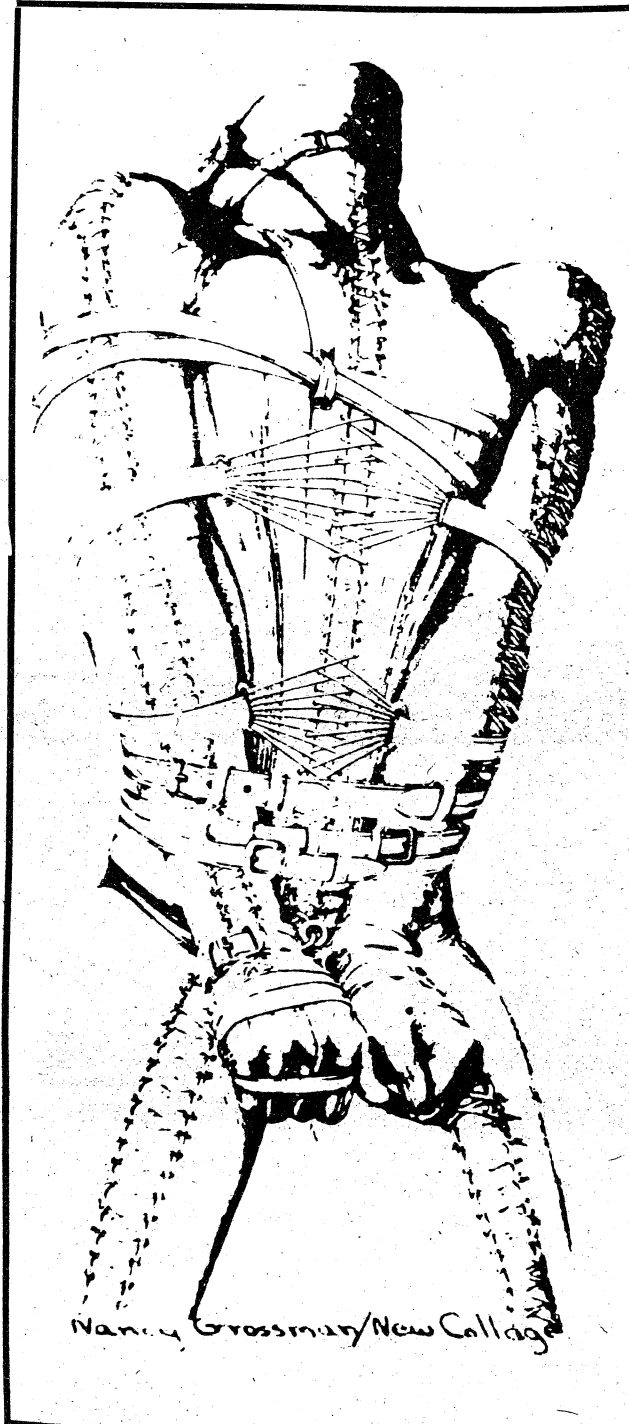
Our brothers inside the walls at M.S.P. along with these significant accomplishments have been able to build the membership from 12, three months ago, to 162 at the latest count. They work under the worst of conditions and cannot be congratulated enough.

## Access

These are the developments in access in the last 5 months. Four months ago Ward Murphy came down with a policy on organizations that stated that no organization can be recognized without first submitting a constitution and by-laws, that their meetings would be monitored, their books audited, and all of their projects would have to be OK'd, and that access even after recognition would be left to the discretion of the administrative head. Our response was an appeal to Commissioner Kearns and the Task Force on Corrections for a review of this policy. Tom Benjamin wrote a three page memo stating our objections to Kearns. At about the same time, constitution and by-laws were presented simultaneously at Thomaston and Windham.

The Bureau's response to our complaints about their policy was a three page memo instructing us as to how we could fit the qualifications of their policy. In the memo they never once dealt with the issues we

had raised. We then wrote a letter, collectively (inside and outside), outlining again why we thought that the policy was restrictive and humiliating. This, in addition to a meeting with Kearns, lead to a special meeting of the Task Force Subcommit-



tee on Institutional Reform, of which Alan is a member. Present at the meeting, aside from Task Force members, were Kathleen Walton, Tom Benjamin, Ward Murphy, Kearns and Mullaney. In special session after the meeting, the Task Force voted to recommend to Kearns and Curtis that a new, much more liberalized policy be enacted that would not only allow SCAR in but keep us from being pushed out arbitrarily.

If either Kearns or Curtis accept the recommendation, then we will be in. Ward Murphy says she is not prepared to make any major concessions but as the chain of command goes she would either have to concede or leave the State service. So things are beginning to look relatively good in regards to access.

SYMPOSIUM ON CORRECTIONS REFORM  
Tentative Dates: 3:00 pm Friday, April 12 to 6:00pm Saturday, April 13.

Speakers, Workshops and Discussion Groups.

The intent of the Symposium will be to focus in on the current

## York County Jail

by Ray Levasseur

Following two deaths by hanging and subjection to dehumanizing and intolerable living conditions, prisoners of York County Jail in Alfred, Maine sent out a list of grievances on January 28, 1974.

It begins, "We are concerned and worried inmates at the York County Jail. Since we have been here there have been two suicides. We would like to express our thoughts as to some of the possible causes that led two young men to end their lives."

The letter explains the case of Danny Lawrence, who served four days on a disorderly conduct charge, was arrested for hitch-hiking as he attempted to go home upon release, was returned to the jail, and hung himself that night.

Jeff McKinnon was brought into the jail, then sent to Augusta for 30 days observation, returned to the jail 72 hours later, put in a cell by himself, and hung himself less than one hour later.

Says the letter, "We don't want to see this happen again. Although these two men had problems beyond the conditions at this jail, the place clearly did not help. The conditions either drove them to their death or helped to send them to an early grave and to us there appears no difference which."

On February 22nd suit was filed in Maine Superior Court. Brought by the "class of inmates at the York County Jail", through attorney Terry Farrell, the suit seeks both a declaration that certain practices and conditions deprive the prisoners of rights secured for them by state law and injunctive relief to secure those rights against further violation.

The York County Jail, oldest in the State, has a bad reputation. The list of grievances includes: one shower for 30 people and enough hot water for six a day to shower; medical treatment is provided arbitrarily, if at all; no dentist; almost non-existent recreational facilities; poor library with no law books; mail is tampered with, returned for no reason and attorneys mail is opened by guards.

Immediately after the suit was filed the Sheriff began harassment of those prisoners he considered responsible for the court suit. In addition, all prisoners were fed beans for four days.

The prisoners are attempting to meet with the Sheriff, Commissioners and attorneys, but no decision has yet been made on this.

The brothers have asked SCAR to bring their struggle to the people. It is an election year and the cruelty of the Sheriff must be exposed.

As a first step in this process, SCAR and NEPA ask people to write to Governor Kenneth Curtis, State House, Augusta, Me. 04330, and demand an immediate investigation of the York County Jail.

problems facing corrections in the State of Maine. For more info contact SCAR Symposium, 374 Fore St., Portland, Me. 04111. Phone: 207-772-2303.

# Charles St. Jail Revisited

by Donna Parker

On June 20, 1973, following over a year of preparation, six days in court, and a night in jail, Judge Arthur Garrity ordered the closing of the Charles St. Jail by June 30, 1976. The relief sought by prisoners at Charles St., as represented by attorney Max Stern, fell generally within two areas: 1) The violations of the Eighth Amendment (cruel and unusual punishment) and the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Arguments were based on the structural inadequacies, poor plumbing, space limitations, inadequate diet and health care, inadequate exercise and recreation, inadequate provision for personal hygiene, and the effect these gross inadequacies had on the mental and physical health of prisoners. 2) The violations of the First and Sixth Amendments. Arguments were based on the very limited access prisoners had to family, friends, books, magazines, periodicals, and legal counsel. Although all arguments were premised on the degrading conditions that exist at Charles St. in general, it was stressed that most prisoners (85%) have yet to be tried and are still to be "presumed innocent", yet are in fact existing in conditions far worse than if they had been sentenced to confinement in a State Prison.

Charles St. Jail has been condemned before. During the past quarter century no less than seven governmental commissions have called for its destruction. This is also not the first suit filed against a county jail. In Arkansas (Holt v. Sarrer; aff'd. 442 F. 2d 304) the entire penitentiary system was held to be unconstitutional. Similar findings were made with respect to jails in New Orleans (Hamilton v. Schiro, 338 F. Supp. 1016); in Philadelphia (Commonwealth ex. rel. Bryant v. Hendrick aff'd. 444 Pa. 83); in Detroit (Wayne County Inmates, W.C. Board of Comm., Cir. Ct. Wayne Cty. Cir. Act. #173 217); in Toledo (Jones v. Wittenberg; 330 F. Supp. 707); in Oakland (Breneman v. Madigan, No. C-70 1911 AJZ, N.D. Cal. May 12, 1972); in Maryland (McCray v. Maryland, Misc. Pet. 4363 Cir. Ct., Montgomery Cty., Nov. 11, 1971); and in Kansas City, Mo. At this time cases are being prepared against the New England jails of York County in Maine and Hampden County (Springfield) in Mass.

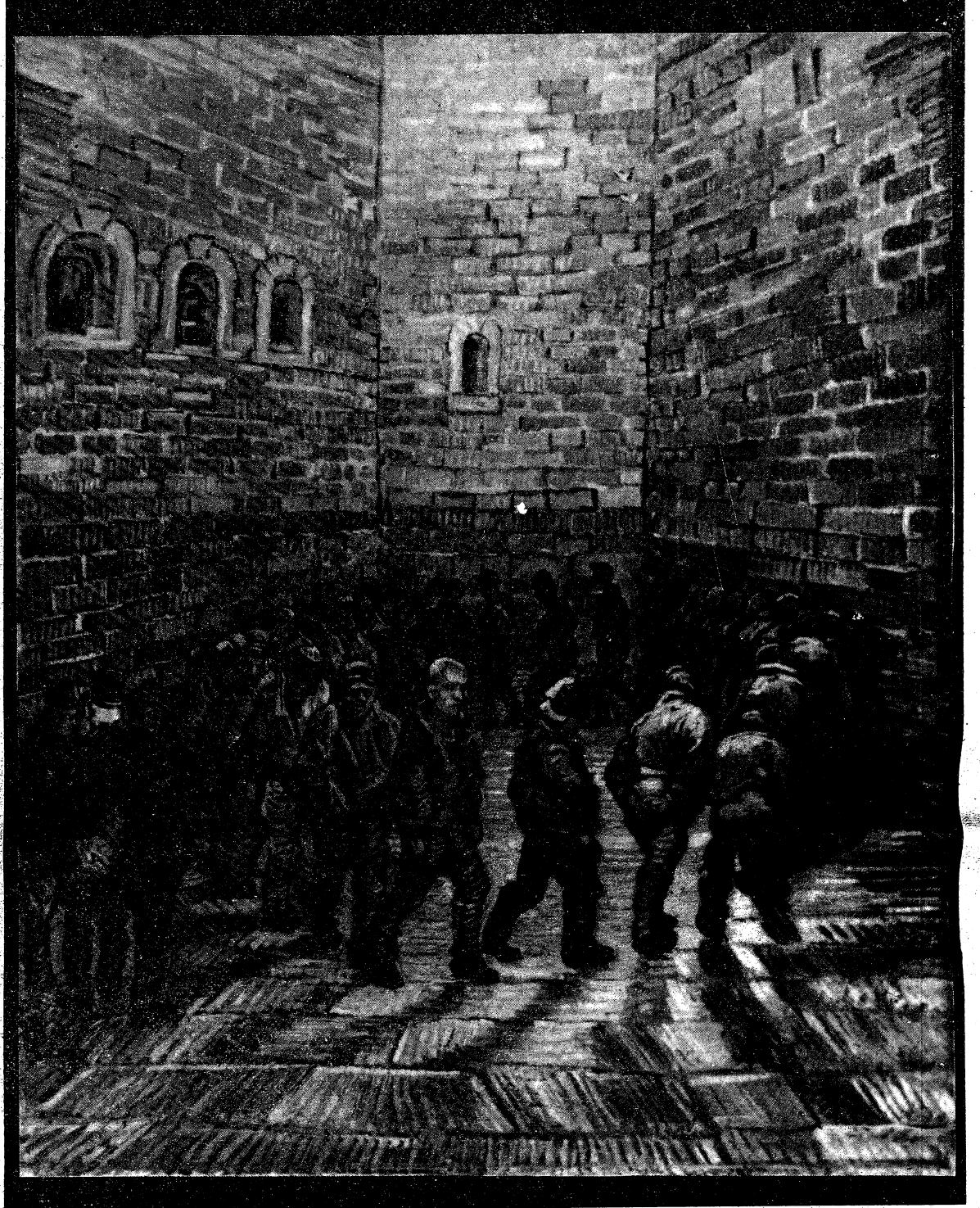
Ordering the closing of the jail was only the first step. The basic choice of operating a new constitutional jail or operating none at all is left to the state. Plans are now being considered for building a new facility at Deer Island.

Pending the final closing of the Charles St. Jail, Judge Garrity put forth a list of stipulations to be enforced in efforts to improve the jail during the interim. These included: 1) Single occupancy cells; 2) complete physicals and improved medical facil-

ities; 3) the providing of institutional clothing and laundry service; 4) not opening attorney mail without the presence of the addressee; 5) four hours of "free time" out of cells (not including meal time); 6) Expansion of regular hours for attorney-client visits; 7) allow all inmates visitations from family (including children) and

inmates must be allowed consultation with clergymen of the denomination of their choice, and 10) More Spanish speaking personnel should be recruited.

According to prisoner source Jimmy Barrett, many of these requirements have been met, although there remains a serious number of violations and grievances which



"The Exercise Yard" by Vincent Van Gogh

friends without need for special permission; 8) provide daily access to unmonitored phones; 9) post copies of final decision within the jail; and 10) file periodic reports with clerk of court.

Two partial judgements were also handed down. The first demanded the "dismantlement" of isolation cells and set down regulations in respect to the segregation cells. The second judgement included 1) Revision and distribution of the Inmate Guide 2) Draft of Rules and Regulations 3) All inmates must be made aware of rights when questioned for disciplinary reasons 4) All mail shall not be read, censored, or limited 5) All inmates shall be allowed at least three visits per week 6) All inmates must be informed of their right to appeal of high bail 7) All inmates will be allowed to receive packages 8) Reading and writing material must be allowed to all those confined in segregation 9) All

indicate a strong reluctance to cooperate by Sheriff Thomas Eisenstadt and county officials. Prisoners are allowed only one visitor at a time and children have been excluded. In attempting to see Jimmy we were not only harrassed but turned away by Sheriff Eisenstadt following a three hour drive because, "He gets too many visitors". Although they are allowed 1½ hrs. more "free-time", inmates must still spend almost 19 hours a day in their dark and dank 8' by 11' cells. Recreation during "freetime" largely consists of "walking around in circles in the 'flats'", although there is a nightly rotation (by tier) to a small recreational room upstairs. Because the officials do not like to operate the 'upper tiers', approximately 25 to 30 eight by eleven foot cells remain doubled-up; the present daily population is app-

(Continued on P. 27)

# Spanish Rights

## I. Background

In March 1971 a group of Spanish-speaking prisoners of MCI Norfolk began to get together to talk about common problems and difficulties in dealing with every day prison life. A request was put to the deputy superintendent, to allow this group to meet on a regular basis as other groups were so doing. Although this request was denied, individuals were meeting in the yard, but were also frequently disbanded by guards orders. Later one of their school teachers helped them to have their meetings at the School Building.

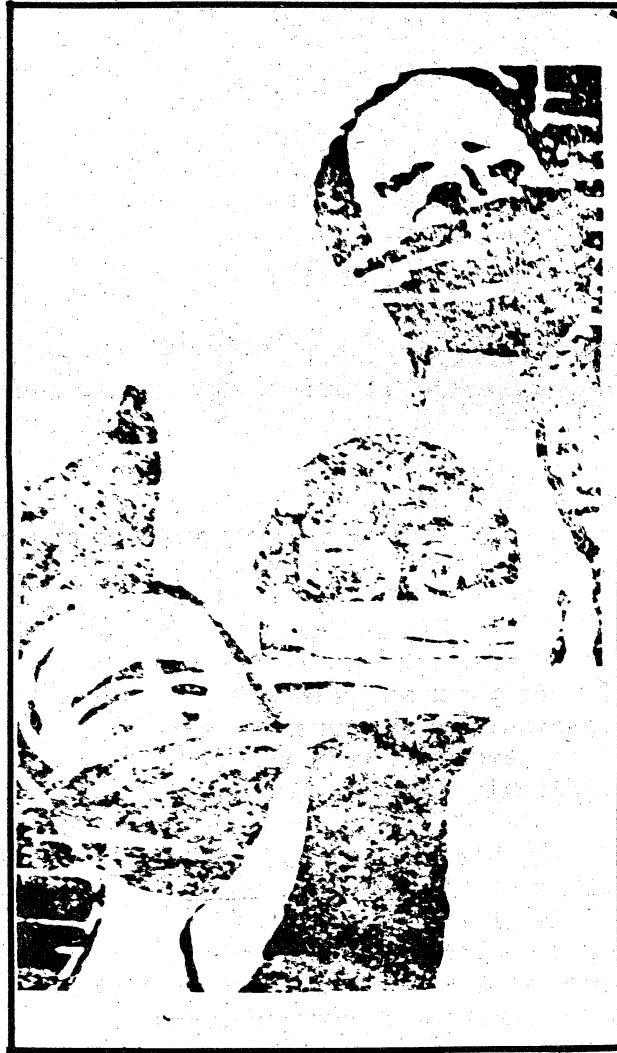
During the summer of 1971 general unrest among the entire prison population led to a riot. This riot gave the Spanish-speaking prisoners a strong feeling of unity that led them to organize a formal group, the "Spanish Rights Committee", that was to look for the protection of their rights within the prison. They elected a general board that presented a series of demands to alleviate problems they were facing at the time.

During this same year and after the group began to meet on a regular basis, one of the first problems brought up by prisoners was the necessity of a bilingual teacher, since at the time prisoners did not have any educational opportunities. A bilingual teacher was then hired for the then 32 prisoners. Innumerable problems shifted her main duties from teaching, to counselling, social work, interpreting, etc. During Mr. Bolhinger's administration of Norfolk prison, this Spanish rights committee was officially recognized and allowed to operate in January, 1972, basically out of the growing friction between guards and Spanish-speaking prisoners. This prison has specific factors that contribute to a better sense of group: a) prisoners at Norfolk are preselected; b) they are in the institution a longer time allowing for more familiarity and group cohesiveness, and c) they are larger in membership, meaning more effectiveness as group pressure.



We outline the development of this group since there seems to be a trend in the formation of similar groups in other correctional institutions such as Concord, Framingham, Walpole, and Forestry Camps. Prisoners have undergone the same process in the attempt to improve their substandard conditions.

It was clear to the Norfolk group that they were very limited in their scope of action, and that they needed to bring attention of the outside Spanish or other interested community to their problems; they wanted to form a group that would serve as liason with other Spanish-speaking prisoners serving time in other institutions; and, most important, they saw the necessity of outside community support, if they were to bring meaningful change to the present conditions.

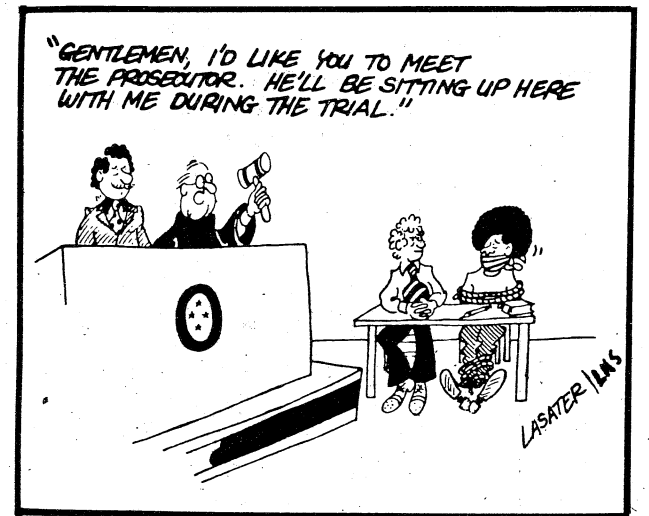


In August, 1973, after a year and a half of regular meetings of the Spanish Rights Committee, a group of interested individuals and agencies got together to discuss the problems affecting the Spanish-speaking prisoners of the different institutions.

## II. The Need

During various meetings held by members of this committee, the actual situation of the Spanish-speaking prisoner was presented by both committee members and many other individuals working within the criminal justice system.

1. It was pointed out that from the very first minute



that the Spanish-speaking individual gets in touch with the criminal justice system usually when he encounters a member of a police force, he is totally alienated, incapable of communicating and denied rights available to others who can express themselves. Many of those today in prison were not even advised of their constitutional rights. Even if now there is a written card of the translation of these rights, policemen should be aware that some of the arrested men are illiterate.

## 2. The Court System:

It was described that when a Spanish-speaking individual is taken to court, more likely he does not speak English fluently; (consider for instance, that 26.1% of the Spanish-speaking community in Boston are unable to speak English, and 43% speak but little English. Similar characteristics are exhibited by other Spanish communities throughout the state); he does not bring a lawyer with him because he cannot afford one (for instance, in Boston Spanish community "...a larger share of households are on Welfare"); and when given a public defender, he cannot communicate properly since there are no fully bilingual public defenders. In this situation, his attitude becomes that of someone who feels angry, and helpless to face the situation, jeopardizing his possibilities for probation which is given at the discretion of the judge. Bilingual probation officers are rare, making in difficult to communicate with potential clients, who in this case do not have equal opportunity as their fellow Americans. On occasion many Puerto Ricans have been advised to accept the idea of returning to Puerto Rico as a "good chance" to obtain probation.

## 3. The Prison System or "Correctional Institutions":

It is clear that the attitude of an organization is filtered down from the attitude and performance of the ones above.



## Spanish Rights cont.

If we look at the administration of Corrections, they have not even acknowledged the basic problem that this population is confronting, mainly the difficulty in communicating. Whatever meager improvements are found today, they have only been obtained through demands in time of riots.

4. Among innumerable other needs presented we can cite within the prison itself,

a. There are no Spanish-speaking interpreters available for visitors, forcing in many occasions families to return home without having seen the person they came to see, simply because they cannot communicate, fill out required forms, or understand instructions given by guards.

b. There are only meager educational resources to prisoners

c. There is no Spanish-speaking psychiatrist available; meanwhile Spanish-speaking prisoners continue to be examined in cases where little or no English at all is spoken by the patient.

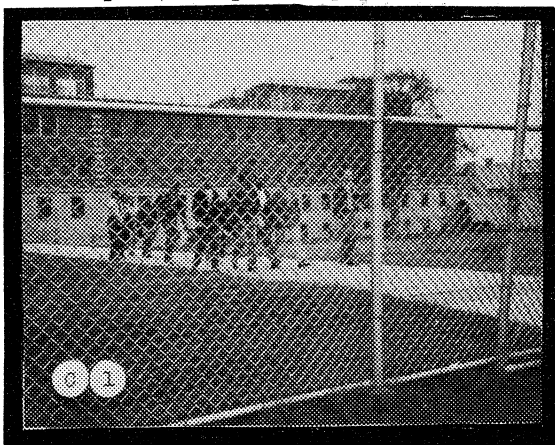
d. When prisoners without families, go out on furlough, it often necessitates assistance, both monetary and otherwise.

e. No job counselling for Spanish-speaking prisoners.

f. Need for bilingual community member to serve as liaison between prisoners and lawyers since many are getting insufficient legal aid.

g. In general, the need for bilingual personnel at all levels within administration and institutions is essential to begin bringing about some change in the lives of these individuals.

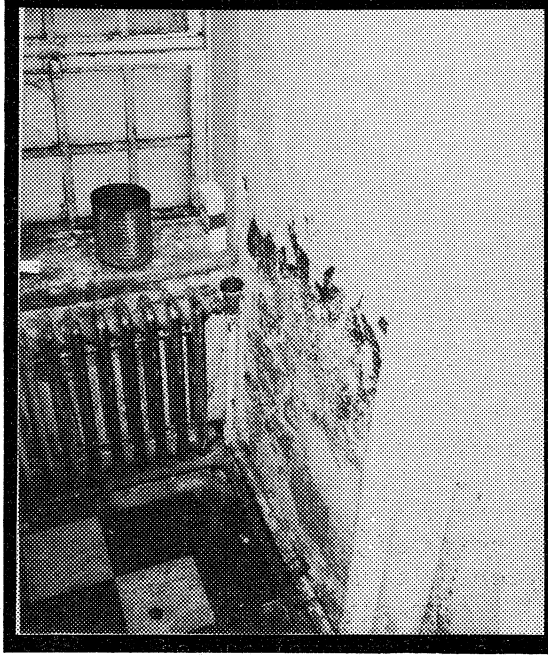
h. At present, no rehabilitation program has been designed to meet any of the needs of the Spanish-speaking prisoner.



Norfolk

Photo: N.P.

It is clear that the Spanish-speaking prisoner cannot benefit from programs of "community corrections" until their basic needs are met. It is felt that they are being discriminated against when they have to be placed at the bottom of a waiting list to get a chance to be sent to a half-way house or a pre-release center, where NO bi-lingual personnel has been hired.



Norfolk

Photo: N.P.

### 5. The Parole System:

In order to go out on parole, a prisoner needs basically a suitable place to live and "a stable job". The question remains: how can a Spanish-speaking prisoner get a job if no counselling has been made available to him; if not even basic educational opportunities are offered to him; if there is no trade he can learn because they are taught in English.

Assuming that the behavior of a man and the time he has served make him eligible for parole, he is brought up to the Parole Board. No one member of that Board can fluently communicate in Spanish; any cultural sensitivity expected from them is difficult, being from an alien culture. Judgement of this individual, his intentions, his plans or his ideas is impossible if they cannot communicate with him. Documented cases are available where a prisoner's request for interpreters has been denied by this same board.

## Parole Bills Heard

On March 5th the Executive Session of the Social Welfare Committee met for the hearings on 1) the Parole Bills for Lifers, which calls for the 10 year standardization of parole eligibility for both first and second degree lifers, 2) the one-third parole eligibility for all prisoners, and 3) Bills calling for restrictive furlough policies.

Tiny Durring from Walpole said that "If you don't have confidence in the parole board, throw them out. If you do, give them some responsibility". Both Warden Vinsant and Comm. Hall spoke strongly in favor of the pa-

March

role bills. Vinsant pointed to the fact that Mass. is one of the few states without such laws. He pointed to three factors which effect the sentencing and parole of Lifers: 1) how well the crime is publicized, 2) political pressure for release, and 3) how big a vote segment will it effect. He felt that it was "time to get these issues out of the political system and into the legal system". Comm. Hall strongly opposed the restriction of furloughs, saying that he will accept the responsibility for administering furloughs (1.7% escape rate out of 8,783 total furloughs).

The experiences of all oppressed minorities reveal that the criminal justice system remains a powerful instrument of Anglo domination. Historically it has proved itself to be a barrier to the development of cultural, economic and political power of oppressed communities. Very personally aware of this, the Spanish Rights Project is working towards two major objectives. 1) To investigate and analyse all aspects of the criminal justice system relative to the situation of Spanish-speaking prisoners, and plan alternative solutions, and work towards implementation. An important aspect of this being the development of an ongoing communications network between the Spanish community and its connections with the criminal justice system.

2) Perhaps more importantly, the Project is developing resources and communications between the Spanish community and the Spanish prisoner population. In attempts to solve individual problems, the project hopes to set up resource and referral centers within both the institutions and the communities, which will provide legal aid, and support to both prisoners and parolees.



LNS

Effectiveness hinges on many factors but collective support and control are essential. It is important that individuals and groups get together in this struggle. Spanish-speaking prisoners, ex-prisoners, families, community members, groups or individuals should contact the Spanish Rights Committee, Box 43, MCI Norfolk, 02056.

Politically maneuvering around a number of bills which called for the direct limitation of furlough eligibility, either by stopping it all together, or prohibiting those who had committed crimes of violence, the Committee moved in favor of the bill which called for the notification of State and local police upon furlough release. They did however strongly support the parole bills which will now go before the floor of the Legislature sometime within the next few months.

It is important that all Senators and Representatives be made aware of your support on the parole bills if we are to begin to remove the barriers of oppressive discretionary powers.

# Hire a Baby Sitter

Dear NEPA NEWS,

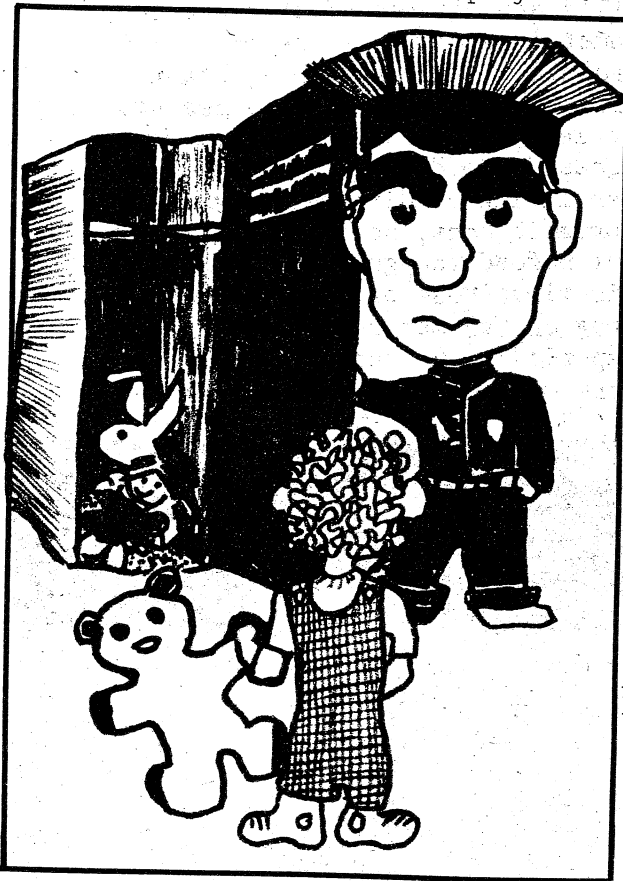
I would like to express the anger of my fellow inmates in N.H. state prison, and in behalf of our families (especially children), girl friends, and friends who take the time to visit us and who now are being harassed for no logical reason whatsoever. If any person out there reads this and can help out in any way, it would be highly appreciated by all of us here.

When we get a visit, our visitors are made to go through a metal detector. We are told this is to make sure that no one has a gun, knife, or other metal object that could be used as any kind of weapon. OK, that's cool; we can understand their point of view on that. After this our visitors are taken upstairs to the visiting room with a guard watching all the time. Now, before we are allowed to go into the visiting room, we must be shook down. Then after two hours of a guard staring at us, we are again taken into a room and shook down again, and that is the end of our visit.

Recently the administration has come out with a new policy. I hope I can make people who are out on the streets understand that this new policy has nothing to do with security reasons, as the administration has tried to make it out to be. The real reason is that our Inmate Grievance Committee (IGC) has been trying to get our human rights through legal means and the warden has to go to court a lot, and man, the cat is all upset about this. So, his reaction is that he will not meet with our IGC and if you put a letter asking to see him about something important, he won't see you. His balance of absolute power has been shaken up and he is fighting back and trying to make our lives more miserable than they already are. Right now he is coming out with 64 new rules for us. OK, that's cool; he can come down on us

all he wants; we are young, strong, and are starting to get united.

But now he has hit us below the belt, for with the new policy not only do our visitors still have to go through the metal detector, but now they must leave all their personal belongings in a locker downstairs. Dig this, our sons and daughters ranging from ages of a few months old and on up, must also leave all their toys and things downstairs. Children who are just starting to walk love to run around and play with



their toys. Meantime, their mothers and fathers can talk about important things. Well this new policy covers all children, regardless of age, as well as adults. When the deputy warden was asked why our children can't have their toys (and he was speaking for the warden), he replied, "If you don't like it, hire a babysitter."

Hire a babysitter, are you shitting me man, where is that at?

Seeing how our people have to put all their personal belongings in a locker (and if you ever noticed, some children have a favorite toy they love and they don't want to get up off it for any reason), can you dig this scene.

"Johnny leave your favorite teddy bear in the locker with mommy's things."

"Why?"

"Because see that man over there in the uniform, he said you have to put your teddy bear in this locker if you want to see daddy."

"Do you have the key mommy?"

"Yes."

"Does that uniformed man have a key too?"

"Yes."

"But mommy, a man that would be mean to daddy, and that would take my toys, would that same man steal from us also?"

"Let's hope not Johnny."

Now if I have reached any person out there who would like to help or feels this is wrong, stop and think of where some of your taxes are going. They are going to men of a mentality of \_\_\_\_\_. Well I can't find the word, because, who in God's world would harass a small child for no reason whatsoever. Ask yourself what would you do if somebody was doing the same thing to your child. Hire a babysitter? Sure!!!

Leo F. Feeley IV -- N.H. state prison  
For Leo F. Feeley V (17 months old)  
and the rest of the children who  
love and miss their daddys.

*(Complaints regarding the new visitation policy at NHSP should be sent to the Board of Trustees, NHSP, Box 14, Concord, N.H. 03301. Write one now- it won't take two minutes.)*

## Plea for Unity

We are making this plea on behalf of the prisoners here at New Hampshire State Prison to all those who are working for prisoners and prison reform/abolition, and especially to our brothers and sisters, old and young, here in New Hampshire. The conditions within prisons are becoming more and more a matter of public knowledge, due to the efforts of prisoners, ex-prisoners, supporters outside, and a few concerned public officials and news media people. While this publicity is good, we must now begin to eliminate the actual abuses, which are very often not only brutal for prisoners subjected to them, but actually are a grave threat to all our ideas on human rights and dignity. The major burden of the struggle must lay on our shoulders here inside the walls, but left only to ourselves, our chances are not that good. We need and want the active support and interest of all concerned people.

Many of you out there, to our knowledge, are having some hassles getting a good organizational structure

together. We realize you are trying very hard, and believe me, we do appreciate it. Prisoners have been too long neglected by the general public and too long suppressed by those that oversee our lives here in prison. The problem as some of us see it, is that there are many well meaning people trying to get it together but who might not be realizing that there must be concerted collective effort. By that we mean there should be one central organization, for our effort coalitions and splinter groups will not do. There is no sound reason why there has to be two, three or more organizations working in the same area for the same basic goals. If we are all working for the same basic things, then we should all be working together, and this is best done within one organization. NEPA is not only established but in our estimation the most helpful, and it has gotten the most done, such as a paper, contact with prisoners, and formulating committees

to deal with some of the many problems facing us.

But let's stop and think for a minute how much better it would be if every one concerned with prison support were to gather into one organization. Everyone we are sure has heard the words, "united we stand, divided we fall." It is as true now as it was when it was first heard. As long as we are not tightly knit, it just makes it easier for the nixons, thomsons, vicks and their lackeys to beat us back. We are up against a stagnant, very often backward bureaucratic power, and to move or change it we must all work together, that's right -- together. Let us forget our petty hassles, ego trips, and minor disagreements because if we all want the same things basically, then we must put aside those differences and fight together to achieve our aims. Thank you brothers and sisters. Venceremos (we shall triumph).

February 16, 1974  
collectively written by some  
brothers at NHSP

# Against Drug Experimentation

Dear NEPA,

Between February 22 and 27, 1974, approximately 150 of the 271 inmates of the New Hampshire State Prison were asked to read the following petition:

## OFFICIAL PETITION

"We, the undersigned prisoners of the New Hampshire State Prison, hereby declare our opposition to any kind of a drug experimentation program which may be proposed for this institution. This includes any drug program by any federal, state, county, private, or commercial agency or board.

Furthermore, we submit this petition as an official consensus of the inmate population against all drug experiment programs in prisons throughout the country. February 28, 1974"

The usual explanations for using prisoners are that prisoners, being confined to a small area, present an ideal situation for monitoring the guinea pigs' diet, exercise, and daily routine. Also, the drug company claims that they cannot find enough "volunteers" on the streets. Once the drug company's representatives have gained the attention of interested prisoners, various benefits are offered of promised to inmates who agree to become guinea pigs. Offers such as financial compensation, inferences of leniency with Parole Boards, increased "good time" benefits, softer living conditions (more comfortable beds, better food, etc.). But before the guinea pig is given his first dose of an experimental drug or becomes part of a medical experiment, he must first sign a form releasing the prison, State,

country's prisons, I submit that the frilly benefits offered by proponents of such experimental programs are nothing more than another form of behavior modification. What's to say that a prison administrator could not "arrange" for so-called trouble makers to be injected with mind control drugs under the guise of "drug-experiment programs"?

In conclusion, these programs are nothing more than another tactic used by "big business" and prisons to entice a person into becoming a human guinea pig when the same person, if he were on the streets, would not consent to allowing such experiments to be performed on him.

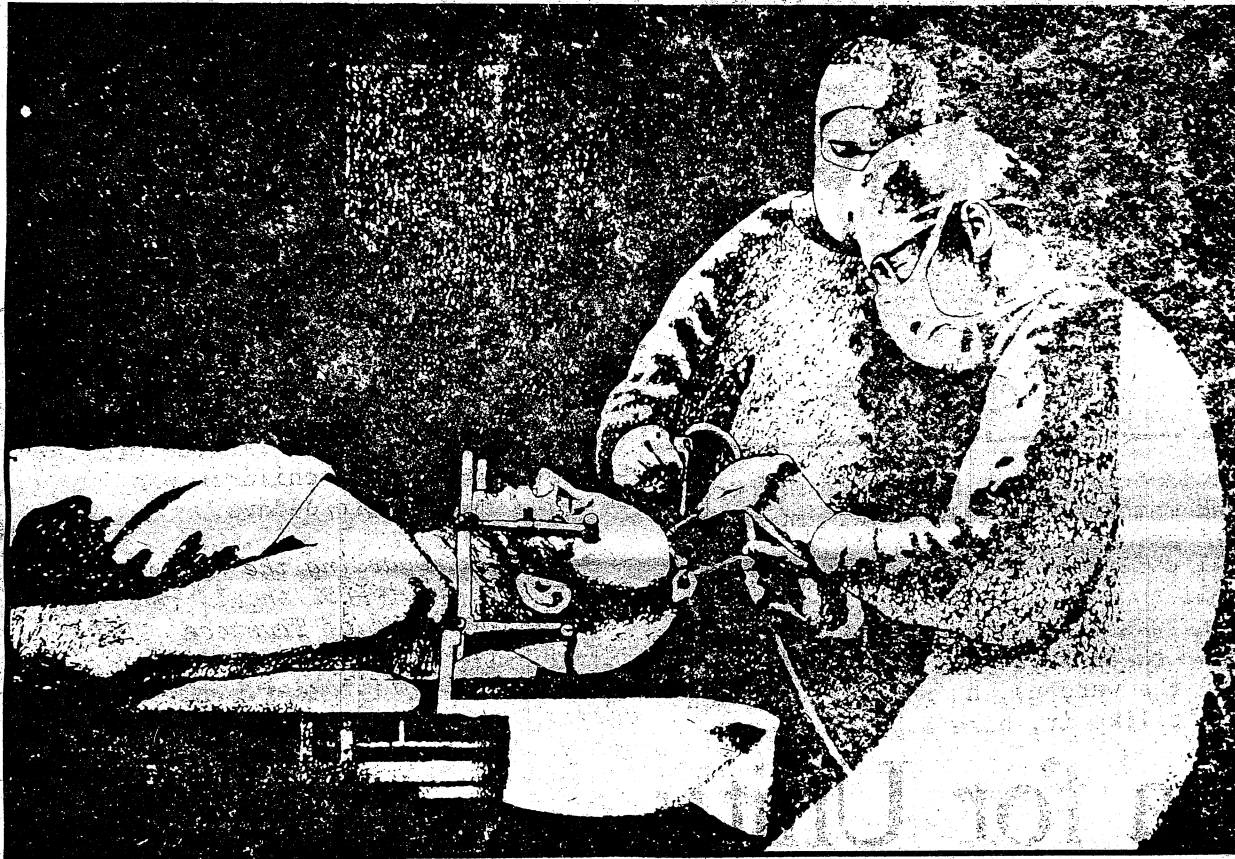
These exploitive practices using prisoners must be stopped.

Respectfully submitted,

L.R. Chasse  
N.H.S.P.

139 signatures of N.H.S.P. prisoners are being sent to the Advocates, Box 1974, Boston, Mass. 02134

Any other persons interested in airing their views are urged to write to the Advocates, New England Prisoners Association, Franconia College, Prison Law Project, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, and other prison-related organizations.



139 of the 150 inmates pooled signed their names to this petition, which was in response to the ADVOCATES program of Feb. 21, 1974, aired on WGBH-TV, Channel 2, Boston, concerning the question of: "Should medical and drug experiments on prisoners be halted?"

During the show, one of the proponents of these drug programs inferred that one of the strongest reasons for continuation of such programs was that not one single letter of opposition had been written by any inmate in any prison. The general feelings here are that one cannot make a rational or free decision concerning individual participation in any of these programs while in prison.

Presently, there are no official drug or medical experiments here at NHSP, and we don't want any, for many reasons. The usual "sales" pitch used to entice a prisoner into accepting the position of human guinea pig goes something like this. A profit making drug company will receive permission to canvass inmates,

and Company from any legal actions or lawsuits in case the guinea pig develops any ill effects from the treatments or in some cases dies.

The exploitation of human life by the profit-making drug companies is obvious and must be stopped. Offering small pittances to prisoners incarcerated in a closed environment in exchange for their bodies is not a way of showing concern for that prisoner's physical and mental welfare. Setting up a class system within prison walls at the expense of non-cooperative inmates does not help to rehabilitate a person. It only serves to entice a person to "volunteer" for better living conditions, or money, or a quicker way out of prison. All prisoners should be afforded the benefits of such drug experimentation programs without having to put one's health on the line. In such a repressive atmosphere, what person could make a fair and impartial decision to volunteer or not volunteer for such a program? Due to the terrible living conditions and repression one faces in most of this

## Honest Mistake

Dear Editor,

Today we had another strong example of the utter disregard for the rights or even the lives of the men confined here at the New Hampshire State Prison.

At approximately 10:15 A.M. two inmates entered the sallyport on legitimate business, with properly issued passes. While they were waiting for Deputy Warden Fuller, two N.H. state troopers, at the prison to pick up another man, severely beat and kicked Edward McMillan and Randall Thompson.

There was no provocation for this vicious attack which was witnessed by several visitors to the prison, as well as prison inmates and staff. Prison officials made no attempt to stop or otherwise interfere with these state troopers, although they were aware of the beating and the complete lack of provocation.

When the troopers finally were informed, by prison officials, that they had no reason to assault these men, they replied that they guessed it was "just an honest mistake".

I believe that this has a lot to say for our present system of justice(?), when a man cannot even be safe from an arbitrary and capricious police beating inside a state prison.

Feb. 15, 1974

Sincerely,  
Russell Collins Jr.  
reg. # 9850  
N.H. State Prison

# More Attacks On Yancey

1.) John Yancey was attacked on Dec. 11, 1973, but while this was and still is the most serious attempt to get him, by no means have the jailers at N.H.S.P. stopped since then.

2.) On Dec. 12, 1973, John had a major disciplinary hearing on charges stemming from Nov. 9, when four guards, including Major Thornton and two lieutenants jumped and beat and dragged him to the hole, for demanding his right to exercise while he was in red tag (confined to his cell). John was charged with biting, punching, and kicking--in other words trying to defend himself from this goon squad. Besides the beating he got, the disciplinary board sentenced him to three months in segregation. It should be added that there were numerous prisoners who saw this event and testified for him at his hearing--all to no avail, of course.

3.) In early January a man made parole here and wanted to leave John his TV set, as is the usual, long-standing practice. There never is any hassle about this as far as the administration is concerned. They just register the serial number under the prisoners name who is to get the TV. This usually takes a couple of hours at most.

John was informed that Lt. Batchelder was to do the transferring. John, knowing that Batchelder disliked him (he was one of the Lts. who attacked John on Nov. 9), asked that another Lt. do this. This was not allowed, even though this other Lt. tried to do so. Instead John's TV was held up for a couple of days. Knowing that this was deliberate, John sent a letter to Deputy Warden Fuller, angrily protesting this harassment. The Deputy Warden sent him a reply saying in part, "as a result of your letter, I am refusing Evans' request to give you his TV set." This is the first time anyone has been refused a parollee's TV for complaining about harassment.

was in the segregation unit and John attempted to find out why he couldn't get the TV. The Deputy answered in a sarcastic pig manner that he'd never get the TV and headed out of the unit. John loudly tried to ask him more about this, at which point the Deputy turned around and asked the Drug Counselor, who was in the unit talking to another man, did Yancey spit at me. The Drug Counselor said I didn't see anything like that.

That evening John received another major disciplinary report for "spitting at the deputy."

5.) On January 16, John had his hearing for this charge. The Drug Counselor testified that he was standing close to John and DID NOT SEE HIM SPIT AT ANYONE. Of course this testimony, even though it was by a member of the prison staff, was not regarded, and, in fact, the Deputy Warden in summing up the charges stated, "Wickens (the drug counselor) didn't see Yancey spit, ALTHOUGH HE SHOULD HAVE," clearly implying that the Deputy Warden and his trusted underlings were outraged that the drug counselor would dare tell the truth and contradict what the Deputy hoped would be a simple frame-up.

Of course the disciplinary committee found John guilty and sentenced him to a further six months in segregation -- the maximum penalty for any major disciplinary report.

Seeing the open-handed frame-up that was taking place, John righteously stood up and told the Disciplinary Board that their hearing was nothing but a fascist, racist, kangaroo court, and that he had nothing further to say to lackeys who had their orders told to them before the hearing even began.

6.) Many men here at the prison are concerned about John and are attempting to assist him in different ways -- typing his papers, supplying his canteen needs, etc. To try and thwart this solidarity the fascist jailers are stopping or holding up all letters and notes that John sends

and receives from brothers in the general population. They have also stopped letting him attend church services, instead sending the priest over to segregation during the week.

7.) John and most of us here, are glad to see the outside support that he is getting; the articles in papers, the defense committee, the organizing that the Black students at Portsmouth High School are doing, as well as all the other efforts of other people. Without this, John, and potentially any prisoner here, is open to being set up and charged with further criminal charges.

8.) So far the most disappointing thing has been the lack of legal support. N.H. Legal Assistance took an extremely conservative and cowardly position. They said they'd take the case only if John swore not to bring up any political issues -- when in fact the whole case is a matter of fascist repression and trumped up charges by the jailers against prisoners in general. We are hopeful that better legal assistance is soon coming. Meanwhile, John's spirit remains high and his determination to struggle against his and all prisoners' oppression is, if anything, growing stronger.

Feb. 17, 1974

J. Laaman N.H.S.P.

## Background

*On Dec. 11, 1973 John Yancey was attacked in his cell by eight guards - maced, beaten, and dragged to the hole. Instead of disciplining the guards, John has been charged with two counts of assault, an offense carrying a penalty of 10 to 20 years on each count.*

*You can help by working with NEPA's John Yancey Defense Committee, Box 321, Littleton, N.H. 03561. Send your contributions to the committee with a letter demanding the charges against John be dropped. These letters will be given to the proper authorities by the Committee.*

## NEPA Helps Refused Visitor

February 21, 1974

Dear NEPA,

Hello. A friend of mine gave me your name and address and told me that you could give me some information on how I can see a friend in jail. I've gone to this jail in Belknap (the Belknap County Jail) to visit a friend, the guards refuse to let me see him because I am not immediate family. But someone said that they cannot do that and if I want to push it I can.

Could you write me and tell me whether or not this is true, and if I can get in somehow?

Thank-you very much

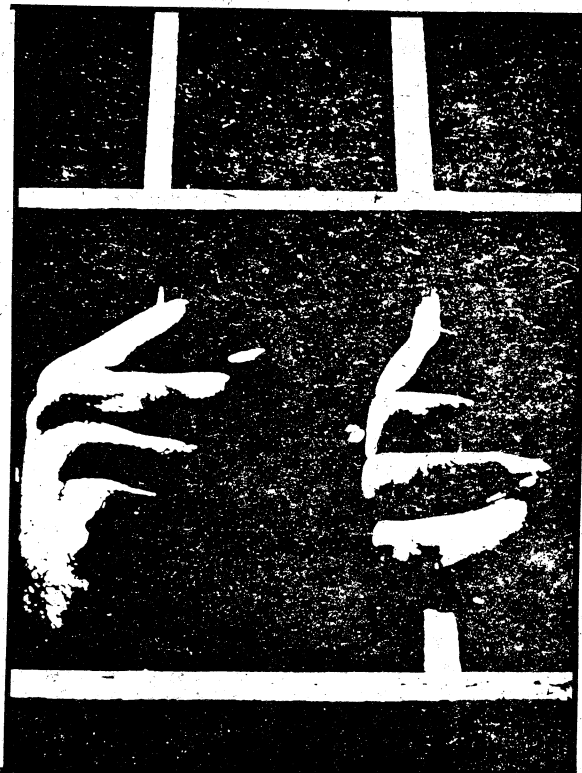
Brenda

NEPA replies:

Dear Brenda,

Received your letter and immediately contacted the superintendent of the Belknap County Jail to see what his policy was on non-related per-

Page 12



the great speckled bird

sons being allowed to visit. He said that he was aware that a number of non-related persons had attempted to gain entry to 'his' jail; however, he would not allow this. When I pressed him for the legal basis of such a decision he became extremely agitated with me, saying that it was 'his' jail and he could run it the way he wanted to and he didn't have to answer to me or anyone else. He referred me to the county attorney, David R. Decker, and then hung up.

I contacted Mr. Decker the following day. He said he was aware of the situation (unrelated persons wishing visitation rights) and is "looking into it..." for the superintendent. He believes the reason for this policy is because the jail has a 'drug problem'.

Mr. Decker said that he would contact me as soon as some sort of decision has been reached.

In Struggle,  
Shelley Cooper Neill  
Womens' Editor  
NEPA News

# John Yancey Speaks

To Fellow Brothers and Sisters,

I am not much at words when it comes to explaining the pain and tribulation I face here in this prison along with my brothers, or of the constant petty hassles that institutes the main foundation of the pigs' minds to aggravate a man to such a degree that either he takes action within himself of vegetates into a state of apathy. Both of these means are manipulation by the administration to control their prisoners. In the former, they label you as incorrigible and uncontrollable so they can have the excuse to open such prisons as the Tri-State plan, in which they can force you to vegetate. In the latter, they label you as a model prisoner and so-called gifts are showered upon you, such as better jobs, a chance for work release, or in some cases, positions to represent investigative interviews of the prison system. But this kind of prisoner really loses, because instead of gaining a little material freedom, he loses his dignity to walk straight as a man with his personal individuality intact.

I found myself forced to take action from the constant aggravation of petty hassles from the pigs in here. I guess I'm not quite the half-man they'd rather have me as. First of all, eighty percent of the pigs in here are racist to the bone, and the thing of it is, they've never dealt with

a Black man before on terms of a personal level, nor even had any kind of contact with one. When I first came here I was immediately termed in the stereotype spectrum of the "uppity nigger kind", in which they in their ignorance resorted to "southern type methods of handling niggers".



But what I really want to say is that I really need your support and urgently ask for it, for it is your support that will greatly influence my case in winning against the racism and oppression that runs rampant in here. I'm not saying winning the case will overnight change this place, but it will start to recess its

policy of the brutal oppression and racism toward both Black and White prisoners. My brothers here have backed me all the way in this case and have seen the importance of winning it. Plus many are now taking petty hassles of lock-ups because of their feelings about this case, and the fact that they supply me with needs that the pigs try to keep from me while I'm in punitive segregation. They even go out of their way to see that I have no communications with my brothers. I have now been in segregation for six weeks and have four more months to do, plus they've got two other disciplinary reports (a manipulative means to segregate prisoners from their brothers) that I have to face, which means possibly another year more I must do in here.

Well brothers and sisters, there's much more I want to say, especially that we will win in the end even if it has to take physical action to do so. My hopes and strength lies with you all and my faith is strong that we'll all be together against the ultimate gun of their fascist oppression.

With Love and Strength  
in the struggle until freedom  
is achieved,

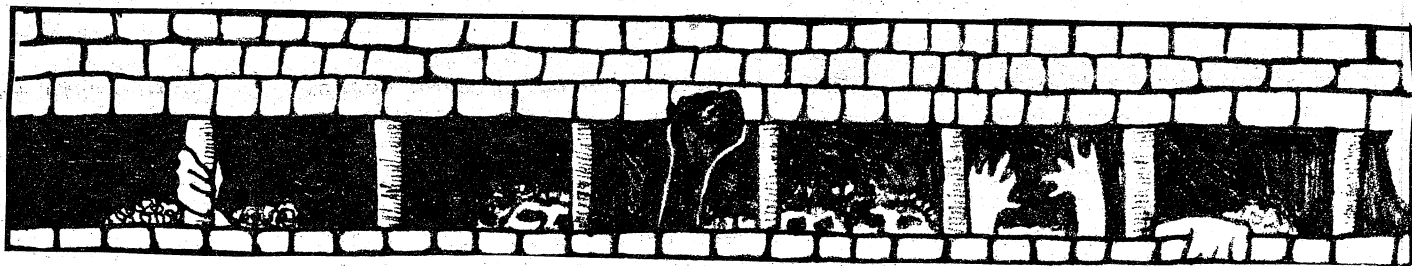
Venceremos

John Yancey  
Segregation Unit, N.H.S.P.

## Yancey Defense

By Sally Schofield

As many you have noticed, the JYDC in the past few weeks has made the Manchester Union Leader's front pages. As is usually the case with the Union Leader, the information written was biased, untrue, and some of it



a prisoner in NHSP.

We of the JYDC, decided in last meeting that, to make the Yancey case a purely racial issue would be unfair to the brothers who receive similar treatment regardless of their color or nationality. This is not to say that we don't recognize what happened to John was a racist move, but rather, in addition to being racists, the guards who attacked John will do the same to anyone.

We have three tentative demands, which will be printed in the next issue if they are accepted by the inside members of the JYDC as demands that will win changes within NHSP.

Several public education nights are being set up, where the film, "3000 Years and Life" will be shown and panels, made up of NEPA and JYDC members, will discuss things the government allows to happen at NHSP, including the specific incidents surrounding John.

A press packet is being put together. The press packet will contain a press release from the JYDC, a short history of John's involvement with the courts and prisons, and several Union Leader articles from their campaign two years ago to have John kicked out of college.

We thank those of you who have sent written support and help, and hope the support will strengthen throughout this ordeal. "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." For more information or to help, the JYDC address is Box 321, Littleton, N.H. 03561.

## Letter

Dear NEPA,

I have no income, the reason being I am locked in my cell and I feel I'll be in this rotten cell for some time to come.

My reason for informing you of the above is so you'll understand why I'm not able to send you any funds at the present time, to cover the cost of NEPA News. In the near future I'll send you whatever I can, because I like the way you print the truth, and I (we) need your help.

Within the next 3 weeks you will receive a story about a man who at the age of 14 was sent to the New Hampshire State Prison to serve a year and a day to ten years. I was that man.

It's been almost ten years since I first came here. I am now 25 and have been in and out since. I haven't the talent for expressing myself in writing. However, with the aid of another inmate, I'm sure I'll be able to write it as it was and still is today.

Thank You  
for your time,

Raymond A. Guay  
N.H.S.P.

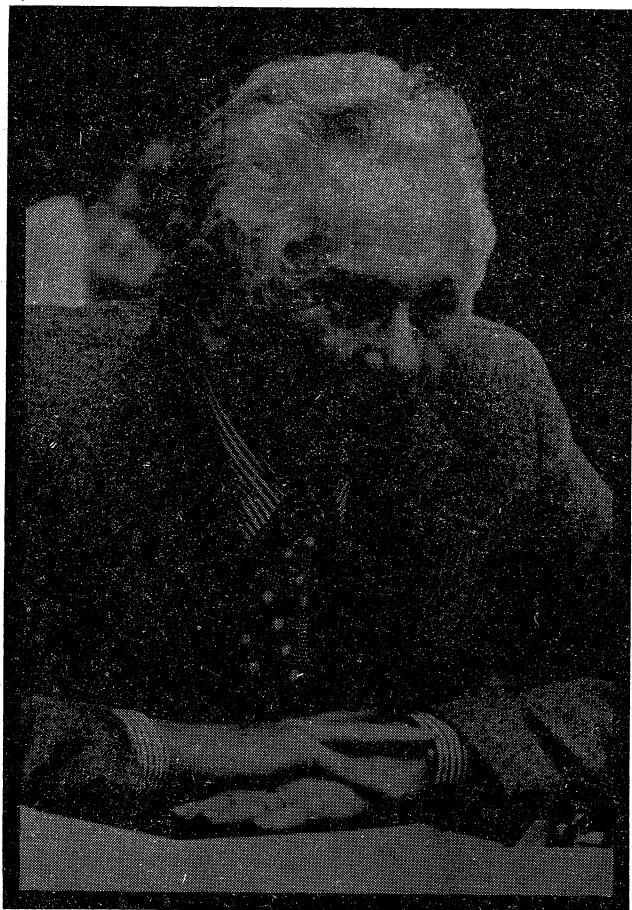


obtained by illegal means. Parts of the quotes came directly from correspondence between a member of NEPA and

March

In the 1972 Gubernatorial race, Crowley ran against Thomson. When Crowley lost, Thomson quickly appointed him to head the Crime Commission. Since then, Crowley & Thomson have become "buddy-buddy."

The next speaker was Gene Mason, a member of the NEPA Board of Directors. He said that the excuse given by state and prison officials for denying prison programs and reforms was of lack of funds. "But many reforms could be brought about without a dime being spent," Mr. Mason told the committee. He cited a few examples: allowing prisoners to partake in the decision-making process of the institution; establishing prisoners' right to negotiate pay and work conditions in the prisons; bring legislative reforms; parole reforms; and instituting minimum standards of legal, human and civil rights for all prisoners. "That doesn't cost very much money," stated Mr. Mason. Speaking for more than one and a half hours, he spoke of the curtailment of educational programs since the lockup at the



William Nagel

NHSP, which occurred exactly a year ago to the day of the committee's hearing. Since then, prisoners have been denied almost all of their rights under the Vitek administration, which has been aided and abetted by Thomson and the Union Leader. Asked by the committee about his parole record being printed in the Union Leader, Mr. Mason said, "Parole records are confidential, and do not come under the public's Right to Know law." The Leader had violated the law by publishing Mr. Mason's record.

Speaking after Mr. Mason, Edward Ouellette, Chairman, N.H. Parole Board, stated he didn't know how Mr. Mason's record, "had found its way to the Union Leader." Asked if parole records were given out, Ouellette insisted he would never reveal a parolee's record. "I have my suspicions as to who is giving records to the Union Leader," said the Parole Board chairman. "Who is?" asked Jacques Wilmore, one of the ten-member committee. "I would prefer not to say," answered Ouellette.

He said, "The Parole Board based its decision to parole a prisoner after taking into consideration the prisoner's conduct in prison. Of course a prisoner who has been 'tagged', say, five times just before his parole hearing would be denied parole." He reacted like a "hurt man" when the question of Thomson's suit against the Parole Board was discussed. Thomson's suit contended that Gerald Prunier, a Parole Board member, had conflict of interest over the Board's decision to parole Russell Nelson & Fredrick Martineau. Ouellette said, "I disagree with Judge Bois ruling in favor of Thomson." The effect of Thomson's court victory (which the Parole Board is appealing), has been to put the Parole Board in a poor position to parole people who would normally be paroled if Thomson weren't around.

Resuming the hearing, three members of the N.H. Prison Board of Trustees sat before the committee. They were: Martin Gross, Mary Thyng and Henry Waldo. Asked if he agreed with minimum standards of treatment for prisoners, Waldo, a Thomson appointee, told the committee, "I've not been in prison yet! I have worked for every penny I've earned. I don't agree with plush standards for inmates. Prison should not be plush for inmates." Reliable sources indicate that Waldo is the Thomson link inside the Board of Trustees, and reports directly to Thomson on what the trustees say and do at their meetings. Martin Gross, a Harvard graduate and lawyer, explained the role of the trustees. He said they were trying to provide, "prisoners with decent food, with decent medical care, dental care and what have you." Gross was livid about the Crime Commission's rejection of funds for a lawyer to work with helping prisoners at the NHSP. Mary Thyng said she agreed with Gross. Waldo muttered, "Inmates should work while in prison. Prison Industries will keep inmates in their place!"

By mid-afternoon, the committee turned to the subject of the "Disturbed Offender Project," an LEAA funded project at the N.H. State Hospital. Dr. Henry Payson, psychiatrist/consultant; Dr. Ruik Rolland, psychiatrist; Major Wheelock, Superintendent, State Hospital, & Jean Byrne, acting director, Disturbed Offender Project, all testified. Dr. Payson has been closely involved with collecting data on prisoners at NHSP, and he provides psychiatric services at the prison. Much of Payson's data was given to Prof. William J. Curran, a proponent of behavior modification for "convicts" that have been designated so-called "Dangerous, Special Offenders," and appeared in the infamous "Curran Report."

Major Wheelock revealed to the committee a staggering piece of "news" concerning Thomson. "We have to make a daily report directly to the governor about the patients at the hospital," said Wheelock. "The governor wants to be informed of any patient that is released by us," added Dr. Rolland. "We are exempt on Sundays from submitting a report to the governor," said



Committee members L to R: Menin

# Hea

Wheelock, with a touch of sarcasm. "Does anyone know if the governor has any medical or psychiatric training to decide which patient is ready to be released?" "NO!" The governor has no such qualifications; according to all the witnesses. As acting director of the Disturbed Offender Project, Jean Bryne could find nothing but high praise

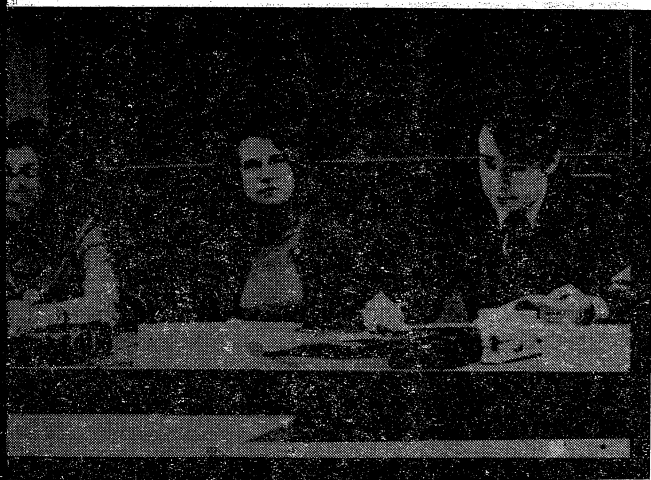


for the project. To Bryne, "inmates" were all the same, whether in hospital or in prison. Little or nothing was revealed about the Disturbed Offender Project at the hearing.

Under the heading of "New Hampshire in National Perspective," the committee heard from Edith E. Flynn, Harvard Associate Professor, Center for Criminal Justice; and William Nagel, Commissioner, Governor's Justice Commission, Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Nagel wasted no time to state vigorously, "I support fully the civil rights of prisoners." Asked about creating a New England regional maximum security prison,



L to R: Pat Knight, Rus



Arnold, Chaplin, DeCloux, Gilmore

# ings

Mr. Nagel said he was "opposed to concepts of 'maxi' prisons or building new prisons, anywhere in the country, including New Hampshire! I propose the abolition of prison!" Prof. Flynn said she wanted greater emphasis placed on community-based corrections and probation. She referred to the



Ted Keiser

"Des Moines Program," which takes persons before the pre-conviction process has taken place. She noted that the far-flung communities in N.H. did not help persons transported to the State Prison at Concord to keep contact with their local communities. But John F. King, Staff Director, N.H. Probation Dept., found that N.H.'s far-flung communities "made it very difficult for probation officers to travel throughout the state. The distances between various towns sometimes means we cannot devote the kind of help and supervision we would like to give to



Nelson & Eleanor Mullailey

individuals on probation. We don't have enough officers to go around the state," complained King.

Bringing the first-day of the hearing to an end, George Bruno, Director, N.H. Legal Assistance, and Kurt Swenson, Attorney at Law, spoke on the legal perspective in N.H. Both of them agreed that prisoners must be allowed full access to a lawyer. And furthermore, they called for the development of a legal assistance program at the NHSP.

New Hampshire is one of nine states to be chosen by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington on the feasibility of a proposed set of national minimum guidelines for the treatment of prisoners in state and federal correctional facilities. The Commission is an independent, bipartisan, factfinding agency created by Congress in 1957.

Opening the second-day of the hearing, two former NHSP guards testified to the committee. They were Gerard Forrest & Christopher Cronin. Ex-guard Forrest was fired by Warden Vitek for "not getting his haircut." Vitek refused to testify at the hearing, on orders from Thomson. Mr. Forrest was instrumental in exposing the truth of the 1973 lockup at the prison. Vitek had blamed prisoners for so-called "riot and escape plans," when in fact the lockup was brought because the guards had threatened to revolt against Vitek for allowing "inmates to run the prison." At the hearing, Mr. Forrest called for "an end to brutality against prisoners, better medical treatment, removal of unsuitable guards, full educational programs, and protecting prisoners' rights." Cronin said he was disliked at the prison, and left after only a few months. Next came Paul Gunter, Project Coordinator for a proposed Prisoner's Family Center. He said it was important to open such a center as soon as possible. The next speaker was Ted Keiser, a former Vocational Rehabilitation Psychologist at the NHSP. He recalled one instance in which he advised a prisoner of his rights. Later the Warden (Parker Hancock) informed Keiser that it was not the thing to do--to tell a prisoner his rights! "After that," said Keiser, "every effort was made by the warden to limit my contact with the prisoners."

The highlight of the hearings came when three N.H. parolees testified to the committee. They told of the conditions at NHSP and the repressive nature of parole rules.

Russell Nelson, Richard Schofield, and William Davis, were the parolees. As a black prisoner, Mr. Davis suffered badly at the hands of the racist administration at NHSP. He told the committee, "There are six Black prisoners at the prison. Five are in segregation. I'm the sixth, and I'm on parole," said Mr. Davis. "I was taken off work release because I was told I was seen walking down the street backwards!" Mr. Davis was not told which way he was walking "backwards" on the street! NHSP just revoked his work-release program. He said he had no doubts that the "Parole Board decides parole be-

fore they even speak to the prisoner." Asked Mr. Davis, "How can they (the Parole Board) judge me by a piece of paper?" Richard Schofield confirmed that during the lock-up prisoners were treated rottenly by guards and state troopers. Mr. Schofield said, "I questioned some of the troopers when they demanded all of my personal belongs, including all my legal papers." The troopers waylaid Mr. Schofield with fists. "I was taken from my cell, beaten all the way to the gym and beaten inside the gym by about 15 state troopers," that Gov. Thomson had ordered to the prison with additional 35 troopers at the ready. At that time, Russell Nelson was on work release. "But when I returned at night, state troopers were inside and snipers were positioned on the rooftops!" observed Mr. Nelson. Asked about his own parole, Russell Nelson explained to the committee, "I made parole after 14½ years in prison

"After I arrived home, I got a phone call telling me--'Governor Thomson is mad! You'd better come back to New Hampshire, right away!' Since his return, Russ has suffered great harassment, he is under strict control of his parole officer, who checks on him "day and night," said Russ. He said that prisoners make radicals and revolutionaries out of people.

The parolees told the committee it was imperative to enact a Bill of Rights for Prisoners. Hitting the nail on the head with her question, Ann Catherine Menninger asked: "I take it that it is no good to bring the committee to ask for an extra shower a week for prisoners? You want, in other words, changes made that will bring full prisoners' rights by law?" She mouthed the very essence of what all prisoners are wanting to achieve!

Other persons who testified, including Sister Eleanor Mullailey, former Education Director at NHSP; Patricia Knight, former education instructor at NHSP; Msgr. Phillip J. Kenny, Catholic Diocese of Manchester; and Maurice Geiger, U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

Members of the committee included, Louis A. Arnold, Gloria S. Cooper, Mureen H. DeCloux, Rev. Daniel W. Ferry, Robert H. Gilmore and Aldrich Mitchell. Marsha C. Masey, provided staff services to the committee. Orinda Nelson was the Civil Rights Commission's court reporter.

The two-day session of the committee's hearing was an unprecedented inquiry into the dismally low level of civil rights in the State of New Hampshire. Indeed the hearing produced a vibration of concern and dismay about the repressive tactics used against prisoners in N.H. Though not their intention, the committee was forced to hear of Gov. Meldrim Thomson's complete poisoning of the democratic ideals in New Hampshire. It would be true to say that the committee will be forced to report to civil libertarians everywhere that New Hampshire has put a yoke on the people's freedom and civil rights. But the people will put aside the likes of those who trample them--sooner or later!

photos: Berger & Howard

# Position Paper:

## THE NECESSITY OF MEETING ALL NEEDS OF PRISONERS DURING CONFINEMENT

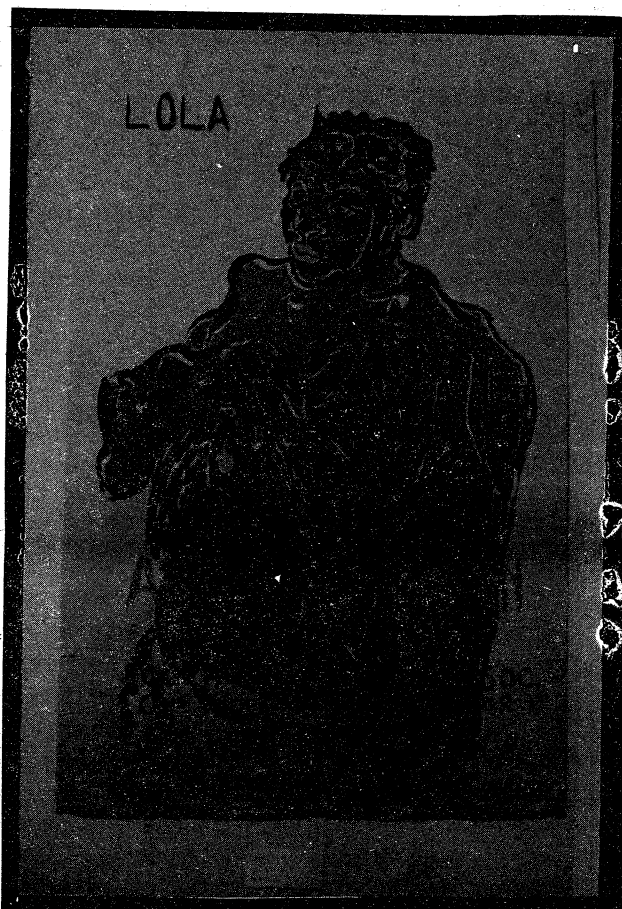
by June M. Finan, NPRA Board

A prison setting, although structured, that is truly rehabilitative takes into consideration all needs of men. All needs must be met during confinement if a man is to be returned to the community truly rehabilitated. To ask a man to do time for time's sake alone builds "resentments that bar rehabilitation".

Among his needs are study projects that will help him use his leisure time wisely both on the inside and on the outside, work projects that are remunerative during confinement and will be useful on the outside, and family visits which ensure an attempt to keep families together and to permit a man to function as part of a family unit even while he is isolated from the community.

To satisfy physical and emotional needs, it is only fair that some men, under the restrictions set by the proposed Furlough Release Bill, have some home visits. It is equally fair that those refused furlough have some accommodations made for visits within a security setting. A suggestion made to this writer by a woman visitor was the renovation of the unused Sackonnossett cottages for the purposes of family visits.

It is this writer's opinion that only when a society seeks to satisfy all needs of its errant members can it justify their removal from society under the name of rehabilitation. It is also this writer's opinion that no system of rehabilitation will ever succeed--no matter what its cost--in returning large numbers of men to the community to take upon themselves the responsibilities of society unless they are accorded the dignity of men during confinement.



All photos this page of the Boys School, Rhode Island, by Shelley Killen.

# ACI News

Night visitation proves successful. Prisoners can now receive visits, thanks to night visitation. Many visitors were unable to come up during the day for numerous reasons and the night visits permits them to finally come.

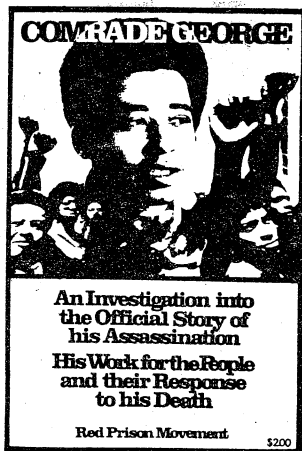
Legislation for 1974. Seven bills will be presented to the 1974 Legislature. 1) Furlough. 2) Work Release for Lifers. 3) Good time to count towards parole eligibility. 4) Majority vote for work release consideration. 5) Meritorious good service time. 6) Parole time to count as it is being served and honored in the community. 7) Minimum wage law.

Inmates Advisory Board. Committee of 7 prisoners sponsored by NPRA, a "grievance committee" but for a better name, the Inmate Advisory Board. The board meets once a week to prepare an agenda listing major complaints of the inmate population, during the same week the board meets with the warden. The agenda is submitted to the warden. Negotiations last a couple hours with the warden and oftentimes personnel of the administrative staff. The warden returns his directive and copies are placed on all bulletin boards throughout the prison. Progress is being made and the system works well.

Recreation News. Uniforms and recreation equipment are on order for coming summer. Tennis courts, new handball courts to be constructed. Ball field to be graded, refilled with loam and seeded. A new director of recreation is expected to supervise sports.

The N.P.R.A. in A.C.I. will be publishing a monthly paper. Ray Blaise, NEPA's "inside" editor for Rhode Island, is the editor. Right now their biggest problem is funding. Anyone who can contribute or would like to subscribe, contact Ray Blaise, Editor, NPRA, ACI, Cranston, R.I. 02920

## A new book about GEORGE JACKSON



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# Changing the Warden

Recent appointment of James W. Mullen as Warden of Rhode Island's A.C.I. replacing former warden Francis Howard, caused a great deal of speculation among prisoners as to what Warden Mullen's prison policy would be.

Howard was a modern, liberal, progressive warden, interested in "new" ideas in corrections. Those who knew Warden Howard and his philosophies on prisons agree he was a sincere, dedicated warden. "He was the right man for the job but at the wrong time." Commissioner Boone of the Mass. Dept. of Corrections fell in the same category as Warden Howard. What both men had in common was to "push" their ideas of progressive reforms into corrections. Both lost, but in defeat they left their mark on corrections and managed to leave behind programs

so successful they remain in existence today, and others that their successors finally put into effect. Corrections will not accept the change of modern ideas but prefers to wait another hundred years to change. It's cheaper, and the hard-line personnel in corrections need not fear losing their jobs or their sadomasochistic command over prisoners.

Warden James W. Mullen is a retired state police Captain, held a temporary position in A.C.I. as a security advisor, and a top ranking position in New England's Crime Prevention Organization.

Many prisoners felt that with the Warden's background of police service the A.C.I. would be turned into a state police barracks or some kind of police-oriented prison system. True,

security is number one and Warden Mullens makes it plain enough in his directives, but the opposite holds true as far as police (authoritative submissiveness) tactics are concerned.

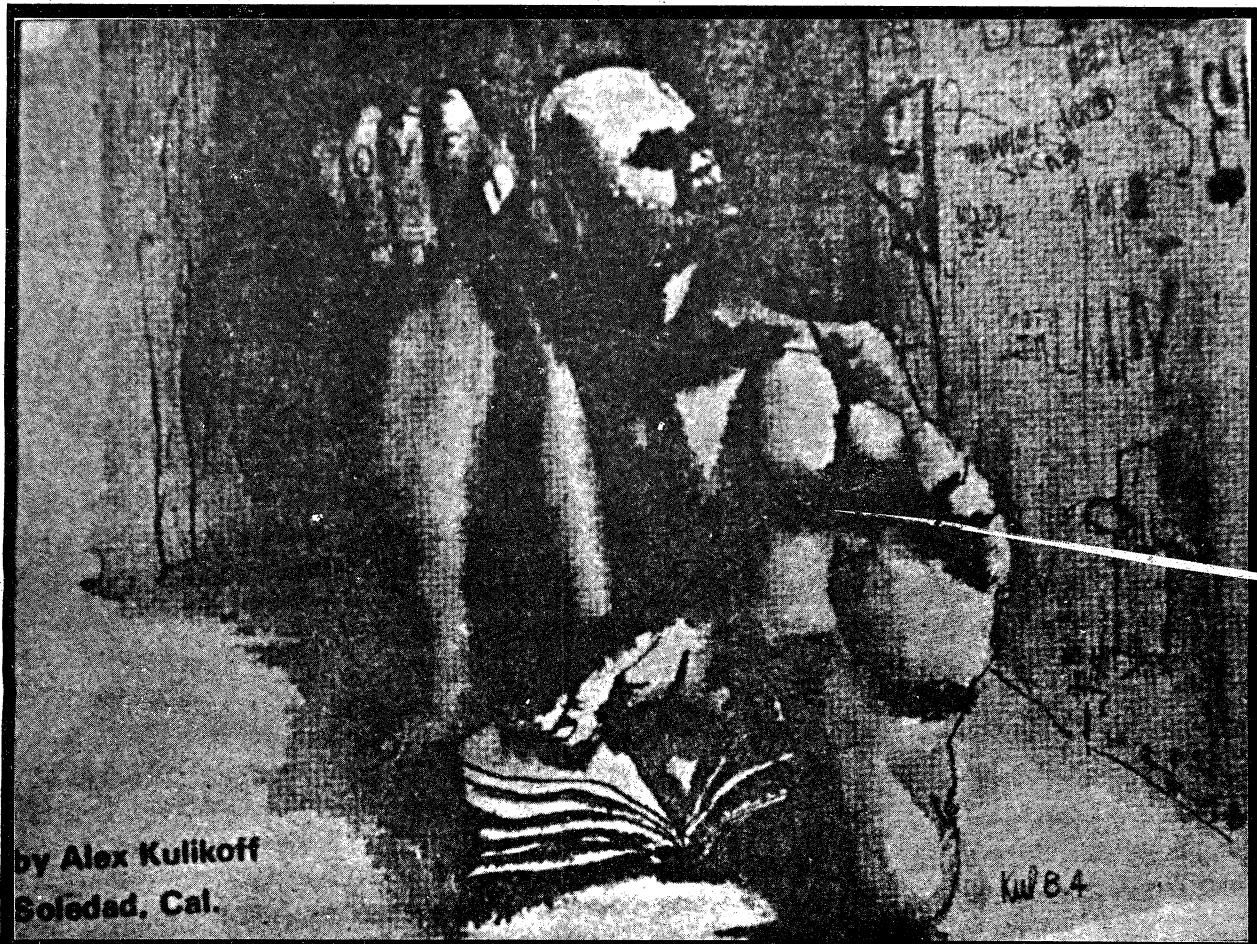
Warden Mullen's response to prison reform comes as a shock to many. Some expected more lock-ups, more shakedowns, more restrictions, etc., and to find the prison set back twenty years. The surprise came when he opened up communications with prisoner representatives from all prisoner-sponsored organizations. This opened the doors to negotiations and committees to bring about changes.

The warden is making an effort to improve conditions and has made a stand on several issues beneficial to prisoners and their respective organizations.

Prisoner-sponsored organizations are back in operation: A.A., Afro-American Society, A.C.I. Jayces, N.P.R.A., and others are in the process of coming into existence.

Visitation is returning to the dining room area. This was a major issue from the beginning. Warden Mullens took a stand, one prisoners can appreciate. Visits are the "only" family ties a prisoner has with the outside world. Congenial visitation is permitted now, but in the near future we hope conjugal visitation will be possible. Conjugal visitation is the only way to keep a married prisoner's family together.

A grievance committee (Inmates Advisory Board) was sponsored by N.P.R.A. at the warden's request. Telephones for prisoner-sponsored organizations and a phone in an area accessible to any prisoner wishing to make a telephone call were installed. Offices were made available to the Jayces, NPRA, and Afro-American Society; Classification Counselors have offices "inside" the prison.

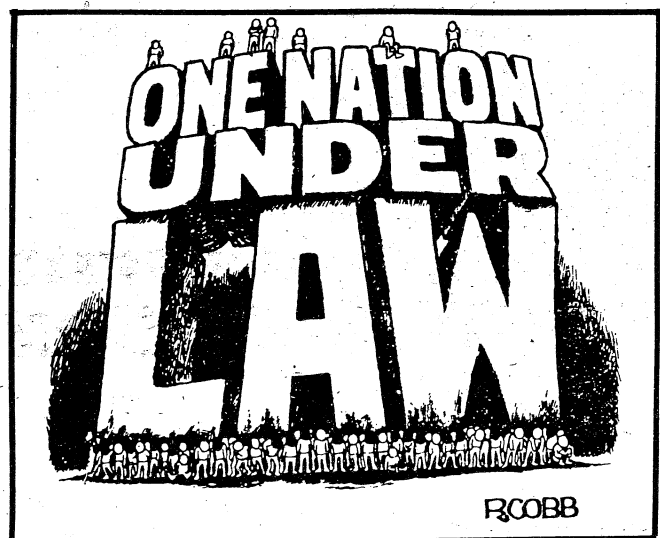


## R.I. Court Victory

The Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union has just learned that the First Circuit Court of Appeals has denied a request for a Stay by Attorney General Israel pending the State's appeal to the United States Supreme Court. In its decision of January 16, 1974 the First Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a decision of Judge Edward Day and ruled that prisoners had the right to representation by counsel at disciplinary hearings conducted within the prison and that prisoners had to be granted immunity before they testified at disciplinary hearings so that they would be assured that statements given to prison officials could not be used against them at future criminal prosecutions. In requesting that the decision of the First Circuit not be implemented until final review by the Supreme Court of the United States the Attorney General ar-

gued in a written memorandum that the major effect of the decision was to cause "difficulties and create tensions between the Attorney General and prison authorities". In response to this Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr., attorney for the prisoner involved, Nicholas A. Palmigiano, argued that the Attorney General was late in making his request and that in any event the Attorney General did not document specifically how friction had arisen between the Attorney General's Office and prison officials or how the decision in any way interfered with the administration of the prison.

The effect of the Court's denial of the Attorney General's request is that prisoners at the present time have a right to the presence of counsel at disciplinary hearings and to immunity regarding statements given at such hearings.



(For further information please contact Jan Slickman, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union, 55 Eddy St., Providence, Rhode Island at 831-7171)

(The First Circuit Court of Appeals covers R.I., Mass., N.H., and Maine.--Ed.)

# Arrest That Car

Well, we've heard everything now. After reading the following article, reprinted from the Burlington Free Press in Vermont (Feb. 14, 1974), we figure no one is safe from being put in jail or prison. Read it and see what you think.

A bill under which an automobile could be arrested and convicted for transporting drugs--or for potentially transporting drugs--is expected to be approved soon by the Vt. House Judiciary Committee.

Committee Chairman Timothy O'Connor, D.-Brattleboro, said his committee has finished hearing testimony on the bill, sponsored by Rep. Roy Vance, R.-Danville, and probably vote it out shortly.

O'Connor said he has some "personal reservations" about the bill, but expects his committee will approve it.

The committee heard lengthy testimony in support of the bill from William Lenck, Assistant Chief Counsel to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington.

Lenck is in charge of administering a similar law on the federal level.

He told the committee the Vermont legislation would work like this:

## VPSC on Hospital

Despite the thousand other things that afflict this cesspool, our hospital and the misuse thereof ranks as criminal. Presently it is used to house so-called "protective custody" prisoners and some who continue to "act out". In a sane prison (should there exist one) these former would be placed somewhere other than in someone else's sickbed; the latter, at a state hospital. Here sick inmates are denied access to their own hospital; they are forced to lie in their cells.

There is also a serious question of the caliber of help we are forced to use.

The practice of false entries on a prisoner's medical record is not uncommon. This was found out to be a fact, even if the discovery was an accident. A serious, deep reaching investigation must begin at once. The VPSC deplors these conditions.

Give the hospital back to those that are sick. Find other facilities for the so-called "p.c.". Give us competent help and treatment.

Yours in the struggle,

Dennis Allen

--A police officer, if he feels an automobile has been used for transporting illegal drugs, or that somebody intends to use it for that reason, literally arrests the automobile. The arrest warrant is placed under the windshield wiper.

--The officer informs the operator of the automobile of the arrest, then seizes the vehicle and places it in storage.

--The car is inventoried by state police and personal property is removed from it.

--Notification is then sent to the registered owner of the car, and to the bank or other lienholders, that the car has been seized and the state intends to proceed with a legal process known as "forfeiture".

--The owner of the car, or any other person with a legitimate claim to it, would have 10 days to formally protest the actions.

--In order to protest, the owner would have to place a \$250 bond on the vehicle.

--After placing the bond, the owner would go to court and he would have the burden of proof to show that he should be able to get his car back.

--If no protest is made within 10 days, the car is auto-

the cars driven by undercover agents would be "the kinds of vehicles that drug violators use."

He said the bill is supported enthusiastically by banks and other lending institutions--which would get their money back--and "the only person you hurt is the violator, the bad guy."

The biggest advantage, he said, is that if state police feels a person is violating the drug laws, they can seize his automobile even if they cannot prove him guilty in a court of law.

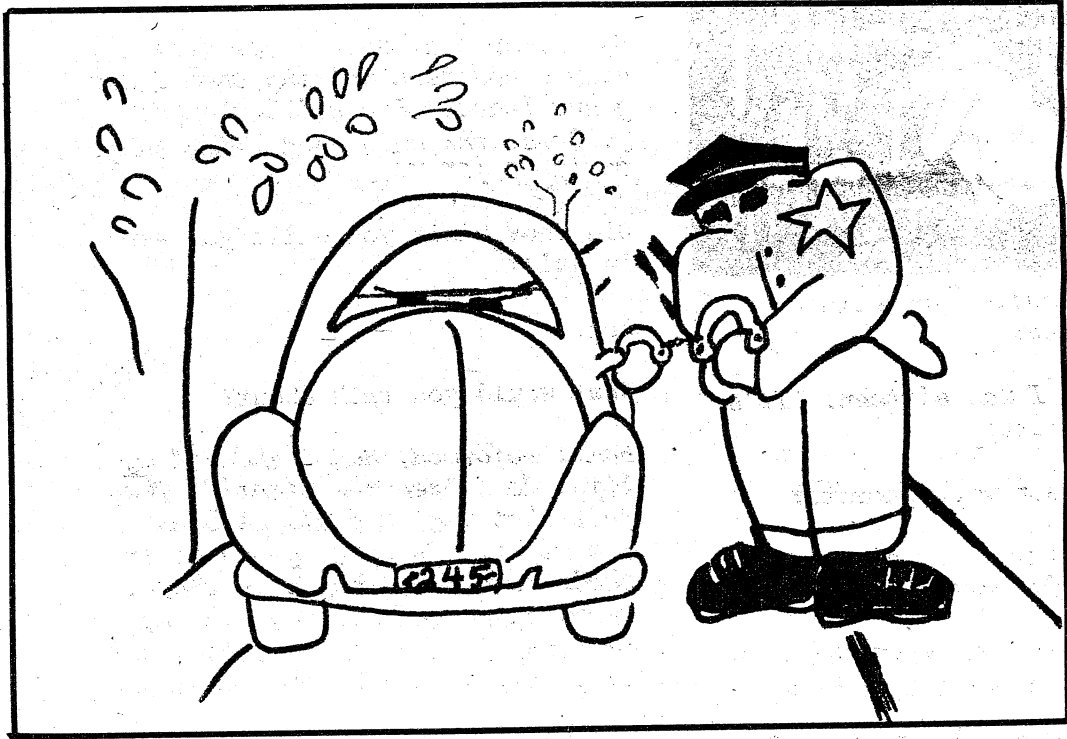
The car can be seized "before, after or without" the arrest of the individual involved, he said, and if there is an arrest, the car can be kept by the state even if the person is proven innocent.

"The action against the car is unrelated to any action against the individual," he said.

One member of the committee, Rep. Richard Cleveland, R.-Northfield, objected that an innocent person could lose his automobile under the procedure.

As an example, he said a parole officer might offer a ride to a client who had a past record of drug conviction.

The parole officer's car could be seized, he said, on the grounds that the officer knew of the passenger's past criminal record--even if he had no idea the passenger was carrying a drug at the time.



matically forfeited, and becomes the property of the state.

--The court case would be against the automobile, with an official designation such as "State of Vermont vs. 1969 Oldsmobile".

--To get the car back, the owner would have to prove that he had no knowledge that it possibly could have been used for criminal purposes, or that the car itself was "innocent".

--Once a car is forfeited, the state could either sell it or use it for other purposes. In either case, the state would pay to the bank or lienholder the amount still owed on the car.

Lenck said a major benefit of the law is that the state narcotics division could obtain, free or for low cost, vehicles for use in undercover work.

This can make their work more effective, he said, because

Lenck agreed that in such a case--especially if the officer was officially off duty--he would have no chance of getting his car back.

O'Connor suggested some changes might be made in the bill "to take care of the innocent person" before it is reported on the House floor.

However, he said, the state is taking a "get tough" attitude toward drug offenders, and "this may be one of the answers to Vermont's enforcement problems."

He said if a person can prove in court that the car could not have been used for transporting drugs, that the car was stolen, or that he had no knowledge that a passenger had a criminal record, he should be able to retrieve the car.

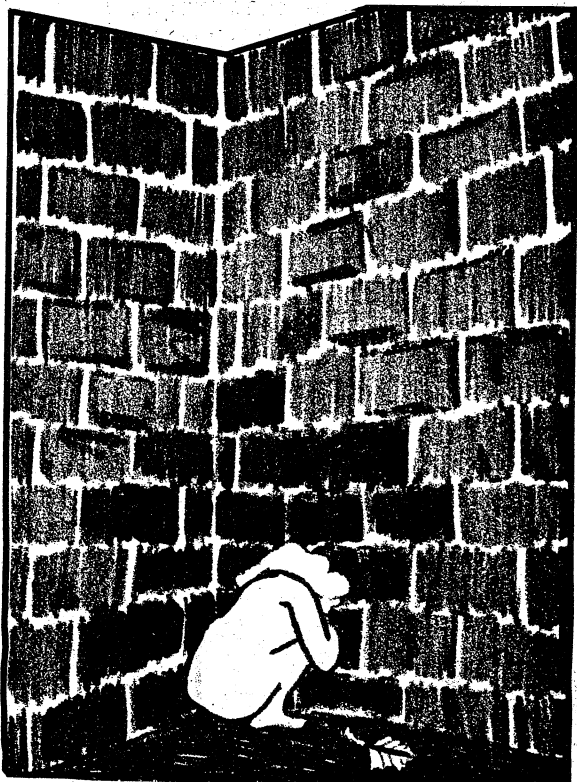
# Anita Wells: Experiences of a 'Juvenile Offender'

interview by Shelley Cooper Neill

*When I was sixteen I was arrested in Lawrence, for running away. I was thrown in a regular jail, and I can remember the guards coming down to my cell. Because I was a runaway and from out of state they take for granted that you've been out 'whoring' on the streets. They'd say: "we're gonna rape you, we're gonna rape you."*

They really said that?

*Yes. When I was brought to court (I think something has to be done about Juvenile Courts) I had no legal representation at all. They brought a priest in and I'm not even Catholic! I don't know where he came from.*



They didn't provide you with a public defender?

*No. Not when I was sixteen. It's up to your parents.*

Did they contact your parents?

*It was parents who signed to have me arrested, for running away.*

Did your parents realize that when they had you arrested that there

was a possibility of your going to jail for being an 'incorrigible child' or because you were a runaway? Did they understand you could serve a jail sentence?

*Your parents have to sign permit papers to have you picked up, that's a law. When you're arrested, you're brought to a detention home. It's automatic.*

What kind of sentence were you given?

*30 days, it's not actually a sentence, that's another thing about Juvenile Court, you're placed there at the courts' discretion. And 30 days is just a 'trial period'—where they study you and then they determine whether they want to keep you or what to do with you. You have no self-determination at all.*

How did your parents feel once they realized you were going to spend time in jail?

*They tried to cop a plea. They said: "You did it to yourself, we're sorry you have to go to jail but it's your own fault."*

They didn't feel any responsibility for what had happened?

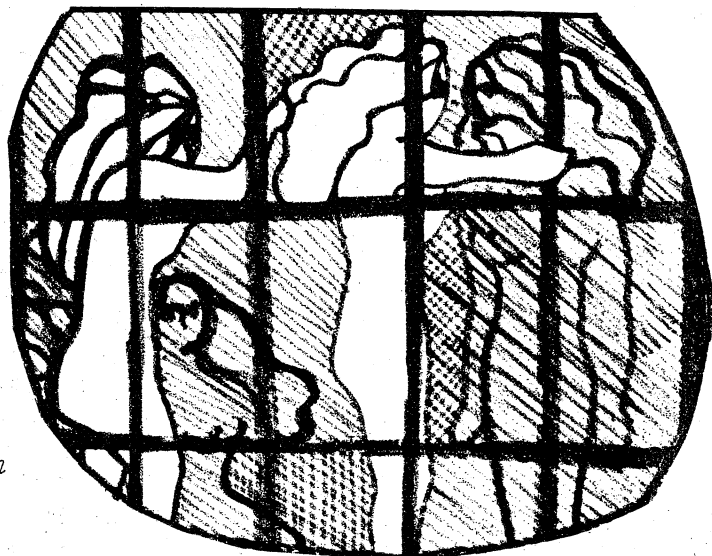
*My mother did, some. For over a year I had been telling them I was gonna leave. She still thought jail was the only good thing they could do for me.*

Did they visit you while you were in jail?

*Yes.*

What would you talk about?

*Had I reformed, Had I changed my life, do I 'see the light'? They felt that what had always been was right. Everyone grows up in their hometown, they stay there, marry there, and die there. And anything I said contradictory to that they just could not under-*



*and. It's just like the police, judges, and lawyers now: anything contrary to what's already been 'established', is already on the books is just automatically rejected and assumed to be wrong, and then dealt with.*

When you were in jail were you treated as an adult or as a child by the guards and the jail administrators?

*The attitude on their part is you are wrong. There is no question about that. They were the 'guardian light' and would show you the true and correct way. They were there to help you.*

How were they going to do that?

*They would tell you what was right and you better believe it, you do what they say or face the fact that you were gonna stay in jail until you conformed to their ways. You're in there until they say you're good and can get out. The kids in there know that. There are kids doing 6 months for truancy! Depending on the parents who have to say, "We want our child back." Well some parents don't want their kids to get out. Some parents say, "They're no good, leave them there this is good for them, it'll teach them a lesson they won't forget."*

This is the first of a two part article based on Anita's experiences as a juvenile offender. The second part will run next month.

## More News from SCAR

### Trask

As many of you might know, Dan Trask is running for Governor. He has asked us to help him. It should be noted that most, if not all of his campaign committee is made up of SCAR members inside and out. (Although we on the outside as a body haven't really made a decision yet.)

In a nutshell here are the facts on which to base a decision. Trask needs 4-6000 signatures to run on the "Poor Peoples Party" platform. This, if we decide to do it could be done relatively easily but still would have an effect on our work. The important issues that have been raised are:

Is this campaign an attempt to bring exposure to the prison? If so, is that a good tactic but we should know in advance  
March

so that we can gear ourselves toward that. If however, the idea is to construct a serious effort, not at winning the Governorship, which couldn't be done, but at educating people generally as to the nature of the total system, etc., then we should know that also.

If the latter is the intention then many interesting possibilities arise around the issue of forming a third party. Admittedly, the time is right and more people than us are ready. This is something that we should all be thinking about. How much do we want to get involved in this effort?

A platform is presently being developed in Thomaston. Anyone who has thoughts on this should write to Gus Heald, Box A, Thomaston, Maine.

### Bangor

Bob Whipple and Roger Therberge of the Bangor SCAR chapter have been making much headway in the last few months working in the Penobscot County Jail. Recently, a new, independent chapter was formed inside the Jail, the first SCAR chapter ever in a county jail and the first prisoner organization of any kind in a county jail in the state of Maine. SCAR has access to the jail, can meet with the internal group, and has been able to bring in outside entertainment such as rock groups.

The work now is centering on a proposed two-day symposium, for the public, which has been underwritten by a 1000 dollar grant from the University.

# Model Education Program

by Larry Dye, School of Education, U. Mass., Amherst  
(Ex-prisoner/Professor Larry Dye is directing a model education program for prisoners. We believe this program is important enough to present its outline in detail.-ed.)

The Model Educational Rehabilitation Program presents a comprehensive model for the educational rehabilitation of prisoners which provides a wide range of resources for new service delivery programs for the corrections field. Implicit in the development of the model program is the active participation of prisoners, officers, correctional administrators, faculty and students in shared responsibility and decision-making roles.

At the invitation of the administration of the Berkshire County House of Correction in Pittsfield, the Univ. of Mass. is now coordinating the development of the model program. Faculty members, students, administrators and correctional officers have begun the task of re-defining institutional goals, re-directing existing resources and developing new resources--all with the intent of destroying the artificial differences which separate the prisoner from society and providing the prisoner with the resources necessary to make a successful transition into society.

A six month planning effort, now in progress, is funded by the National Institute of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. Participating in the planning is a National Advisory Board comprised of representatives from the participating agencies, representatives of the local community, nationwide experts in the field of corrections, prisoners and officers. The National Advisory Board's composition is designed not only to help implement the program in the locality, but also to enhance the feasibility of replicating the program elsewhere in the future.

## GENERAL PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

An educational rehabilitation program geared toward the prisoner must begin where he is, be able to provide the various remedial and support services he requires, and must make an attempt to make the transfer to society a success. There are at least ten areas on which a program must focus in order to provide a meaningful support system:

1) Creating a viable staff climate. Co-equal involvement of project personnel, officers and prisoners will bridge the existing barriers of mistrust and lack of communication. The development of the model will be planned by staff, officers and prisoners.

2) A selection process that involves staff, officers and prisoners. No two persons will be found at the same level of so-

cial adjustment. The basic model of Synanon and Alcoholics Anonymous--to begin with people where they are and work with them by providing increasing responsibility through participation--will be the starting point for developing selection strategies.

3) Individualized educational and training programs. Implicit here are diagnostic services to determine necessary remedial and tutorial services. The Mass. Rehabilitation Commission will provide instruction for G.E.D. certificates; the University of Mass.'s University Without Walls Program of highly individualized programs of undergraduate study will provide B.A. or B.S. programs; graduate programs for Master's and Doctoral degrees will be provided by American International College and U. Mass.;



programs for Associate Degrees will be coordinated by Berkshire Community College; vocational programs will be explored according to the needs of the prisoners. Programs are geared to the needs of participants, not the requirements of the educational institutions. Study release, work release and furlough options for prisoners are an integral part of this program, as is a Summer Training Institute for correctional administrators across the nation.

4) Developing placement strategies that allow exploration of new career opportunities, educational opportunities or vocational orientations.

5) Developing support services, such as general health services, dental care, vision and hearing care, social and psychiatric counselling, which are currently provided by the institution and the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission; and those services open to students of the sponsoring educational institutions, such as special recreational programs, counselling services and other student support services. Pre-and post-release

programs, halfway houses and drug rehabilitation programs are intended. Legal, social, employment, financial and residential advocacy programs are central to support services.

6) Developing vocational awareness programs. Career lines must be explored and developed to optimize the prisoner's mobility in society.

7) Developing community support at the outset. There is no pretense that this program does not have a percentage of calculated risk. A supporting advisory group committed to the program's success, and a positive public and media relations program are essential for community support.

8) Continuing normal maintenance functions, such as building maintenance, detention functions and agricultural programs.

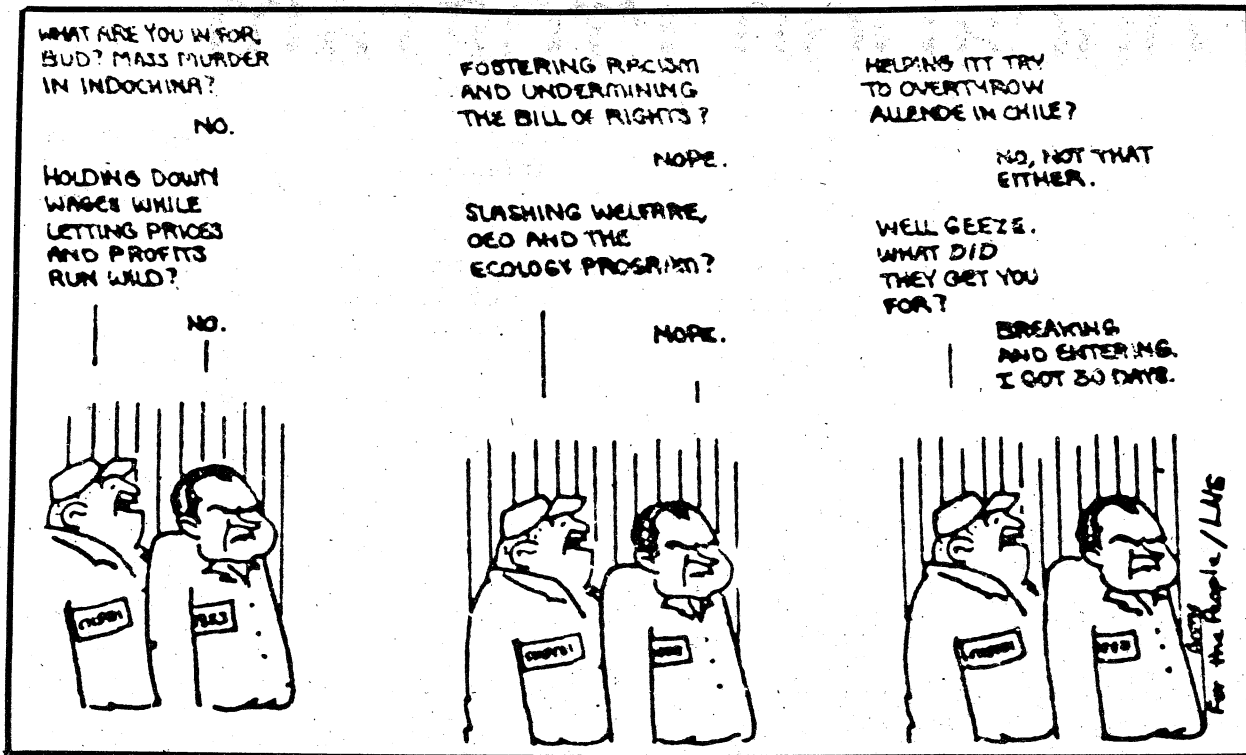
9) Developing shared decision-making will provide participants with the skills necessary to define institutional goals further, develop planning documents and proposals, and fund programs to be run internally.

10) By design, creating an educational laboratory setting, which will provide continuing data on educational programs and support systems.

The program will provide up to 100 participant slots. Individual participation is to be determined by a selection committee that shall be at least 50% prisoners. In its selection process, the Program will allow for administrative transfer to the Berkshire institution of any prisoner eligible under the law. It will experiment with new teacher/learner roles and design and implement models for correctional advocacy in at least the following areas: Legal, Policy, Social, Employment, Financial and Residential. It will also develop a program for public education to increase community understanding and for developing strategies to cope with problems that may occur.

Special projects and project components are: the public relations function, which includes external information programs and a Speakers' Bureau; the education-release, work-release and furlough programs; the co-educational nature of all in-house programs held at the Berkshire institution; expanding the present computer access to include training programs in computer languages and programming; and linking the institution to the educational programming of the community television system and those of the colleges and University.

Additional support for program operation is being provided by the Shaw Foundation, which is supporting the continued involvement of five former University of Massachusetts students who were voluntarily incarcerated at the Berkshire facility for 90 days during the Summer of 1973. During that time, the students began to develop programs with



"The law as it is now constituted serves only to maintain the lawyers and to encourage the rich to oppress the poor."  
 --Oliver Cromwell (1650)

## Responsive Psychology

The Center for Responsive Psychology has announced the publication of a newsletter SOCIAL ACTION AND THE LAW, which will translate and compile social science research for use by people in the legal, correctional and judicial fields. Edited by Professor Robert Buckhoute, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210: \$5/year, \$2 for students, free to prisoners.

## Radical Historians' Course

At a Midwest Radical Historians' Conference in Chicago, Nov. 3, one workshop was devoted to prison education. Some of those present had been in prisons and others were providing literature on Afro-American history to prisoners across the country. Out of it grew this committee -- a general cross section of social dissidence -- to arrange for a Correspondence Course in Labor History for Women and Men in Prison. We have found out that there is an audience behind walls anxious for this material and ready to share it with fellow convicts.

### Education

the prisoners of the Berkshire County House of Correction; since their release, they have continued to work with the prisoners at the institution, assisting them to acquire the resources needed for a broad range of programs.

Prisoners are currently involved in the development of a wide variety of programs. A group of six prisoners have volunteered their time at the Belchertown State School, where they are exploring career options in the allied mental health professions. There have been proposals for researching all drug treatment and information programs available in correctional facilities across the country, proposals to train prisoners to work as counselors for incarcerated youths, and proposals for a variety of academic and vocational programs. Prisoners have met at length with the members of the program's National Advisory Board to discuss their needs and program ideas.

Prisoners' interest and hopes are high. The program has begun to experience the first real indicators of potential success -- prisoners released from custody during the planning of the program are coming back to the institution, not as prisoners, but as volunteers.

First we considered asking scholars to write 50 lesson papers ranging from "Labor in the American Revolution" to "Labor Issues of the 1970's", and then mimeographing the material. For many in prison the texts have to be in the simplest words and short sentences. We realize that many outside of prison need the labor story told the same way. So why not plan a monthly magazine to run for twelve issues only, each issue containing 4 lessons? A bound volume of the 12 would be a popular history of American workers and their struggles. We hope



to have each lesson prepared by someone with special knowledge of that topic, and, for those currently out of jail who do go to libraries, a good list of recommended readings at the end of each. Our committee plans to meet the need in this area even if it means mimeographing lessons for a few hundred prisoners. But with a bit of cooperation a much better job can be done, serving many outside of jail also. We first take this high aim and ask your help getting it off the ground.

Can you help us spread the idea?

Can you help write or shape portions of the project?

Can you interest others in it?

Can you add to our contacts behind bars?

Can you help make it of use to workers outside of jail?

Can you help get academic sponsorship (not necessarily funding) so we will have less interference from wardens?

Can you suggest college or union facilities that might help with mailing or provide other technical assistance?

Can you impress on union officers that this is a beneficial idea for unions and for all of us?

Can you suggest where we can get the money to publish twelve issues of a 48 page magazine, building an inventory of past issues to sell later separately or as bound volumes; proceeds to go to a pro-assigned related purpose, all on a non-profit basis.

Hoping to hear from you, audaciously yours,

Prisoners' Labor History Committee  
 Leonard M. Calabrese, Secretary  
 History Dept., Harris Hall  
 Northwestern University  
 Evanston, Ill. 60201

GUARDIAN KNIGHT

of my night I give to you the stars  
and of my sorrow here the sweetest gain  
and out of hell beyond its iron bars-  
my scorn of all its' pain.

-A.E.

Drifting softly along winding backways,  
misty - shrouded lanes  
of my consciousness deeping  
Surrounding close the ease of pain:  
guardian knight.

Mail of black towards whom my vengeance grows.  
Fearless knight beware; your hour is drawing.  
At your feet I'll no longer grovel nor claw  
Nor again will you spit upon me unheeding.

-Jawn R. Fellows  
Hillsborough Cty. Jail  
Manchester,  
N.H. 03103



ideation-

"behavioural modification  
for disruptive inmates"-  
Meskill (Rep-Conn),  
Mel Thomson,

NH Nixon outlook,  
Nixon ticket-  
abject consideration  
approval of drugs  
via State Hospital  
usual Thorazine practice  
dope 'em  
disguise 'em,

as functioning-  
ping pong,

television whatever  
NH alienated- County Court House  
nonsense as in my adolescent  
exposures as in right wing  
jail techniques in  
pro-Nixon majority land

politics of situations  
or survival as  
the situation-  
crime as an alternative to  
corporate statehood,

self-committed slavery  
to blue cross, credit ratings,  
records,

total hypocrisy of outside press  
gang striving to promote  
free speech,

just talking  
public broadcasts ignored  
shake down in the streets

'STATEHOOD-

the New England  
Governors together on  
behaviour modification  
as alternatives to riots  
quelling, their expensive  
tear/gas shotgun brigades?  
and brothers the streets  
are always quiet, the  
words are always silent  
always read.

-Peter Bertollette  
February 1974

TIME

Clang slam  
screech bam  
steel on steel  
brick an' blocks  
brim with hate  
clenched fist  
loud mouth  
no care  
bad fare  
manners: unknown  
pick to the bone  
poke, punch  
stab pinch  
do your time  
it's a cinch

AT THE PRISON

All day  
A kind of night leaks in,  
A dark water streaming  
Down high windows, staining  
Scabbed walls, filling shoes under bunks  
And the chest cavities of men  
Who are carrying their bodies  
Back and forth  
and up and down  
Stone stairs.

Through the Eye, through  
The whore locks,  
The knacker's wheedling whisper floats  
Smelling of cold metal, pigfat,  
Cold semen, excrement; it rides echoes  
Into corners, into each  
Screw-eye, each dark shoe,  
Descends bone ladders  
Into the chest of men  
Carrying their bodies  
Back and forth,  
in and out  
Of nightmares.

All night outside  
There is no world but rain  
Driving through the searchlights  
Lashing the zinc-ribbed  
Lead dome.  
In the attic of the governor  
A stuffed dog comes alive,  
Leaps snapping  
At the snared hare  
Hanging frozen  
Out of reach.  
--Sheldon Flory  
Providence, R.I.

A LAMENT FOR CHIDICCK TICHBORNE

When I was young  
I trespassed my glories  
barb-wired against my adulthood  
the precious little I had  
and cast it down in one lump sum  
in darkness to what lay ahead.

YESTERDAY

Yesterday I did the same thing  
I did for 4,000 days.  
I spent my time doing time  
in the neglected hallways  
of my master's house.

Cobwebs spin spiders in my head  
and trap no flies.

Rabbits run wildly domesticated  
and breed no youngin.

Elephant tusks are made of copper;  
someone once rigged a still  
and made gallons and gallons and  
gallons of green beef stew  
and fed it to us for supper.

Striped tigers assault non-striped  
tigers, no violence here  
these tigers have no teeth  
and only gum each other  
in the nooks and crannies  
of the square concrete building.

Little old ladies carry machine guns  
spitting out rules and regulations  
killing everyone  
with wad after wad of emaciated tampons.

-Norman Porter

"We are in the Belly of the  
shark, and the question of  
whether or not to gut the  
shark is academic. It is  
clearly a question of method."-

Hermino Rios



Sisters of N.E.P.A.,  
We extend our warm fraternal  
greetings and spirit to you,  
on Women's Day and always.

Venceremos,

John Yancey      Jaan Laaman  
Richard Wilkins   Roger Boberg  
N.H. state prison

Love does not stop,  
Because of bars.  
It transfuses  
All the stages  
In a variety of men.  
Heart to heart  
Its messages send.  
Spirit to spirit  
None knows the end.  
Who can rehearse  
Each stray curse?  
Who can prepare  
The course so complete  
So flawlessly smooth  
That does not include  
The suffering soul?  
Who can admit  
No sin  
Could never  
Understand a man.

June Finan  
Cranston, R.I.

For my Brothers and Sisters

Until victory  
Until the last, the very last  
of us has stopped bleeding.  
Until the last of our broken needs  
has been mended.  
Until the last of us has risen  
strong and sturdy to our feet.  
Until victory  
I reach for your hand  
That we may go this way together.  
That our strengths might intertwine  
Our fears be soothed,  
Our loves grow stronger.  
That we might know each other,  
Touch each other,  
Love each other,  
And ourselves,  
And our common struggle  
With our lives.  
Until victory,  
Let me be with you,  
And please,  
please,  
Be with me.

-Sally Schofield

# Join NEPA

by Monty Neill

You will see on our front page logos that NEPA is an organization of prisoners, ex-prisoners and supporters. As such, we have members representing the different groups. While NEPA began as a coalition organization with a number of different prison-reform groups as participants, NEPA is now also a mass-membership organization.

As a result of NEPA being both a coalition and a membership organization, we operate in the following way. Already existing or newly formed organizations, whether they go by the name NEPA or not, are semi-autonomous organizations. On the one hand they agree to the policies and programs of NEPA outlined in the statement of purpose, participate in NEPA policy making and participate in what NEPA works on as New-England-wide actions; on the other hand, the separate organizations work in their own areas, define and act on their own most immediate problems.

Should an individual join NEPA he/she either joins one of our affiliate organizations and/or joins NEPA directly, depending on whether there exists an active NEPA affiliate in the area in which the new member lives. For example, in Maine an interested person either inside the prison or outside the prison would join SCAR; a prisoner in Walpole or Cranston would join the NPRA. A person in Connecticut or New Hampshire would join NEPA directly, and as the number of such persons expands a new chapter of NEPA will be formed.

The reasons for joining NEPA and the activities in which a member would then engage not only differ from state to state but, more important, also depend on whether one is inside or outside. In order to deal clearly with both why one should join NEPA and how to join and create new chapters, I will divide the process in three areas: prisoners, ex-prisoners, and supporters.

## PRISONERS

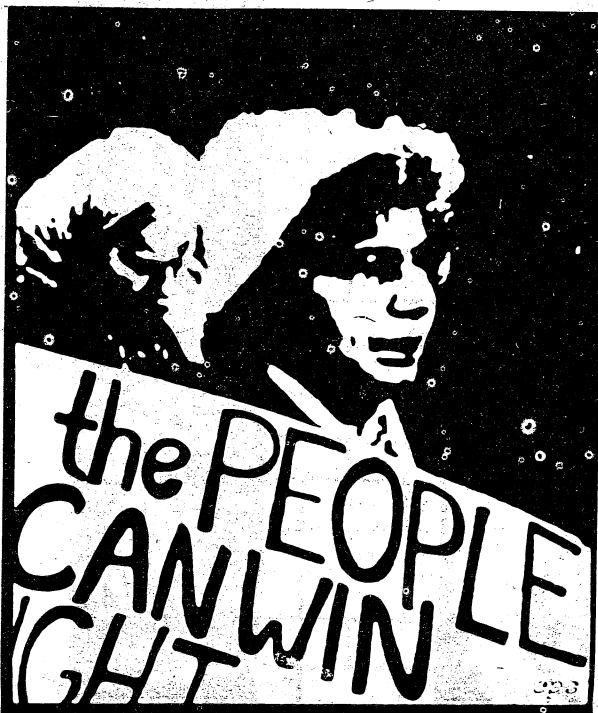
Most prisons in New England have a recognized organization, usually termed an "Inmates Council" or an "Inmates Grievance Committee." In some prisons these groups have a good deal of strength and are viewed with respect by the prison administration; in other joints these committees are attempting to be strong but are subject to the disrespect and constant manipulation of the administration; in still other cases the committees are simply front groups for the warden.

But all the prisons, regardless of the status of these councils, are marked by the desire of the prisoners for self-determination, for a real voice in the running of and the structure of the prison. However, the tactics necessary to establish these goals varies from joint to joint depending on the strength of the already existing organizations.

Page 24

It is not the desire of NEPA, nor would it be a rational policy for NEPA to determine what steps a specific prison population should take in gaining strength and recognition. We do feel that, based on our observations and experiences, we can establish some general statements.

1) Prisoners who already have a strong organization that is viewed with respect by the administration should affiliate with NEPA (the reasons for prisoner affiliation with NEPA will follow in this article.) This can be done by the existing organization stating that they will, via a mechanism of their own determination, work with NEPA.



2) In the case of an organization that will stand up for the prisoners but which is not accorded serious recognition by the administration, we recommend that a clear affiliation with NEPA be established as an immediate method of strengthening the organization's stand in relation to the administration.

3) Should the case be that, as yet, no solid, pro-prisoner organization exists, we recommend that attempts to form such a group be made at once (if none are) and that any attempts be a part of NEPA.

The questions that immediately arise from these statements are "Why NEPA?" and "How will NEPA help us succeed?"

First, NEPA believes that in unity is strength. This unity can only come through the voluntary participation of its members. The form of this participation must ensure the self-direction of the different organizations. Yet NEPA is also aware that though the specific, immediate needs vary from prison to prison, and though the tactics needed likewise vary, the fact remains that the essential reality of prison is the same in every prison. The demand for self-determination as the key to change is the basis for struggle in every prison. With this as the framework, unity in New England becomes both necessary and possible.

Second, NEPA is the only prisoner organization that exists throughout New England. Though

our strength varies state to state at this time, we do have at least a presence in each state. The antagonism exhibited by prison authorities to NEPA, particularly in those states where autonomous prisoner organizations are least developed, stands as eloquent testimony to the strength NEPA has developed in the region.

Third, the method of struggle, the forms of organization NEPA sees as most promising have been demonstrated throughout the country as the most effective. That is 1) the creation of an inside organization; 2) the creation of an outside organization; and 3) the joining of the two organizations through an inside/outside Board of Directors and common membership as the organizational framework with which to create change. The NPRA chapters in Walpole and Cranston and SCAR in Maine are three examples in New England of the effectiveness of this method.

This form of organization offers many advantages: 1) It opens the prison to outside persons (court decisions, such as NPRA v. Sharkey, ---F.Supp--- (DRI, C.A. No. 4884) have upheld the right of prisoners to form inside/outside organizations.) 2) Through the immediate contact developed through a unified organization the outside can respond clearly and effectively to the stated needs of the inside. 3) By this unified structure the general public is forced to recognize that this organization and only this organization represents the prisoners. As a result, all serious efforts at changing the criminal justice and prison systems must work through one organization rather than through different, perhaps competing, inevitably overlapping and effort-duplicating organizations. 4) A solid outside organization, in which all prison change efforts on the outside are centered, enables the outside to present the strongest support for the people on the inside in whatever efforts the people on the inside deem necessary.

For those prisons that do not have such an organization NEPA strongly recommends that such organizational form be adopted and offers whatever help it can provide, regardless of the name chosen, the form of degree of affiliation with NEPA, or the form of specific organizational details.

How should this be done? Again the specific form varies from joint to joint, but again certain general suggestions may be made.

1) Form an organization. Where no strong organization already exists a NEPA chapter would be the best bet (for all of the above outlined reasons.)

2) Sign up the prison population as NEPA members; send names to us and keep a copy of the membership in the prison; we will send copies of NEPA NEWS to all NEPA members in the joint.

3) When a solid majority of the prisoners support NEPA sev-



# Join NEPA

eral options are available: a) hold an election to determine the sole bargaining agent for the prisoners, as did NPRA in Walpole, or b) have NEPA members elected to the "Inmates Council" as NEPA affiliate SCAR recently did in Thomaston where the prisoners elected a new Council, all of whose members are now SCAR nominees. In either case the result is the same: the NEPA chapter becomes the prisoners' recognized organization for dealing with the administration and pushing for change.

4) Affiliate with an outside organization or chapter of NEPA (we must create one where none now exists), create a joint board of directors and begin holding inside/outside meetings to determine specific goals and the strategy and tactics necessary to implement those goals.

In summary, what has proven effective in the recent past, and what holds the greatest promise of growth, is for prisoners to create autonomous (from the administration) organizations with inside and outside branches. We of NEPA feel we are in the best position of any organization in New England to assist in this process. We offer our support, and we encourage you to affiliate with us under our statement of purpose and goals with the understanding of the necessity of local autonomy.

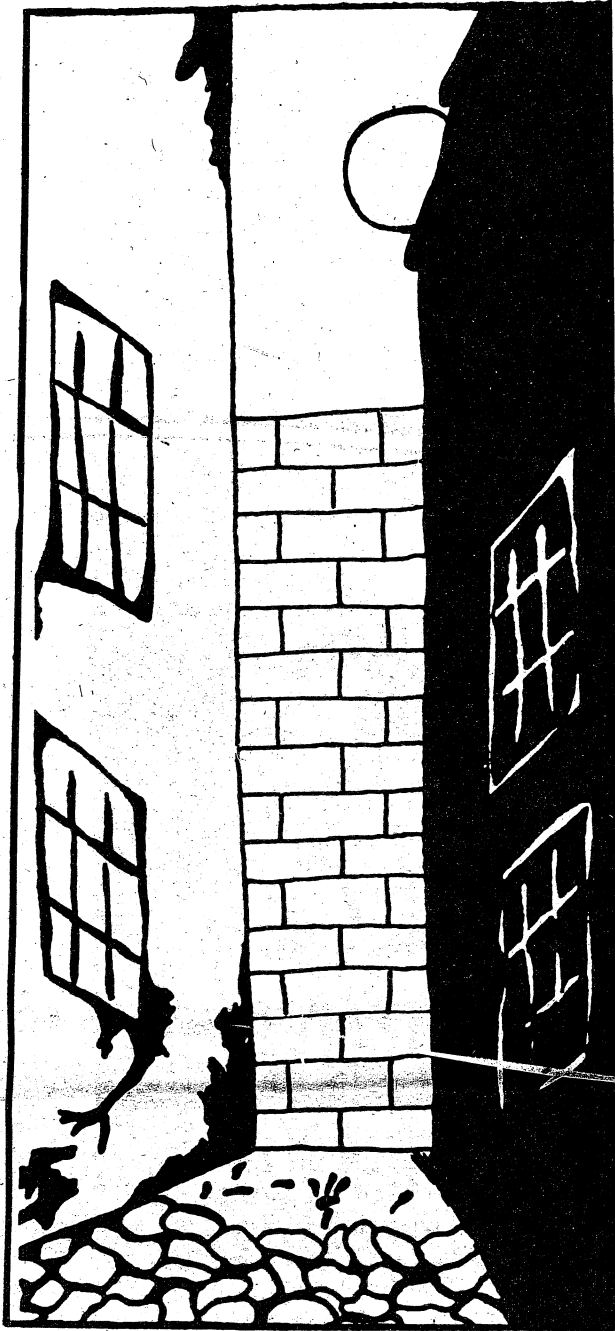
## EX-PRISONERS

The ex-cons, of all persons on the outside, are the most vital, necessary and powerful arm of a prisoner/prisoner support organization. In the reality of America an ex-prisoner is still largely a prisoner through parole restrictions, the possibility of parole violation, the constant reality of a conviction haunting job applications, the denial of civil rights such as the right to vote, the very knowledge one has of having been behind bars, and the knowledge that one is, in fact, a con.

The majority of NEPA's outside membership is ex-prisoners. In the sort of inside/outside organization outlined above it is the ex-con who should be the leadership of the outside arm. In fact, the strongest possibility of a solid outside organization depends directly on the leadership of ex-prisoners, for they are the people on the outside who truly understand what it means to live behind bars.

NEPA calls on ex-cons to join us, to take out membership in NEPA. For the inside/outside type of organization to be effective a strong outside is necessary. Experience teaches us that it is the ex-prisoner who can best create the outside arm of the organization. Hence the ex-cons role is clear wherever he/she lives: to establish contacts with those still held prisoner; to build community support and educate the community at large; to create the outside arm of the organization.

NEPA not only deals with those still in prison, but also has as a goal the many changes in society needed to restore an ex-con to full human and civil rights. As it is true that the con can best articulate the realities of being a prisoner, it is likewise true that the ex-con can best expose the reality of the injustices society imposes on the ex-prisoner.



## SUPPORTERS

NEPA defines a "supporter" as a person who is not a con or an ex-con, but who agrees with the goals and practices of NEPA and is willing to join prisoners and ex-prisoners in their struggles. While it is true that, as stated above, NEPA recognizes that leadership in the struggle will come primarily from prisoners and ex-prisoners, it is by no means true that NEPA expects "supporters" to be passive followers of orders.

Leadership falls on those who work the hardest, who have the best ideas and can best implement the ideas. But the idea of leadership is secondary to the reality that for our struggle to be successful we must all work together. The best ideas are usually collective ideas, and practice teaches us that we all contribute to the struggle. NEPA encourages sharp debate and strong discussion. The overwhelming reality of our common goals keeps us unified in the face of our differing strategies and tactics, and we understand that only through debate, discussion and criticism can we clarify our best

strategies and tactics. Only in this way can our unity be a unity of strong practice and not the unity of mouthing a common slogan.

For the prisoner movement to attain its goals we must have mass community support. An "outsider" may well listen to his/her neighbor who is a NEPA supporter before he/she will listen to a con or an ex-con. Because more persons have not been imprisoned than have been imprisoned the potential number of supporters far exceeds the number of potential NEPA cons and ex-cons.

The specific tasks of supporters is largely the same as that of ex-cons: establish contact with those on the inside, support them in whatever way possible, help create outside organizations, help create inside/outside unity, and educate and organize the general public.

## SUMMARY

NEPA is a young organization. As such we are not only inexperienced in many ways, but we are also few in numbers. The course of the struggle will give us experience, but it takes you to join us to give us numbers.

Though we are young, NEPA and its affiliates such as NPRA, SCAR, Prisoner Community Centers and diverse support groups, clearly constitute the prisoner/prisoner support organization in New England. To join NEPA we ask two things: 1) That you agree with our statement of purpose and goals and 2) that you will work with us. In return we offer our support, our unalterable commitment and the realization that in unity is strength and in strength is victory.

Our tasks are many: to eliminate the incredible discretionary powers wielded by every branch and stage of the criminal justice system, laws, police enforcement, courts, prisons, parole, etc.; to change the class nature and class bias of the criminal justice system that sees Agnew walk away after being guilty of corrupting our very government and George Jackson die in prison for being found guilty of robbing less than \$80; to abolish prisons, those human warehouses of brutality that accomplish no constructive social ends; and to meet every detail, every step on the way to these goals, to work day by day, piece by piece, to educate, organize and change till success is ours.

Join NEPA. Fill out the membership application and mail it to us. If you have thoughts on this article, criticisms, encouragement, suggestions, send them to us. Our growth and our victory depends on your input.

If you are in Maine, send your membership to SCAR, 374 Fore St., Portland, ME. 04111, and your paper sub to us. If you are not in Maine, send both to us.

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."--Fyodor Dostoyevsky

# Legal Objections to Curran

by Fred Findling

Last November, William Curran, Lee Professor of Legal Medicine at Harvard and his front outfit, "Socio-Technical Systems Associates" published a 19 page document known as Summary and Recommendations of a Feasibility Study for the Development of New England Regional Programs for Dangerous, Special Offenders. (see January NEPA NEWS for text)

Richard Shapiro of the Prisoners' Rights Project and Matthew Feinburg of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union prepared a 59 brief stating the legal objections to the Curran Report. This document was presented at the New England Governors' Conference held in Boston on February 7th. We present here a summary of the brief. The parts in italics are direct quotations from the brief.

A. THE METHODOLOGY OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS RESULTED IN VIOLATIONS OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PRIVACY OF THE INMATES WHOSE LIVES WERE SCRUTINIZED.

In determining who the 365 "special offenders" were, Socio-Technical researchers studied the records of many prisoners at seven prisons across New England. *What more private matters does an individual possess than those contained in his psychiatric profile? The intimacy of his family relations, his most private memories of childhood experience, his marital experience, his habits and feelings are all there in one neat folder. And what is more odious, the information is given voluntarily by the inmates under the assumption that the sanctity of the doctor-patient will be honored. What graver deceit than to obtain such information under the guise of rehabilitative therapy only to use it, without the inmate's consent or knowledge, to label the individual "uncooperative", "violent", and to recommend special treatment for him including "drug therapy" and "behavior modification or transfer to a special facility.*

B. DISSEMINATION OF THE DATA WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM IS AN INVIDIOUS INVASION OF INMATE PRIVACY.

One of the dangers laying in Curran's proposal is that those who are determined to be "special offenders" will acquire a new status that will make it more difficult to obtain parole, employment, credit, etc. The new "special offender" class will serve also as an incentive to present correctional authority to brand and mistreat "special offenders."

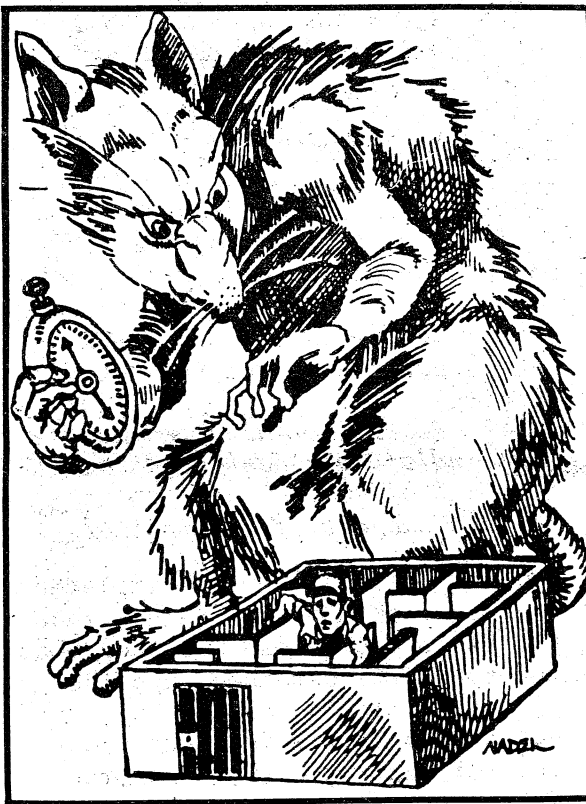
C. THE BALANCING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS IN THE CURRAN REPORT WARRANTS IMMEDIATE JUDICIAL INTERVENTION TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL.

In the present situation, a court will balance the invasion of privacy against the public

need for the Curran program of special treatment for a class of inmates labelled "special offenders." See Barenblatt v. U.S., 360 U.S. 109, 126 (1959)

*The interests of the individual are substantial and have already been discussed. The burden falls upon those proposing the study to justify this invasion of privacy. As one court stated: When a program about labelling someone as a particular type (such as "special offender") and such a label would remain with him for the rest of his life, the margin of error must be nil.* Merrickan v. Cressman 364 F.Supp at 920

D. THE INMATES UNDER STUDY WERE ENTITLED TO DUE PROCESS SAFEGUARDS BEFORE THEY WERE SELECTED. FAILURE TO GIVE THEM ADEQUATE NOTICE AND A FAIR HEARING WHEN THE PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION IS PUNITIVE IN NATURE OR WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE INDIVIDUAL VIOLATES CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS OF FAIR PLAY.



The pooling of certain named inmates for classification as "special offenders" regardless of the allegedly benign motives behind it will subject those inmates to overwhelming physical and mental deprivation whether or not the Curran proposal is implemented. In many respects the damage has already been done without the ground being broken for the proposed regional prison. Those labelled "special offenders" will be subject to red tag, segregation, loss of privileges, etc. as a result of Curran's investigators.

In a recent decision, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit held that due process is required in any decision which results in a change in the inmate's status and a deprivation of amenities on which he has come to rely... This is as true for a decision based on security requirements of the institution or the rehabilitative interests of the inmate as it is for one based on a disciplinary violation. (emphasis added) Palmigiano v. Baxter F.2d (1st Cir.11/16/73).

The standard for determining whether procedural protections must be provided in a prison context "depends on the extent to which an individual will be condemned to suffer grievous loss." Morrissey v. Brewer 408 U.S. 471, 381 (1972) See, e.g. Palmigiano v. Baxter, supra, (loss of amenities such as

work or schooling privileges, visitations, and some modicum of privacy is grievous and requires due process); White v. Gilman, 360 F. Supp 64 (S.D. Iowa 1973), (due process required in transfer decision leading to loss of rehabilitative opportunities, exposure to harder inmates, and harsher discipline); Gomes v. Travisono 353 F. Supp. 456 (D.R.I. 1973), (due process required when transfer results in inter alia, a loss of availability of rehabilitative programs and educational programs, less pay for work, and harassment by other inmates; Masiello v. Norton, F.Supp (1973), Civil No. B-748 (D.Conn. Oct. 12, 1973), (due process is required in classifying inmates as "organized crime" since such classification results in added restrictions and adversely affects chances for parole). *The "grievous loss" and substantial prejudice presently inflicted upon the inmate as a result of the classification as a "special offender" has already been suggested. Therefore, it is clear that the inmates who have been classified without any opportunity to contest this finding have been deprived of due process safeguards.*

E. THE GUARANTEES OF DUE PROCESS OF LAW REQUIRE THAT ANY INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF A "SPECIAL OFFENDER," EITHER INTRASTATE OR INTERSTATE BE BASED ON FACTORS OTHER THAN THIS SELF-SERVING CLASSIFICATION.

1. Due process Attaches To The Involuntary Transfer of an Inmate, Either Intrastate or Interstate, To a Facility For "Special Offenders."

The Curran report recommends establishing special facilities either on a regional basis or state basis for "inmates who exhibit excessively, aggressive, assaultive, volatile, acting out behavior which has not been corrected by methods and programs currently in use."

As mentioned earlier, the prisoners were chosen from the maxi prisons in each state, plus the medium security Norfolk prison, where they allegedly "impede seriously the overall goals of the correctional facilities as rehabilitation institutions." The report therefore promotes the creation of facilities to handle what it classifies as the most difficult inmates or in effect the "troublemakers." Such a facility, whether regional or statewide, is proposed as a maximum security prison and would certainly entail the involuntary transfer to a higher custody status for the affected inmates. Although this is not made explicit by the report, the transfer would undoubtedly lead to a more restrictive form of confinement for the transferred inmate. Resort

# Curran

to the drastic remedy of interstate transfer for a "special offender" blots a prisoner's record and reputation, characterizing him at best as one who is totally unable to adjust to his prison community and at worst a "troublemaker." In fact, regardless of what euphemistic labels the authorities choose to attach, the inmates who are transferred will be considered troublemakers. Transfer to such a facility is for an indefinite period of time. All tolled, interstate transfer works a thorough metamorphosis in both the nature and duration of a prisoner's sentence.

2. The classification of an individual as a "special offender" cannot alone serve as the basis for a transfer to a special facility.

The report appears to assume that individuals classified as "special offenders" could be transferred *ipso facto* to a special facility (although there is a suggestion that the individuals denominated as "special offenders" be evaluated to develop "objective factors" for this status (summary, par. 34), the obvious deficiencies in the initial selection process would only render these evaluations self-fulfilling) so long as certain procedural guarantees are provided. However, the meaninglessness of the concept "special offender" becomes obvious when one considers the procedural mechanisms that must be utilized before an inmate can be transferred, either interstate or intrastate, to a special facility. Regardless of the specific procedural guaran-

## Charles St.

roximately 70% black, plus a fair percentage of Spanish-speaking persons. Although Sheriff Eisenstadt has just hired 10 new guards, none of them are either black or Spanish speaking.

In the initial efforts to depopulate this jail, transfers were utilized (and still are for women). This often led to incarceration in State Prisons (which were certainly improvements) but because these institutions did not know what to do with them, they were often placed in segregation while awaiting trial. Another method utilized was transfer to faroff county jails which separated prisoners not only from their family and friends, but also from their lawyers. Although these methods are rarely used for the male population at this time, it remains a very serious constitutional violation against women who remain incarcerated under these conditions.

Aside from closing this rotting jail, the most important and useful thing to come out of this has been a bail project staffed by two attorneys. The Bail Project was set up in an effort to depopulate the jail by appealing high and unreasonable bails. Since July of 1972 they have won 60% of their appeals: 535 won appeals; 404 were denied; 226 are pending or withdrawn. An important fac-

tees, it is clear that, at a minimum, the actions of prison officials cannot be arbitrary or capricious and must be "premised on facts rationally determined. Sostre v. McGinnis 442 F.2d. 178, 198 (2nd Cir. 1972); Palmigiano v. Baxter, *supra.*; Gomes v. Travisono, *supra.*



3. The involuntary transfer of a "special offender" is also a method of disciplinary punishment and would be subject to procedural guarantees beyond the minimal protections mentioned above.

The involuntary transfer of an inmate as a "special offender" clearly represents a harsher form of sanction for a denominated status. It is clear that one of the principal characteristics of the "special offender" is his disciplinary record in the institution. (Please see paragraphs 15 and 24 of the summary)

The Report, clearly indicates that individuals designated as "special offenders" are frequently the subject of disciplinary

tor in this has been the implementation of cash bail. Rather than pay 5% to a bondsman who then posts the bond, the detainee pays the 5% in cash to the court. This avoids many of the implicit problems of dealing with a bondsman and at the same time is equally successful in insuring appearance in court. It is also important to note that about 1/2 of the appeals were granted on personal recognizance. As a result, many more persons are out on bail.

The project is running into a few problems, the most difficult one stemming from the fact that each person is allowed only one chance to appeal so that he must decide whether to appeal his bail now or wait until it changes courts. Attorney Tom Statton of the Bail Project remarked that "timeliness is a critical factor".

Needless to say we have a very serious problem in the area of county jails. The Governors' Committee Report on Jails and Houses of Correction (Gardner Report) reported that most cells were "dark and small", that 7 institutions had no plumbing in the cells and few modern facilities. Most of them had inadequate educational, vocational and industrial programs. The report, as have most reports for the past one hundred years, recommended a transfer of control from the county to the state. But it seems

and misconduct reports. There is a strong possibility that the transfer to a special facility would represent a convenient method to supplement this punishment. Consequently, prior to this form of disciplinary transfer, which would arguably apply to all attempts to transfer a "special offender," the inmate must be provided with the following due process safeguards:

- (a) timely notice of the charge against him,
- (b) an opportunity to appear at the disciplinary hearing with the assistance of an authorized counsel-substitute,
- (c) an impartial tribunal, none of whose members reported or witnessed the alleged infraction,
- (d) the right to call witnesses and cross-examine them,
- (e) the right to a decision based upon "substantial evidence",
- (f) notice of the rationale and consequences of the decision, and
- (g) the opportunity to appeal the decision.

### CONCLUSION

The clear import of this entire section is that due process precludes the transfer of any inmate solely on the basis of classification as "special offender." Moreover, no transfer into a special facility may be legally effectuated in the absence of a due process hearing at which time the prisoner has the opportunity to confront specific evidence against him and to present his own evidence before an impartial board where written findings and decisions can be reviewed. Finally, since most transfers of "special offenders" would be in effect, punishment for past misconduct, the procedures described above must be followed at these hearings. That is, no evidence from a misconduct hearing inside a joint would be admissible in a "special offender" hearing unless all proper procedures were followed at the misconduct hearing.

that the State is reluctant to interfere although it is now stipulated by law (Omnibus Prison Reform Act; Chapter 777) that the Commissioner of Corrections shall set standards to which the county jails must abide and which will be inspected every six months. It is found that violations persist the Commissioner may petition a court order "to close the facility or for appropriate relief." This is of course immensely important in that it allows for the enforcement of constitutional rights without the costly expenditures of both time and money (neither of which a "detainee" has as demonstrated by his very incarceration there) involved in individual court litigation. Although Chapt. 777 was signed into law almost two years ago, the Commissioner has yet to draw up these standards, and is in fact appealing a court order which forced him to authorize the transfer of prisoners from Charles St. Jail. There are some very important questions, constitutional and otherwise, that have not begun to be answered yet. In the next issue I will attempt to deal with these questions more fully in an examination of the county jails in Massachusetts.

# New Prison Films

## With Intent to Harm

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

WITH INTENT TO HARM is the first film to be shot inside Massachusetts prisons. It evokes a powerful sense of the life of men and women deprived of nearly all human and civil rights. The film details the progress of the prisoner's rights movement in Massachusetts, showing some of the reforms that have taken place since the Attica Rebellion.

"WITH INTENT TO HARM is first and foremost a consciousness raiser: it presents people with a convincing and human view "inside". The very fact that it emphasizes the men themselves as ordinary, credible human beings, making an effort to take control of their lives, says more than alot of horror shots of moldy shower stalls and leaking latrines." --American Friends Service Committee

WITH INTENT TO HARM- 28 minutes, 16mm color, rental/\$35, sale/\$350

## 3000 Years and Life

A Film by Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki

3000 YEARS AND LIFE is the up to date story of the struggles being waged by the National Prisoner's Reform Association(NPRA) inside Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts. Walpole prisoners are perhaps the most unified in the country, and the NPRA is fighting continuously for recognition as a union. They face awesome forces, but they will not be conquered. In this film the prisoners themselves describe what happened at Walpole when the guards went on strike and the NPRA instituted self-government.

"This is the only documented account of what has been happening in Walpole. It is the most important film of this struggle to date."--David Collins, ex-prisoner, Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Reform, Boston

"This film goes a long way toward explaining how a prison can be run without guards on the inside."--Gene Mason, New England Prisoners' Association

"No one can see this film and think that Walpole prisoners are what most of the established media and State House politicians have been saying they are."-- Ann Hack, Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, New Haven, Connecticut

3000 YEARS AND LIFE- 45 minutes, 16mm color, rental/\$50, sale/\$400

## Vermont State Prison

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

The Vermont State Prison was built in 1809, when Thomas Jefferson was president. This film, just completed, consists of discussions with prisoners at the prison. They describe their unsuccessful attempts to get any meaningful rehabilitation programs into the prison. The prison itself is as close to a medieval dungeon as any operating institution.

"How can we continue to operate institutions like Vermont's maximum security prison and pretend we are building a noble civilization is beyond me. This film gives ample reason why the prison should be closed immediately." --Windsor Prison Vigil Group

VERMONT STATE PRISON- 20minutes, 16mm black and white, rental/\$20, sale/\$125, sliding scale available.

WITH INTENT TO HARM, 3000 YEARS AND LIFE, and VERMONT STATE PRISON are available from:

New England Prisoners' Association  
Public Education Program  
Franconia College  
Franconia, N.H. 03580  
603-823-5266

New England Prisoners' Association  
Public Education Program  
or 116 School St.  
Waltham, Mass., 02154  
617-899-8827



"Don't worry about it. You probably have more friends around here than I."

## Community Centers

In New England we now have four Prisoner Community Centers, each of which has a different name, but all of which have the same function: to try to aid prisoners and their families with whatever problems are brought to them. Each of these centers attempts to enlist the assistance of volunteers to help. If you have some time to help, or if you need some help, or if you just want to talk, please get in touch.

### MAINE

SCAR Drop-in Center  
374 Fore Street  
Portland, Maine 04111  
207-772-2303

### MASSACHUSETTS

Prison Information Center  
932 Main Street  
Worcester, Ma. 01610  
617-754-0756 or 8968

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prisoner Family Center  
104 North Main  
Concord, N.H. 03301  
603-225-2910  
Mail: Box 604  
Concord, N.H. 03301

### VERMONT

Prisoner Community Center  
9 State Street  
Windsor, Vt. 05089  
802-674-2708