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NEPA NEWS

The Voice of the New England Prisoners Association



*Joann
Little*

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Will N.H. State Prison Burn?

by Inside/Outside N.H. NEPA

When Warden Raymond Helgemoe took over the running of New Hampshire State Prison (NHSP) last summer, it seemed to many that a new era was beginning at the prison. His predecessor, Joseph Vitek, was almost universally disliked and viewed as incompetent. This incompetence led, among other things, to: the spring of '73 lock-up; no programs; and an administration that would not struggle for improvements of any kind.

When Helgemoe arrived, prisoners and their outside supporters believed things would change. He presented himself as stern but fair, a person who would meet with people to iron problems out, a warden who would push for much-needed reforms and programs, such as furloughs. He won the respect of the guards, of many persons of political power in N.H., and of a great many prisoners, who were at least willing to give him time to develop the programs he said he favored.

In sum, Helgemoe appeared as the liberal, progressive warden. Programs were seen as needed both for "rehabilitation" and to keep things cool in the prison. So long as prisoners believe they have a chance to get skills and education, furloughs and other programs, and that the administration is fair and even-handed, then they themselves will keep the lid on.

However, more and more prisoners are now questioning both Helgemoe's true intentions and his ability to implement programs at NHSP. In order to assess this, several points need to be brought out: the Board of Trustees to whom Helgemoe must answer; N.H.'s Legislature and Governor; and Helgemoe's attitudes and actions towards NEPA. Once these factors are studied, then we can assess what Helgemoe could do, ought to do, and is likely to do.

Board of Trustees

The NHSP Board of Trustees is composed of persons appointed by the Governor and Council for seven-year terms. The cast of characters is as follows:

--Morris Silver, Chairperson; works for Cott Bottling Co. He is known to almost fall asleep at Board meetings, is on the "conservative" faction of the Board.

--George Schnyer, Sheriff of Cheshire County and a member of the Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency, which largely dispenses money from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). No surprise, he is on the "conservative" faction, and is a Thomson appointee.

Henry Waldo, from Lincoln, N.H., is a Thomson appointee and a member of the "conservative" wing. At the N.H. Civil Rights Commission hearings last year, Waldo stated, "I don't agree with plush standards for inmates."

--Mary Thyng, whose husband is a retired Air Force General, is a "conservative", though she has at times wavered over toward the "moderates" or "liberals." She now does so less, because the strength of the Board's liberals is very slight.

--Lyle Hersom is the Thomson delegate from the Governor's Council, is from Concord, and is an unknown factor to NEPA.

--Martin Gross, an attorney, who wrote the state's right-to-know law (meaning citizens have access to government bodies and documents), now forms the "moderate" faction on the board, all by himself. There is no "radical" or "left" faction.

--Warden Helgemoe sits in on all Board meetings, as the Board is his boss. He does not cast a vote, but in terms of getting the Board to do this or that, he has an alliance with Gross as a "moderate".

At this time the "conservatives" have overwhelming power. It seems that no progressive actions can be taken by Helgemoe because of the resistance of the "conservatives". Such was not the case even a year ago, before Helgemoe became warden. Then Gross had an ally in Board member and attorney Robert Dastin, whose term has expired. The two of them could often persuade Mary Thyng and push "progressive" proposals. Schnyer was not then on the Board. The major problem at that time was Warden Joe Vitek, who was too afraid of Thomson to do anything. But Dastin was replaced by Schnyer shortly before Helgemoe arrived. Now the obstacle is the Board itself. Two examples should clarify the situation.

A prisoner, call him "A", applied to the courts for a reduction in sentence. The court

said it had no power to do this, but did say that, pursuant to State Law RSA 651:25, it had no objection to "A" being placed on work release. RSA 651:25 says that "the warden may release any person who has been committed to the New Hampshire state prison at any time during the term of sentence for the purpose of obtaining and working at gainful employment or for such other purpose as may be conducive to his rehabilitation..." This must be done under terms and conditions established by the State Board of Parole; and if the convict is not eligible for parole, the program must be cleared by the sentencing court.

"A" had been at the Shea Farm Half-way House since September of 1974, had compiled an excellent work record at the House and his local place of employment, and had been granted a parole date of April 1. Together with the Parole Board, the warden's office developed a work release program for "A".

"A" would have a job in the community. He would return to the Half-way House twice a week for the counseling sessions. He would live in a rooming house whose proprietor was an ex-cop who demanded 24-hour-a-day access to "A's" room. Under this plan "A" would leave the Half-way House and go to the rooming house 20 days before his parole date. At their March meeting, the Board turned him down.

It should be understood that the Board did not do so "officially", because they have no legal say-so anyway. The warden, seeking to cover himself, took the matter to the Board for its OK. Of course, since the Board recommended "No", the warden cannot be expected to disregard the recommendation of his bosses.

Why did the Board turn down the proposal? Gross, Helgemoe and the director of the Half-way House all argued for the proposal to release "A"--but only Gross has a vote. Silver was absent, but Waldo, Schnyer and Thyng voted against the proposal.

"What's 20 days?" was their attitude. They also said that if "A" screwed up, it would come down on their necks. If "A" should screw up while on parole, the Parole Board would take the heat.

So we can see that the warden is not willing to move even when the move is sanctioned by law, the court and the Parole Board until he has the go-ahead from the Trustees. And the Trustees won't move at all!

We will mention one brief, second example. Initially, at the urging of Helgemoe and Gross, the Board agreed to support a proposal for "approved absences" (furloughs--see last month's NEPA NEWS) before the legislature. A month later, in February, the Board changed its mind. The bill is in the hopper, along with a second furlough bill, but not with the support to the Board, which reduces the likelihood of the passage of a furlough bill.

At a meeting in February, when asked whether he would testify in favor of a furlough bill anyway, Helgemoe replied that he was not sure.

Legislature + Governor

In an attempt to develop programs at NHSP, the warden has to deal not only with his Trustees, but also with the Governor and Legislature. We do not need to spell out Thomson's attitude toward prisoners. Our guess is that the Trustees backed down from supporting the "approved absences" legislation because word came down from Meddlin' Mel and his leader, Bill Loeb. We have little doubt that if any positive legislation on prisoners passes the House and Senate, Thomson will veto it.

However, the chances are remote that any progressive legislation will pass in this session. A very informed source has told us that the chances of a furlough bill passing this session are next to zero. The same goes for NEPA's parol reforms.

So no new programs are likely from that source. In addition, the Board's request of about 2 and 1/2 million dollars in capital budget improvements at the prison (see last month's NEPA NEWS) was cut by the Governor to some \$650-700,000. In other words, no real changes in the decrepit buildings can be expected.

Further, after the Governor finished cutting the prison's operating budget, not much was left. Most of the treatment personnel, now at the prison on Crime Commission grants, including Director David Clarke, will not be funded. Maintenance personnel, a nurse, dental supplies, vocational training, recreational supplies, some clothing for prisoners, mental health, and other items were cut by Thomson from the Warden and Board's request.

Helgemoe has appeared before the House Appropriations Committee to urge restoration of the cuts, and we would expect him to do the same for the cuts in the capital budget.

But what with inflation, recession, and a long history of ignoring the prison, we cannot expect the legislature to restore more than a small amount, at best.

So the prisoners at NHSP face another two lean years. A whole variety of programs that prisoners want and need, which Helgemoe has at least indicated should be forthcoming, will probably not arrive in the next two years.

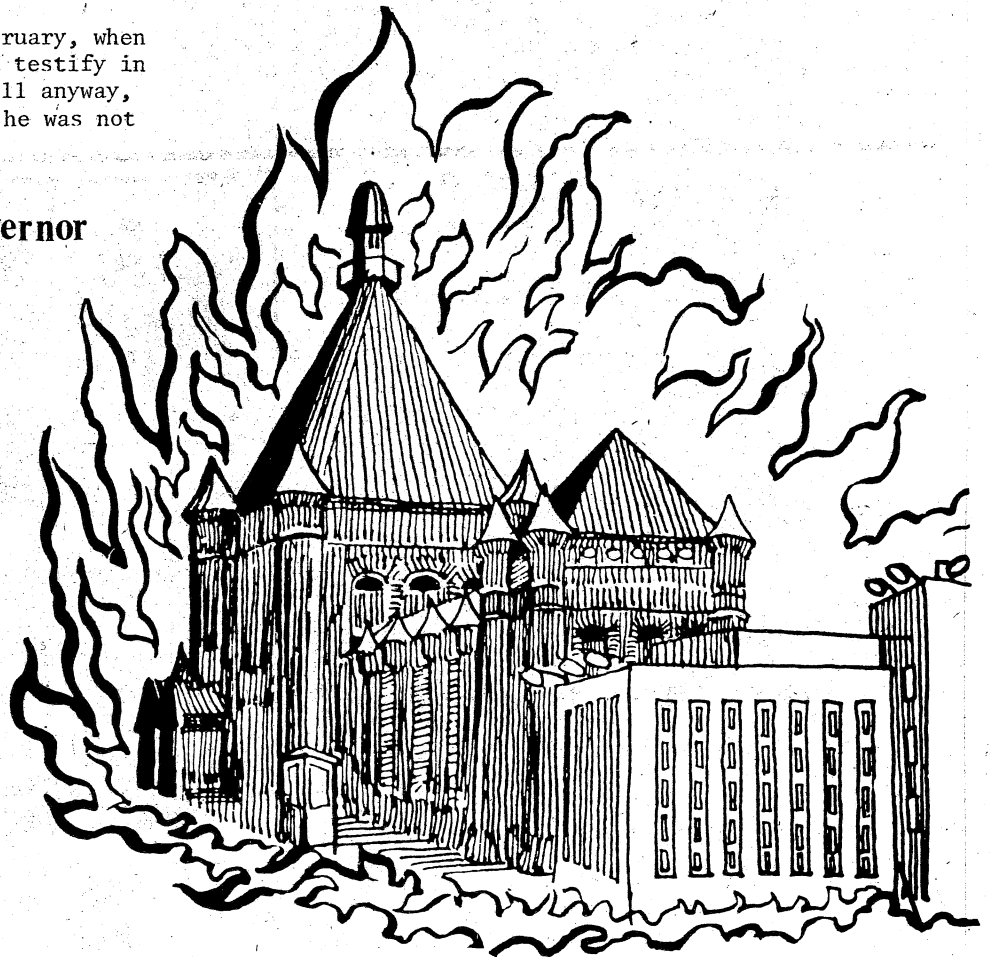
We can see that Helgemoe has few options available. We feel that he does have some options for some programs, however. The question is whether he will explore the options, which, of necessity, means he will have to take some career and political risks. Before outlining some of his options, let us explain some background on Helgemoe, which should give us a better chance of understanding what Helgemoe is likely to do.

Inside NEPA Chapter

A year ago, a chapter of NEPA was formed at NHSP. After over 100 prisoners signed up, elections were held. Over the summer and into the fall, NEPA members met in small groups to discuss their goals and to begin to develop programs.

After Helgemoe arrived, some of NEPA's Board of Directors met with him and asked him to allow the chapter to hold full membership meetings. Helgemoe replied that NEPA would have to put such a request through the Board of Trustees.

On Sept. 20, 1974, the inside NEPA chapter wrote the Board of Trustees asking that they recognize the NEPA chapter and allow it to meet. Subsequently, at their November meet-



NHSP Burn?

ing, the Board directed warden Helgemoe to write the other New England states both for their reactions to NEPA and their policies toward prisoner organizations.

We know that Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island allow prisoner organizations to exist. They also allow the groups to meet with related groups on the outside. Many of the prisoner groups are either NEPA affiliates or work closely with NEPA.

We also know that both the Prisoners Reform Council (PRC), the elected representative body of all the prisoners at NHSP, and the Jaycees, a 40-man self-help group, have been allowed to meet regularly. The inside Jaycee chapter has met with outside Jaycee groups in joint functions inside the prison. The PRC's elected spokesmen have met with legislative committees and civic groups.

Yet, after six meetings (October through March), the Board of Trustees have not acted on our proposal for inside NEPA meetings. We feel this has been wholly irresponsible on their part. We say now that they can either make a decision at their April meeting or explain their delaying tactics to a Federal judge.

It would be easy, given the material presented above, to assume that the fault is solely that of the Trustees. Yet we have good evidence to indicate that in this case the interests of Board and warden to keep out NEPA work together.

The N.H. Times is planning a series of articles on the NHSP. The reporter, Mike Harris, wants to interview a cross-section of prisoners, and has names. The prison policy on press access is that recognized media (which includes the N.H. Times) may interview prisoners selected at random. Excluded from this list are any prisoners in isolation or segregation.

But reporter Harris informed NEPA member Monty Neill that when N.H. Times editor Dick Wright telephoned the warden about this question, Helgemoe told Wright that no trouble-makers would be included, and no NEPA members. Apparently Helgemoe believes that he can keep our views from the public.

Strange, yes, but not unexpected. Such statements from Helgemoe reinforces our observation that he works with his Board to keep us out. While he will fight his Board for programs he can control, he will cooperate with that same Board to keep out what he cannot control: the views, the voice, the truth presented by NEPA.

He does so because he fundamentally agrees with his Board that prisoners must be coerced, sucked in, repressed, and at best allowed to "earn their way out." Such views see prisoners as essentially less-than-human. Such views cannot allow prisoners a real say in their lives.

Yet the warden can only avert a looming crisis at NHSP by changing his attitudes and acting in a new fashion. He must adopt the view that prisoners are human and must decide their own destiny. Helgemoe faces a choice: he can side with the bureaucrats (Trustees, Thomson, Legislature) against the prisoners, or he can side with the prisoners against the bureaucrats.

Letter From NHSP

Dear NEPA NEWS,

"If we are to achieve results never before accomplished, we must expect to employ methods never before attempted."

On Wednesday, August 14, 1974, R.A. Helgemoe assumed the position as Warden at the New Hampshire State Prison. Two days later he called a meeting with most of the prison population to give us the opportunity to meet with him for the first time, and to listen to his answers to a number of our questions, also to listen to a number of his goals to update this institution. (The meeting sounded quite promising.)

However--since that meeting the only real change I've seen is on paper and I feel the limit of the changes will remain on paper until more of the population here realizes that Helgemoe is on the same trip the warden J.C. Vitek was on. I truly hope more of the men here realize what Helgemoe is doing before it is too late.

To give the men that are not aware of what kind of a warden he is here are just a few of Helgemoe's (idea killers).

1. "I tried that once before and it didn't work."

Will Helgemoe Act?

We do not lightly say that Helgemoe faces this choice. As we explained above, prisoners cannot expect any relief from the Trustees, the Legislature or the Governor. Which means no programs from that direction.

Yet if no programs come in, a crisis will hit. One PRC spokesman told Roger Talbot, reporter for the Concord Monitor (2-28-75, p. 16), "They think it's not going to happen, but this place will burn to the ground. Unless they spend money to fix it, they will have to spend millions to rebuild it."

Clearly, prisoners hope Helgemoe can convince the Legislature to spend more than Thomson wants, and that if they do, Thomson will not veto it. But that is a long-shot hope. In fact, the crisis stands poised at the door.

To us, there remains one alternative. We do not want a riot, we do not want the place to burn. We do want to abolish the prison--but fire is not the best method at this time.

The alternative is for Helgemoe to side with the prisoners against the bureaucrats. Helgemoe can cast all the blame he wants on Legislature, Governor or Trustees. Blame throwing cannot provide what the prisoners need. Helgemoe must deliver some goods.

We feel Helgemoe can deliver some goods if he changes his approach.



First of all, Helgemoe must seriously trust the prisoners. If he does that, if he accepts the fact that prisoners will live up to any responsibility placed on them, if he discards the idea of each individual prisoner "earning his way out" and instead understands that the prisoners can collectively work for their common good, then the foundation can be laid to avert a crisis.

RSA 651:25, cited above, allows the possibility of release for numbers of prisoners. But Helgemoe must actively work with the courts and Parole Board to promote the usage of this law.

Unfortunately, a proposal is before the legislature to change the law so that the warden would have to work through the Trustees rather than the Parole Board to implement the law. However, Helgemoe could go before the legislature to oppose the bill. This is an example of what we mean when we say Helgemoe will have to stand with the prisoners against the bureaucrats. We do not know that the Parole Board will be sympathetic; but since the majority of the Trustees show no capacity to understand what is happening, no reason to change the law exists.



2. "I don't have the time to do it."
3. "You're right in theory, but/"
4. "That may work in California, but it won't work here."
5. "You're five years ahead of your time."
6. "It's too radical a change."
7. "I'm too old to change."
8. "Good idea, but impractical."
9. "I've always done it this way."
10. "I just don't have the staff to do it."
11. "No, we don't do that in this institution."
12. "I've done alright without it."
13. "I'm sorry, but I didn't receive your request."
14. "Let's shelve it for the time being."
15. "Let me think about it for awhile."

An aggressive program to utilize the possibilities of Chapter 651:25 could have the result of lowering the prison population.

The Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency reports that NH has a high ratio of guards to prisoners. (The current ratio is about 100 permanent, state funded employees; Thomson's budget would add 29. The current prisoner population is about 260; additional staff is likely to be paid for with Crime Commission money. Hence a ratio of better than 1:2.) Utilization of 651:25 could make a still higher ratio.

If this were combined with a policy of trust by Helgemoe, much could be done inside for the prisoners. If Helgemoe were to say to the prisoners,

"OK, we're going to loosen up here. We will have more night visits. Lock-up won't begin till 11:00 pm (now it is 7:20 pm). Classroom and yard and chapel will be used till 11:00 pm. This means less security, so I need your co-operation. You will have to keep the lid on yourselves. If you don't, we all know what Thomson and the Trustees will do: I'll lose my job and you will experience a repeat of the Spring of '73 lockup."

The prisoners, led by the PRC and NEPA, will respond favorably. They have kept the lid on the prison for many months on the basis of nothing more substantial than promises. If Helgemoe explains that he cannot deliver on the old promises, but "if we all work together we will make something happen," and really tries and does, he will have the true support of the prisoners.

Programs could be brought in. NEPA has offered programs in the past. Other groups and persons are eager to do the same: recreation, education, yoga, entertainment and more. Trust, Warden Helgemoe, will be fulfilled, and the crisis averted.

Further, once in motion, a program of trust will lay the foundation for legislative approval of more programs once Mel Thomson is gone in two years. But if no foundation is set now, then there is less likelihood of legislative response in two years.

This attitude has been adopted by Major Wheelock, the Superintendent of the State Hospital. For it, he draws constant attack from Thomson and Loeb. But he is still Super, and we feel his approach will pay off in two years. Sow and reap; sow nothing and reap nothing. Nothing except, perhaps, an explosion unwanted by all (except perhaps Thomson and Loeb to feed their machines of hate and fear.)

If Helgemoe faces a choice, what will he choose? As we have indicated above, he has shown little indication that he will take our advice and act rationally. On top of all the examples already given, he is a career military man, used to following the chain of command, and not used to bucking the bosses.

He wants to keep high on the tightrope between bureaucrats and prisoners; keep prisoners quiet with the rhetoric of reform, keep bureaucrats quiet with quiet prisoners. Historically, NHSP has been the most quiet prison in New England--and the prisoners have the fewest programs to show for their quiet. The prisoners know this, and soon Helgemoe's tight-rope may break.

Will he act before it breaks? If it breaks, he will find he probably will be unable to land on either side. We ask him to act, to begin now.

We call on Warden Helgemoe to recognize the NEPA chapter (and by-pass the Trustees), and to work with NEPA (inside and outside), the PRC, the Jaycees and any other organizations the prisoners might form, and to get together with all to accomplish the work at hand.

And so it goes, excuse after excuse, delay after delay. The danger is that the more often an excuse is repeated, the more believable it becomes--it stops becoming an excuse and becomes the real reason to never change, never try a new idea. This attitude only spells one thing (trouble).

Don't let yourself get bogged down by Warden Helgemoe. Analyze the excuses that are holding you back and stifling your chances of achieving in what ever goals you may have.

Most people who succeed in the face of seemingly impossible conditions are people who simply don't know how to quit. And keep in mind your not going to get anything out of life than what you've put into it.

In closing/ Faith--grant me the courage to change the things along life's road I cannot learn to accept.

Raymond A. Guay, Jr.
N.H. State Prison

What's Happening At Walpole?

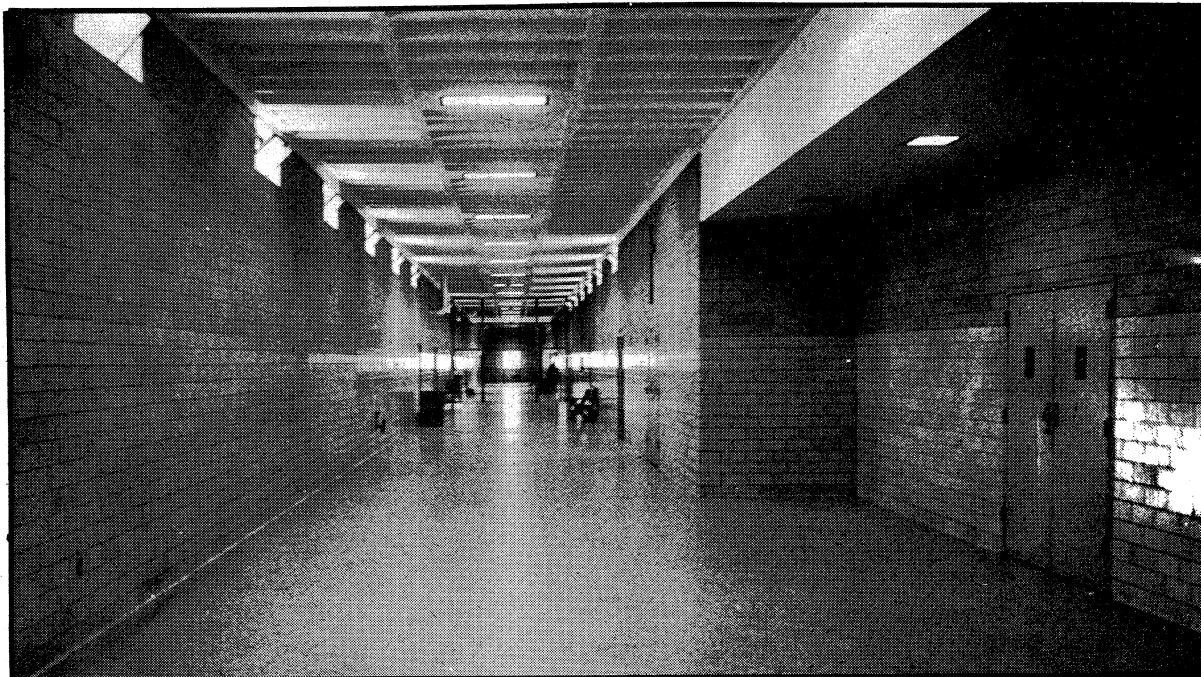
by Lynette R Bingham
from *Doing Time*

As most people involved with Walpole prison are aware, there was a re-classification that began in January of this year. A process which is presently under consideration by the Federal Court as to whether or not it is legal. But whether or not it is illegal for the inmates involved, we all know that this newly enacted policy at the prison does in fact disregard our rights, something that too few of us have taken any action against.

Walpole State Prison, the one time maximum security institution of the Commonwealth is now a maximum security prison, and a maxi-maxi security prison. Two institutions housed in the same fortress. For those who are unfamiliar with this new system, we will explain. Walpole Section "A", which consists of three blocks in the "Medium" end of the institution, known to all until recently as minimum, houses those that the

Department of Corrections feels they can control by rewarding them with special privileges such as furloughs, the retaining of their visiting rights (5 visits weekly per inmate), being allowed to eat their meals in the main cafeteria, and being allowed to move around the medium end of the institution if they have complied the wishes of the administration. Also, as a bonus, the men in this status are allowed to participate in the community group functions that used to be available to all. In fact, a great many of the groups' internal boards leaders are unable to participate as they are classified maximum. This reward system is known to all in prison as Behavior Modification, phase one.

The maximum end of the prison, which houses the largest portion of the population, has quite a different procedure. The men here are kept in twenty-three hour lock up, the hour exception being used to take showers and get whatever exercise possible, both physical and mental, as this is the only time the men are allowed to communicate with their fellow inmates. Feeding is done in the cells, and the portions of food that are served come in dixie cups, quite obviously not enough to keep a



Walpole photo by Richard Kahn

grown man healthy, but barely enough to keep them alive. Tired and unhealthy bodies breed tired and unhealthy minds, another terror tactic being used by the administration to weaken the men until they are ready to comply to all demands for the right to eat? This, too, falls under the title of "Behavior Modification", we wonder how long it will be before drugs are introduced, or have they been already? From the men in this end of the institution we find that this is a very live fear, one that seems also to have some serious backing.

Visits for the men in the max end of Walpole (section B) have resumed, but instead of the usual five visits a week, they are now limited to two, and instead of the usual 3 to 3 1/2 hour visits, they are limited to one hour. Does that sound bad? Well, that isn't all of it. The visits for the maximum end of the institution no longer take place in the usual visiting area, they are conducted in the corridor of the prison itself, and there is no personal contact between inmate and visitors. The men are forced to sit across a cafeteria style table from their visitors,

and have no opportunities to play with their children or embrace those that they love. There are no night visits for these inmates.

Visitors to the max end of the prison must first make an appointment with the visiting officer for the time that they choose, out of five visiting periods, and then upon approval they will receive a visitors pass from the institution allowing them entrance on the date and at the time of their appointment. An inconvenience, to say the very least.

Visits to this end of the institution are also limited to two visitors at one time per inmate, this includes any child of walking age, so it will take a family of four children two weeks to see their father, and this allows no visits for the parents or friends of an inmate.

Does this make the picture any clearer? As you may well imagine, this has created tension of unreal proportion for these inmates, and serves what we consider the purpose of the Department of Corrections. That being, to further divide the men.

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Suit Against Walpole

by Pat Walters
from *Doing Time*

The Prisoners' Rights Project of Boston is handling nearly fifteen law suits on behalf of Walpole inmates against the Walpole Prison administration and Department of Corrections officials. The most recently heard suit is on behalf of 26 inmates who were transferred to Block 8 (maximum) on January 20, 1975. This move on the part of the administration is part of a mass move (the first institutional wide classification at Walpole) to divide the institution into two parts, medium and maximum, with much more stringent restrictions placed on those in maximum than before.

The administration, under the direction of its new Superintendent, Mr. Frank Gunter and its Deputy Superintendents, Walter Waitkevitch and Fred Butterworth, is instituting a punitive and dangerous form of step classification (behavior modification). They know that Walpole Prison is a total failure, but rather than attempt to transform the institution into a rehabilitative and productive unit (or better still, close it down), they are transforming it into a vicious concentration camp. The same tactics were attempted by former Superintendent Raymond Porelle and failed miserably.

The law suits on behalf of 26 inmates transferred to Block 8 is based on two complaints: cruel and inhumane conditions in the Block and lack of due process in the classification procedures. These men were taken from their cells by guards in riot gear and taken to Block 8 and placed in cells without sinks and toilets. Those who did have sinks and toilets tore them out in frustration and anger over having been moved without prior hearing nor notification. On January 27, Prisoners' Rights

Project filed for a temporary restraining order to have the men returned to their cells. The hearing for this was conducted on January 28 and the temporary restraining order was denied; the judge saying that he had no evidence that the defendants (prison officials) had caused the conditions. Sup't. Gunter testified that there were sinks and toilets in all the cells and that the plaintiffs (the inmates) had removed them. This testimony was proven to be untrue in later hearings.

On January 31, P.R.P. filed a motion to reconsider the temporary restraining order, which was again denied. They then sought to get preliminary and permanent injunctions and two hearing dates were set up: February 10, on the cruel and inhumane conditions and February 18, for the due process. P.R.P. arranged to have several experts to go to Walpole and make assessments of the conditions. After considerable delay because of resistance on the part of the administration, a court order was given to allow them in. There were a photographer, an architect, a psychiatrist, and two public health specialists. All of these experts testified at the hearings, supporting the inmates' charges of inhumane conditions. Some of the facts brought out included:

- 1) filth, including human excrement on the walls, in the cells, and on the flats.
- 2) cockroaches, flies
- 3) no ventilation
- 4) poor heating system
- 5) poor acoustics, noise
- 6) poor medical attention (many inmates were suffering from symptoms of enteric disease, specifically, hepatitis).

On February 10, Judge Skinner went to Walpole and heard testimony from six of the

26 inmates (Harding, Johnson, Wilson, Davlin, Soffen, and Carlow). At that time, he observed that most of the filth and excrement had been cleaned up (which is always the case when such visits are announced in advance). This was also the case when legislators Backman, McGrath, and Gray went out to the institution on January 24 and Gunter decided to give back personal property to the inmates and allow them showers a day later. Also, inmates were moved to cells with sinks and toilets a day before the experts went out.

The due process part of the hearing was started on February 18. It was revealed through testimony by Gunter, Waivevitch, and Butterworth that the decisions for classification were made on the basis of past actions and hearsay. Nothing positive about the inmates was considered and they did not know that they were to be transferred from their blocks until the actual time of the move. When asked why the guards wore riot gear, Gunter replied that he expected trouble based on past experience with mass moves. (Gunter, by the way, just left a prison in North Carolina which is 14 stories high and uses the step classification system). Gunter also claimed that the moves were made for the purpose of security and that some of the inmates involved were members of the so-called "wrecking crew" (according to Gunter, "inmates who exercise negative force on others").

As of late March, there has not yet been a decision made by the judge. He has to review the evidence he has before him; also to review briefs prepared by both sides in the suit and make a decision, which may take another couple of weeks. In the meantime, Gunter, Waivevitch, and Butterworth will probably go on with their plans to transform Walpole into a concentration camp. They will come up with ways of getting around due process, such as the so-called "appeal" process that they have set up. Inmates will continue to be kept under inhumane conditions unless we, the families and friends, continue to fight.

Walpole Overview

George Nassar MCI-Walpole
March 5, 1975
Legislative Liaison
Representative Richard J. McGrath
Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. McGrath,

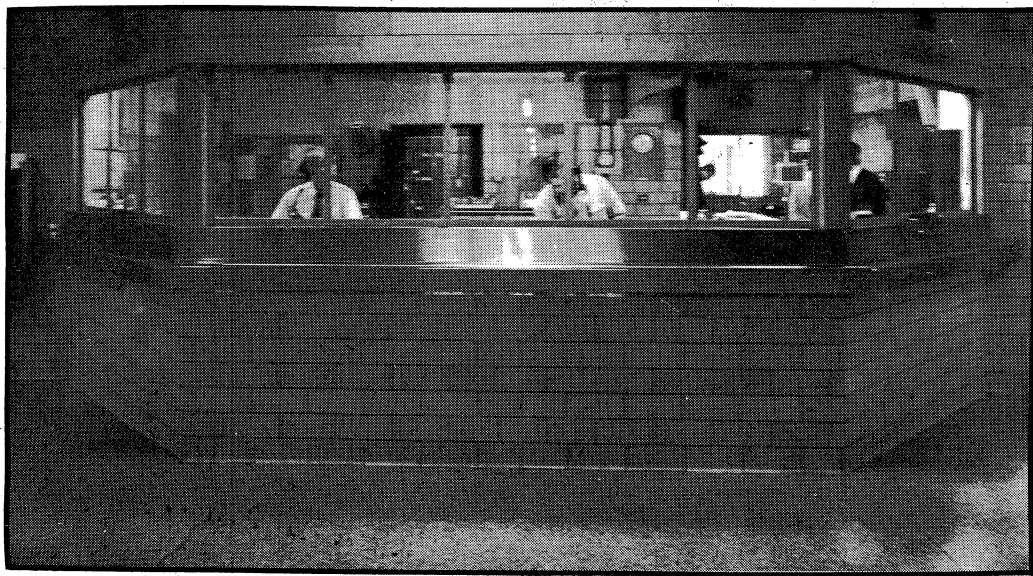
As a person who, with Robert M. Layne, is sponsored by the prisoners at Walpole to represent them in the October 1974 Federal Complaint and in the proposed Prisoner-Community Seminar, I'm writing you to inform you of the prison situation.

Since December 26, 1974, the prisoners have been in practically twenty-four hour lockup; only in the past few weeks have the minimum section prisoners been allowed near-normal routine; the other half of the prison remains on the whole dead-locked. Why?

Basically because management officials of the penal system, from Department level on down, don't know how to operate a correctional system or how to implement the reform law called Chapter 777. It's

sioner Hall. The correctional programs at Walpole--such as work-release, educational-release, community-participation and social-reintegration--have been nonexistent or drastically reduced. This negative policy has gone so far that the former Superintendent, Douglas Vinzant, stated publicly that if prisoners at Walpole wanted to participate in any reform programs they'd have to get to another prison. Since the physical plant of the penal system prevents sufficient transfers to other prisons (Concord, for example, is so overcrowded that judges are refusing to send prisoners there), Walpole remains full of prisoners who cannot get the benefits of the reform law and programs.

Proof of the intentional suppression of reform programs at Walpole is in the Commissioner's fiscal 1976 budget proposals for Walpole. There are no work- or educational-release programs provided for. Nothing is provided for vocational-education. And in the past two fiscal years of



Walpole photo by Richard Kahn

equally true that there are forces at work preventing any such officials from effectively operating the system or implementing the law.

For more than a year and a half now the penal system has been managed by Commis-

1974 and 1975, there has been no money expended for work-release, budgets have increases of more than three-quarters of a billion dollars, swelling the yearly operating costs of the prison to more than six million dollars.

Who Are Family And Friends?

from *Doing Time*

As we've explained before, we are not a group of social workers. We are people who have loved ones imprisoned in Massachusetts and who suffer everyday because of it.

We decided over a year ago that because the Prison Bussing Program had been such a success, not only in providing rides to prisons, but also in providing support for the people riding the program, we needed to do more. We are making some progress on our plans to open a survival center; we are also undertaking a membership drive so we can more clearly define who we represent.

On top of all our efforts here, we are trying to pull together prisoners' families and friends to fight this ineffective system and to abolish it.

So, if you believe that our loved ones belong in cages, don't bother filling out a membership form.

If on the other hand you know that our loved ones are not animals but are people deserving of rehabilitative programs, and are willing to fight for those programs, Join Us!

Family and Friends are located at 1417 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, Mass. 02122, phone 265-8455. They can use help, and in turn want to help. Either way, call them.

*Persons may take out membership in the organization. Only members will receive the monthly newsletter, *Doing Time*. Membership also gives you a voice and a vote at the monthly meetings.*

This is a Massachusetts organization, and in the opinion of NEPA NEWS, one of the best. For membership, write them at the above address. Send whatever donation you can afford; not required for membership, but needed all the same.--Ed.



What's Happening

wherein inmates can appeal their block assignments; which, in essence, is no "appeal" process at all. Inmates don't know what to appeal when they are re-classified and not given reasons why.

Also, inmates will continue to be harassed, beaten, denied reasonable access to families and attorneys, denied access to rehabilitative programs, and kept under inhumane conditions--unless we, the families and friends of these men continue to fight and put the pressure on those who are implementing and supporting these policies. It is important to apply community pressure, to re-institute an observer program at Walpole, and to have regular meetings with administrative officials.

Focusing on the penal system as a whole, Norfolk prison during the purportedly stable tenure of the new Commissioner has had several serious disturbances and two major shipouts recently. Likewise Norfolk has had a severe contraction of work- and educational-release programs.

The Department's projected plans for community corrections programs, even if fully funded and established immediately, will only house about 150 people, out of an expanding prison population of a few thousand.

Walpole prison has had a series of disturbances since the Commissioner assumed control. Since the Commissioner has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars securing the prison with steel plating and practically total severance of community programs, half a dozen loaded guns have been found in the prison, three guards have been taken hostage (precisely to protest the lack of reform programs as mandated by Chapter 777), a score of prisoners have faced drastic increases in sentences as a consequence of these problems, and now about half the prison has been locked up since Christmas. The hostility between prisoners and personnel is mounting, and a continuing series of violent confrontations are in the offing for the next several months, threatening the lives of prisoners and guards alike.

These add up to the most dangerous series of incidents since the prison was built, twenty years ago, and the situation promises to get worse for the penal system itself.

Under this system, friend and family ties are willfully broken, real and full community participation, as mandated by law, is cut off, and the prisoners are caged and disciplined by newly hired social scientists who in reality take their treatment orders from security personnel.

To maintain the severance of the Walpole prisoners from the remainder of the penal system, and half the Walpole prisoners from the other half, the Department has introduced a modified aversion therapy program. This not-too-secret behavioral modification approach uses, in place of chemicals and electric shock, the sensory-constricting physical plants of the prison and a select group of guards and socialwork personnel to haphazardly move and confine people in disagreeable ways and places, under an incomprehensible classification system. In fact this system of control is intended to suppress prisoner protest against the Department's refusal to implement Chapter 777 and the community-oriented program it provides for.

The illegal conduct of the principal managers of Walpole is demonstrated clearly in the mid-February Federal Court Order, restraining Commissioner Hall, Superintendent Gunter, and their agents like Frederick Butterworth, from suppressing the court suit of Layne and Nassar and other prisoners. The court had to enjoin the officials from acts of harassment, intimidation or retaliation against the prisoner-plaintiffs and their witnesses to protect them in their legal expose of the Department's violation of the reform law, Chapter 777. The illegal conduct offered to the court in evidence included the theft and destruction of the prisoners' legal books and documents, writing materials, even envelopes and stamps to mail court papers.

Even after the court order, individuals like Butterworth have violated the Order, and in concert with others, harass and punish the prisoners without cause, forcing them to live in cold or stifling heat, with no ventilation, no haircuts, no wash or clothes, in dead-lock with nothing to do, never even being able to see the outside, restricted severely in visits from families and friends and in a noisy and severely uncomfortable and continually threatened and mistreated by a special squad of guards.

In sum, whatever effort is possible by sincere guards, prisoners or staff and counseling personnel is crushed by a few old-guard staff and union officials, who refuse to allow the new law to be implemented--as much because they are fearful of being unable to operate a workable system as they are hostile to those who want to try to make the new law work.

We hope this brief statement helps you to understand what is happening and assists in making Chapter 777 the reality of reducing crime, reducing costs of prison maintenance, and increasing the satisfying work of individuals and the creativity of our society.

NPRA Family Center Opens

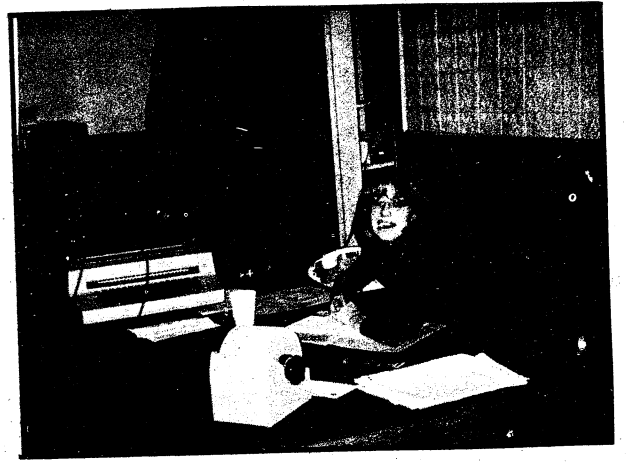
by Anita Baker, External Coordinator
from NPRA News

"Fundamental purposes of the Center, seems to have narrowed down to two: 'as a meeting place where family members can find much needed emotional support by examining and working through their mutual dilemmas with other family members.' To this end, it is hoped and proposed that a number of volunteers from the ranks of the inmate families, i.e., those who have experienced and survived the hardships of an inmates family, will serve as facilitators and counsellors at the Center. The second thrust of the Center will be to serve as a referral service to 'provide information and access to all private and social service agencies, as well as to facilitate communication among families on a practical level.' It is important to note that it is often the practical, day to day problems encountered by a spouseless family which are most frustrating." (Taken from a proposed Family Center Report)

The Family Center Programs will provide the means for greater communication between inmates and their families and/or friends.

To make the Family Center a success it is the duty of all inmates, ex- or incarcerated to be responsible for himself or herself. Everyone has potential but often this potential is locked up and people are reluctant to use it. Through the use of the Family Center it is hoped that a way will be found for everyone to cope with the everyday situations that make a *prison within a prison*, and on the outside a *prison without walls*.

By uniting and pooling individual thoughts and suggestions, the Family Center can be a catalyst that will keep the younger generation from making the mistakes that YOU, TODAY'S INMATE, have made; not because you wanted to but because you happen to live



in a nation that cares less whether you are incarcerated or not. The only way the entire administration, nationwide, can keep their jobs is to keep you, TOMORROW'S CITIZENS, running back and forth to the cruddy cages you have to call home. The animals at the S.P.C.A. live *better*. Now if this is the way you want to continue to live, so be it! For those of you who want prison reform, rehabilitation and stronger family ties, the Family Center, located at 384 Elmwood Ave., Providence R.I., is for YOU.

Personnel at the Family Center are: Ralph Ben David, Steve Gumbley, Mark Hayes, Anita Baker, Mike Rakowsky, Debbie Fitton, Eva McClellan, Sharon Mitchell (Vista Volunteer).



Inmate Beaten

CRANSTON - An Adult Correctional Institutions guard, whose brother is an inmate, said yesterday his brother was beaten last week by officers at the medium security facility.

And, said Douglas Chase, a guard at the maximum security building, when he went to see his brother after the incident he was threatened and told by other correctional officers to "get out of here" or he would be "banged-out."

A lawyer for medium security inmates confirmed there have been continuing problems at the facility, but said the Chase incident "is only the tip of the iceberg."

"We are continuing to receive the same complaints that we got all during last summer," said Ronald E. Cook, staff attorney for the Inmate Legal Assistance Program. "The situation with Chase is only the tip of the iceberg, and we are more concerned with the whole iceberg."

A continuing federal court suit begun last July resulted in a temporary restrain-

ing order which prohibited guards from assaulting inmates except in self defense or for "legitimate purposes of institutional security."

During the court proceeding, which is still pending final resolution, both inmates and correctional officers testified that some inmates were beaten and gassed by officers.

In an associated civil action, decided last October, three corrections officials and two officers were found guilty of mistreating prisoners and ordered to make cash payments to two inmates. The case is being appealed.

In the Chase incident, Douglas Chase--the correctional officer--said that he learned on Saturday that his brother Ronald Chase had been injured. Douglas Chase went to the medium security facility across Pontiac Ave. to see him. He said he was at first denied admission to the building, but after conferring with his supervisor at maximum security he returned to the medium building and was allowed in to see his brother.

"Ronald was assaulted while going down the stairs," Douglas Chase said. "His hands were cuffed behind his back and he was pushed down the stairs."

Douglas Chase said he went into a visiting room with his brother and the officer involved, "and as soon as I got into the room (one officer) said, 'Your brother is a ... Liar.'"

Douglas Chase said the officer told him, "I am going to kill (Ronald) if they don't get him out of here." When he objected, Douglas Chase said, the officer told him, "And if you don't get out of here we will bang you out."

Douglas Chase has been a correctional officer for about three months. Ronald Chase is being held on \$55,000 bail awaiting trial on drug and gun charges.

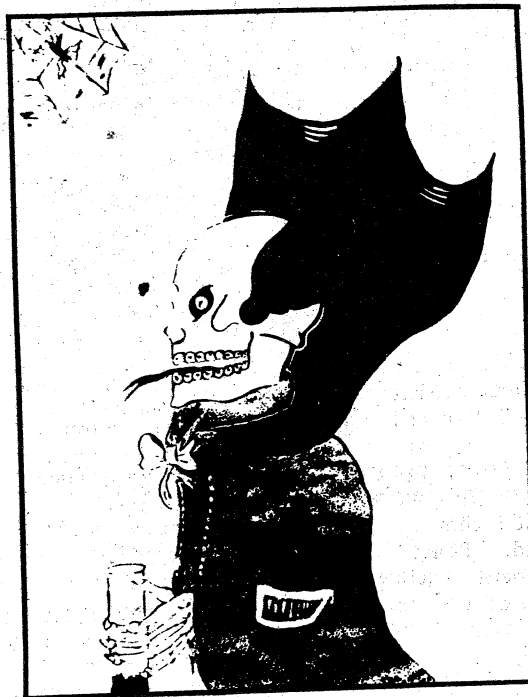
A spokesman for the Department of Corrections said today that acting director Donald D. Taylor will investigate the matter.

Mrs. Lillian G. McDaniel also said that Taylor will meet next week with a subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Corrections to discuss the situation.

The Spider and The Fly

by Shelly Killen

One of the most striking qualities about the art created in prisons is its vitality, authenticity, and high level of craft and imaginative expression. This is in acute contrast to the banal, empty, poorly made forms that one can find in such costly institutions as the University of Rhode Island Art Department (Photograph 2--URI--Art Det--Exhibition--1974). Since I began working on art programs in prison, I've spoken with many professional artists who have shared my view that there is a greater potential for genuine art within the darkest penal institution than in any art department of an American University. This uncanny juxtaposition of live art and dead art should not come as a surprise, since the University of Rhode Island is essentially a center for military research (URI has the second highest number of military contracts in New England), the worship of bureaucratic trivia, and mindless conformity to the values of the cheerful robots known as University officials. Art cannot be created by sychophants and pampered parasites, the role assumed by URI artists and their student followers. The URI art department has achieved notable success in inducing students to become true believers and members of a pseudoworld of stereotyped living. Art students ape the latest inanities created by the sanctioned thieves who earn from \$13,000 to \$23,000 a year for smearing paintbrushes across a canvas or nailing two pieces of wood together from time to time. These inane arrangements are called art, and the high-priests of deception pat themselves on the back and award themselves state monies for their infantile mucky-muck.

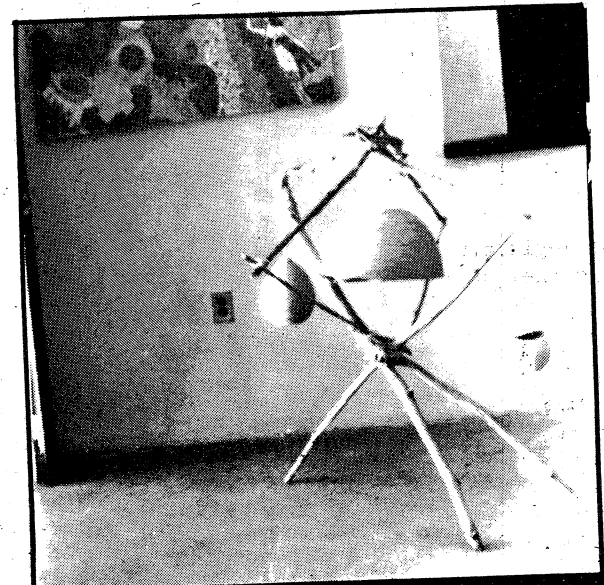


The young inmate who painted the winged skeleton holding a vial of blood in his right hand (PHOTOGRAPH 1) has embodied in his tempera image the Vampire Spirit of the Deadly Penal Institution that exploits, profits from and destroys those whom society has elected as scapegoats for their own crime of indifference and greed. The left hand corner of the painting contains a spider weaving her web, an apt image of the automata of bureaucracy who spin death nets for the young and the vulnerable. Our ghoulish spectre of winged death speaks with a forked tongue, the native language of public officials who call War, Peace; Sadistic Punishment; Rehabilitation; or junk arrangements, ART. Those who resist

the Great Lie of the dying Establishment are our only harbingers of hope.

Men and women within the labyrinth of our monster prisons have begun to speak for truth, justice, and collective concern for the quality of life. Those employed by the representatives of the power structure in the University of Rhode Island Art Dept. are working for the spider who can only weave death for the human beings we now kill as wantonly and with as much ease as we are wont to swat a fly.

If we have three billion dollars for the building of machines of death, romantically titled Tridents, why don't we have funds for low-income housing, schools, hospitals, parks, food for the hungry, shelters for the needy? Perhaps the Spider knows. Until the day that we say NO to death-giving tools and death-giving institutions, we are trapped within the spider web of unconscious self-destruction.



NPRA Sues ACI for \$25million

In the year 1956 the Rhode Island General Assembly changed their penal philosophy by writing wide-ranging laws to drastically better the archaic conditions existing in Rhode Island's prison system. Rhode Island philosophy was to sentence the law breaker to "hard-labor" which, in fact, meant that the confined individual was sent to prison merely to segregate him from society for lengthy periods of "time", idle "time" being one of man's severest forms of punishment.

Twenty years have gone by since the Rhode Island General Assembly passed into law what just might be the most progressive penal legislation in this country. These statutes are mandatory. The State of Rhode Island "shall" provide WORK for inmates, EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL, VOCATIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, TESTING, PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION, etc. etc.

The laws concerning corrections out of the general laws of Rhode Island (1956) must be interpreted the exact way they are written. However, in twenty years, these laws have not been enforced! For this reason, inmates at the A.C.I. have filed in the United States District Court the following Civil Action:

United States District Court, District of Rhode Island
Nicholas A. Palmigiano, Pro Se, Plaintiff

Vs

Philip W. Noel, Governor, et al
State of Rhode Island
Donald D. Taylor, Director
Department of Corrections
James W. Mullen, Warden
Adult Correctional Institutions
Robert J. Black, Senior Classification Officer

COMPLAINT

5. Plaintiff, allege their Constitutional Rights are systematically being violated by the defendants named herein in that said



defendants willfully violate the General Laws of Rhode Island pertaining to operation of the Adult Correctional Institutions; that said defendants have failed to comply with the General Laws of Rhode Island by not complying with the statutes and enforcing the said statutes as they are written by the legislature; and plaintiff, further allege they have been and are now being deprived of statutory benefits they are entitled to under the General Laws of Rhode Island, and the defendants are at all times acting under color of state law.

6. Plaintiff, further allege they are deprived of education, vocational training, classification study, medical treatment, rehabilitation, psychiatric treatment and other statutory benefits they are entitled to under the laws of the State of Rhode Island.

7. Plaintiff, allege they are systematically deprived of rehabilitation and work assignments as is prescribed by the General Laws of Rhode Island, that the defendants have been and are presently RAPING the people of Rhode Island by virtue of spending funds appropriated for rehabilitation on salaries which in violation of the General Laws, have nothing to do with rehabilitation, and that plaintiffs are suffering irreparable harm as a result of this wholesale misappropriation of funds intended for their benefit.

8. Plaintiff, allege that defendants operate the said Adult Correctional Institutions, not for the benefit of prisoners confined herein, but for the benefit of employees of the said Adult Correctional Institutions, that out of the total operating budget of approximately six million dollars, only approximately five percent of the total budget is spent on programs benefitting them; and that approximately seventy-five to eighty percent of the total operating budget is spent on salaries of so-called Correctional Officers which are not, in fact, correctional officers, but prison guards.

9. Plaintiff, allege defendants have neglected to do their lawful duty when they failed to develop working progress for training, rehabilitation and treatment of inmates; that defendants have failed to provide training for employees of the said Adult Correctional Institutions intended to foster rehabilitation of inmates, and plaintiff further allege that they have suffered irreparable harm as a result of this dereliction of duty on the part of defendants.

10. Plaintiff allege defendants have failed to comply with the General Laws of Rhode Island thereby causing great harm to the people of Rhode Island and the prisoners of the Adult Correctional Institutions, to wit:

- Defendants are not operating a RECEIVING AND ORIENTATION UNIT for STUDY OF INCOMING PRISONERS, in violation of 13-3-1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island (Reenactment 1969);
- Defendants are not operating a Classification Board in compliance with 13-3-2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island;
- Defendants are violating 13-2-25 of the General Laws of Rhode Island by not complying with the statutes;
- Defendants are not operating an EDUCATIONAL and VOCATIONAL TRAINING UNIT in compliance with the General Laws of Rhode Island, 13-2-26;
- Defendants are not complying with the General Laws of Rhode Island by not having and enforcing RULES & REGULATIONS, 13-2-28;
- Defendants are not complying with 13-2-25 of the General Laws of Rhode Island pertaining to work assignments for prisoners.

11. WHEREFORE: Plaintiff prays that this Court will enter its order directing the defendants to pay (a) 25 million dollars damages to the inmates of the Adult Correctional Institutions, plaintiff further prays that this Court will enforce the General Laws of Rhode Island (Reenactment 1969), as they are written by the legislature and plaintiff further prays, that the Federal Marshalls by order of this court will take over complete operation of said Adult Correctional Institutions until such time as prisoners receive that which is allowed them by the General Laws of Rhode Island. Plaintiff, further prays for judgement against the Defendants in the above-stated amount. Plaintiff, further prays that the Court will STOP the pays of all the named defendants in this action, plaintiff prays that this Court will grant any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

CERTIFICATION

I, Nicholas A. Palmigiano, hereby certify that a copy of the within complaint was mailed to the Attorney General's office on the 31 day of January, 1975 at 250 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. And that I have made copies for the Defendants in this action.

/s/ Nicholas A. Palmigiano, Pro Se

Editor's note: In addition to the foregoing class action, other significant litigation shall be placed before the United States District for the District of Rhode Island in the very near future.

ACI Women

Dear Editor:

You asked us to write for your newspaper about things happening down here in the Women's Unit of the A.C.I.

We have NOTHING, nothing to do, nothing but TIME! Time on our hands that many of us wish we could put to use in some meaningful educational/vocational training programs. None, are available to use here.

The officials of the Women's Unit claim they cannot permit us a half hour in the yard for exercise because of the shortage of matrons. There is one matron to one inmate and we feel that is enough or are they suggesting they need two for each inmate?

These officers never had it so good. They come to get away from their husbands and take a "rest". When we take a "nap", they take a "nap", and they say they're doing time like us, the only difference they contend is that they go home at night. We figure the tax-payers of Rhode Island are paying them to perform a duty, besides one of resting, and that they have a responsibility to try to rehabilitate us according to the law. To give us the basic requirements that, according to law, we are supposed to have. Yard-time, to exercise. No matter what the weather conditions are, we need some fresh air.

We often wonder if these institutions are run for the benefit of its employees or for us inmates?

Maybe someone can answer this question and the issue of what happened to rehabilitation at the ACI?

Sincerely

/s/ Barbara Chicoine
(ACI Women's Unit)

The REAL Truth About Norfolk

(The Real Truth About Norfolk will be a regular, or nearly regular, column about Norfolk. Many folks in Mass. have long viewed Norfolk as the promised land of programs for prisoners. This myth will be exploded in the series, point by point.--ed.)

by Earl Kennedy II.

Two prison guards were shot and wounded Thursday night, allegedly by an inmate who, officials said, was "high on drugs" and who was himself shot by other correction officers. Governor Dukakis has named a prison task force to investigate the problems here at Norfolk.

The problems here at Norfolk are not new; the inmates have tried to get the Governor to see these problems sooner. They tried a peaceful work stoppage; old Larry Meachum stopped this peaceful action by calling in the State Police, when all he had to do was meet with the inmates and talk over our problems.

We had some fires later on, another try to let our voice be heard by the governor. Ol' Larry heard this cry for help by sending a handful of inmates to Walpole. These men were shipped because they dared to speak out about the Norfolk myth. And now, when two prison guards have been shot, the Governor wants to know what's going on. Too bad you didn't ask the question sooner, Mr. Dukakis.

As each day passes we all suffer from lack of programs. Nothing to do and will to eat is no way to get ready for the street.

As far as work release is concerned, we all start out with onw strike against us, and in these days of depression it is very hard to get a job. We receive no assistance in any form whatsoever to help us get over the hurdles we face.

The half-way house program could have been a viable program if Fast Frank Hall, the Commissioner, did not bungle a Federal grant and allow it to slip through his hands. The grant would have footed at least 70% of the cost of this program.

A Superior Court Judge said that he was not going to send any more people to Concord Prison. Wait until the judge sees Norfolk.

The fire is not dead at Norfolk. Yes, you may have it burning low for now, Ol' Larry, but all those broken promises of yours will one day be used for fuel for a fire which all the state police in the world will not be able to extinguish.

(The "Ol' Larry Meachum" of the article is Norfolk Superintendent Meachum.--ed.)

WINDSOR

by Wayne Lorne Carlson, Windsor Prison

You are closing Windsor Prison. You say I'm far too old.
That I'm much too hot in summer and in winter it's the cold...
Well, listen to me people, you say I've had my day
But though I'm steel and concrete, I want to have my say:

I have seen the cycle of the faces through your law;
I've held your poor for ages and by God it rubs me raw...
I'd say the Devil take you, the Devil take you all,
But he can't leave to take you, he's trapped inside my wall...

I have stood a hundred years--through hurricanes and rain,
And I will stand one hundred more if you can stand the pain...
Though I know you good can't feel it, just the ne'er do well;
How can you touch heaven if you go and close your hell??

I can hear the jingle and the jangling of the keys...
Causing some to curse me while others cry out please.
Please give me the freedom to breathe that clean fresh air
(I've caused men to hang themselves and I gave some men the chair.)

Now I can hear the moaning from the men here in the night...
I take their years--I age them. You know I do what's right.
I make them beg for mercy, down on bended knee.
I've done everything you wanted, and now you're closing me.

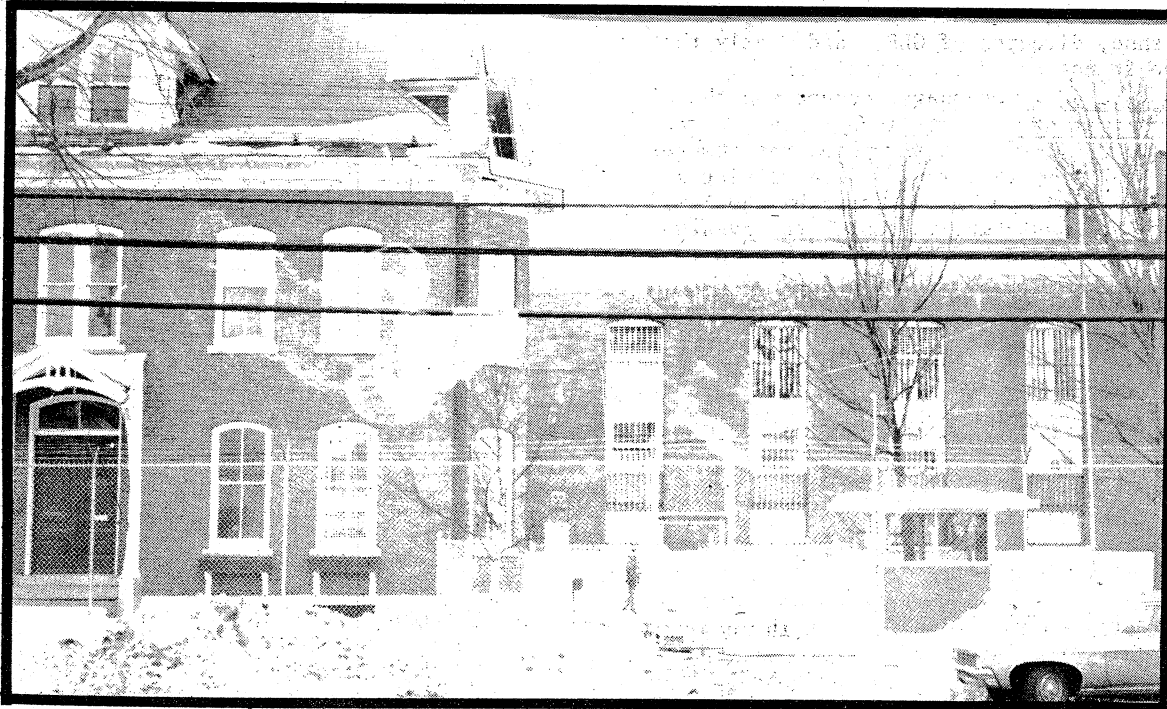


photo by E. Kamman

Narc Gets Convicted

by Bob Meyers

Robert Gensberg, a special prosecutor for Gov. Thomas Salmon of Vermont, is expected to issue further indictments against Paul D. Lawrence, an ex-narc who operated in St. Albans, whose recent convictions for perjury will result in a review of 600 Vermont drug busts, and is threatening the state with the possibility of millions of dollars in civil suits.

The legal action is the result of a six-month investigation carried out by Mr. Gensberg, a St. Johnsbury attorney, at the request of Gov. Salmon after a controversy when Lawrence was arrested last July 12 for giving false information to a fellow cop and for falsely swearing out a drug arrest affidavit. Lawrence was convicted on Feb. 5, and shortly thereafter, Francis Murray, Chittendon County's state attorney, asked Gov. Salmon that 150 persons convicted as a result of Lawrence's affidavits be pardoned. Vermont's Attorney General, M. Jerome Diamond, said that a case by case review of Lawrence's 600 busts was in order.

Lawrence's actions first attracted the interest of the state in the fall of 1975 when many of his victims swore that they were not guilty, and passed lie detector tests with flying colors. Defense Attorneys presented their complaints to the Defender General's office, which resulted in a 30-page report from Champlain Security Systems, Inc., a private investigation firm. The report claimed that Lawrence planted drugs, beat up speeding violators, made false statements under oath and used police expense accounts to take his girlfriends out to dinner. The report also stated that Lawrence became a cop in 1966,

despite the fact that he was arrested as a youth for illegal possession of liquor and was discharged from the Army for "behavioral disorders" after going AWOL three times in seven months of service. The entire report was turned over to former Attorney General Kimberly Chaney six months before Lawrence was arrested. When the N.Y. Times asked why he ignored the report, Chaney told them the dossier was "full of unsubstantiated facts." The Times, however, said that Chaney was involved in a heated election battle with Diamond at the time and told Diamond privately that he held up the investigation of Lawrence for fear of appearing publicly as a softie on drugs.

It finally took Lawrence's fellow cops to bring him down. When Lawrence was lent to the Burlington Police Department as part of an exchange program with St. Albans, other cops quickly became suspicious when he failed to identify a person he had named as a dealer. They took their complaints to then county prosecutor Patrick Leahy, now a U.S. Senator, who ordered the chief of police "to clean up the mess." As came out in Lawrence's trial, early in the summer of 1974, an undercover narc was imported from Brooklyn and was pointed out to Lawrence as a suspected dealer. Lawrence approached the planted dealer, but did not talk or exchange money with him. Later, Lawrence filed an arrest affidavit claiming that he had bought a nickel bag of smack from him. Lawrence was arrested on July 12. Also during his trial, one of his victims, a woman, testified that Lawrence picked her up hitch hiking, offered her some cocaine and dinner and then asked her to spend the

Continued on Page 19

Transfers from Windsor

By Elizabeth Kamman

The Windsor Maximum Security Prison in Windsor, Vt. is to close down June 31. For the 90 men detained there, this means living in total apprehension. Just what will happen to these prisoners seems to be an unanswerable question at this point. Figures have been tossed around and speculations have been made. Some of the men will be sent to various Community Correctional Centers in Vermont. Twenty-four of the prisoners were to be shipped to out-of-state Federal pens, but word has come that the number to be

sent out has risen to 40. No names have been released on the transfers; all a prisoner can do to pass the time is to wonder if he will be awakened in the middle of the night to be shipped out.

Being shipped out of Vermont has no positive factors for the individual. He will be separated from his family, friends and counsel, and will be put into a foreign environment. He will be forced to establish a new relationship with his new peers. He will have to deal with his new screws.

Although Vermont's Correctional Centers and prison may be old, and certainly not ideal as far as programs and conditions are concerned, at least men would have a sense of being on their own turf, near their own communities. It is hard to understand why government officials are hassling with such unnecessary red-tape and paper work and spending extra dollars that could be put back into Vermont. The Vermont Department of Correction is contracting with the Federal Bureau of Prisons for space in the Federal system, when all they have to do is move the prisoners from Windsor to Burlington, St. Albans or Woodstock. Instead, the men will first be sent to the penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa., and then shipped to any federal prison in the country.

Windsor Prison is comprised of three cell blocks, A, B, C. Because there are so few men in the large prison, some will be moved to the minimum security block B. B is open 24 hours a day. The prisoners are relatively comfortable. They have the freedom of walking from cell or going to the prison library. They are allowed televisions, stereos, and are able to decorate their tiny concrete and steel homes any way they wish. After five years of effort, the men in the honor blocks have made Windsor suitable.

The men have established their own social organizations. For example, if any legal difficulties come up--inside or outside--they can be brought to the jail house lawyer who is well read and well equipped with, believe it or not, his own small office. All this will be lost when the prison is closed down.

The third block, A, is the segregation unit. Presently, 12 people occupy the windowless, barren block. Men are placed here for "special adjustment" and protective custody. "Troublemakers" are also sent down occasionally to do some time. A block is cut off from the rest of the prison. They do not have the privileges of the library/classroom, the workshops, or (until recently) the exercise yard. These men are the prison's undesirables, and more than likely will be the first sent out of state.

The DOC will not have to deal with its "troublemakers" any longer, but what of new prisoners coming in? Not only should we stop the DOC from shipping out any of the men at Windsor, but we must see to it that new men coming into the system are not shipped out.

Now is a perfect time for starting new programs in Vermont. With Windsor closing and things being turned around, community Correctional Centers could conceivably be places of real prison reform. No men should be transferred. Prisoners in good standing should be given more furloughs with public participation in the program. All efforts should be made to improve the facilities already in use. Even the new prison in Burlington could be put to good use by adding more programs, classes and workshops. With strong public support, Vermont prisoners can stay "home."

PCC

The Prisoner Community Center, presently located in Windsor, Vt., needs donations and contributions desperately in order to stay alive. The people at the center are trying their hardest to keep the organization running for the benefit of Vermont State prisoners. Without the much-needed funds they will not be able to move from Windsor to St. Albans to be close to the majority of prisoners when Windsor Prison closed. The smallest contribution will be a help. Please send what you can to:

The Prisoner Community Center
87 Main Street
Windsor, Vermont
05089

Niantic Group Living Project

by Dwight Greene

"Where 'progressive penology' rules the changes are trivial when measured against the magnitude of human cost. We submit that the basic evils of imprisonment are that it denies autonomy, degrades dignity, impairs or destroys self-reliance, inculcates authoritarian values, minimizes the likelihood of beneficial interaction with one's peers, fractures family ties, destroys the family economic stability, prejudices the prisoner's future economic and social status. It does these things whether or not the buildings are antiseptic or dirty... or the interaction of inmates take place in cell or corridors or in the structural setting of a particular time and place."

-- American Friends Service Committee

Periodically Americans look at their prison system as the costly, inhumane, ineffective monstrosity that it is and decide that reform is in order. Even Mr. Law and Order, Richard Nixon, felt moved to comment that "at long last, the nation is coming to realize that the process of justice cannot end with the slamming shut of prison doors." No competent authority disagrees with the idea that there has to be a change in the prison system. The rate of recidivism alone is a convincing argument that the present system is a failure. A recent survey conducted by the Hartford Courant showed the rate of recidivism among Connecticut prisoners to range from 40-80%, depending mostly on the nature of the first offense. Reformist alternatives to "lock and key incarceration" directed primarily at reducing the rate of recidivism and reducing the cost to the state have become increasingly popular with correction systems throughout the county. Because many of the alternatives have common approaches to the treatment of inmates, the examination of one such alternative can shed light on some of the problems inherent in reformist efforts as well as some of the successes that can be expected.

The Group Living Project (GLP) in New Haven, a pre-release center for women coming out of Niantic seems to meet all of the criteria of a progressive alternative to traditional incarceration. The Unit is small, eleven inmates. There are no locks on the doors. The women govern themselves and enforce discipline. Most of the women work in the community or go to school in the community.

The theoretical concepts governing the establishment of the project were developed by three Harvard psychologists, Kohlberg, Schaaf, and Hickey. The core of the concepts as they affect GLP is that there are six universal stages of moral development. The theorists feel that programs aimed at elevating the level of moral judgement from one stage to a higher stage beneficially affects the inmate's perception of his role in society and subsequently helps to modify "criminal behavior."

The greatest problem with rehabilitative theories, however, was expressed by Dan Walker, Governor of Illinois, in the following statement. "We are finally learning that we do not know as much as we have claimed about human behavior. We do not know enough yet how to rehabilitate in a prison. We have tried dozens of therapies--nothing research tell us works." The number of "empirically validated" conceptions that have been proved "non-operative" in the rehabilitation of inmates in the last twenty-five years certainly supports Walker's assertion.

In many cases alternatives have had the effect of giving inmates false hopes and unrealistic aspirations through educational and vocational training that cannot be utilized on the outside. However, Burt Vishno, director of GLP, said flatly that "we do not encourage unrealistic expectations and if necessary, compromise those expectations with attainable goals. When asked about their aspirations the inmates gave answers that ranged from "living a normal life, you know, going by the laws, working and taking it easy." to "Eventually I want to become a certified public accountant."

The most conspicuous differences between GLP and Niantic are physical and relate to community involvement. The women are not physically confined to a structure. They remain because they choose to. Most of the women work or go to school during the day and return. They also freely grant themselves weekend furloughs and four hour weekday furloughs through the self-governing mechanism. The free social intercourse between GLP and the New Haven community gives at least an appearance of amending some of the problems inherent in incarceration. As a matter of fact, this relaxed social intercourse is the aspect of GLP most often cited by the women as making the project a viable transitional vehicle from

institutionalization to "freedom." As one inmate put it, "This (GLP) is reality; I can walk down the steps and be on the streets any time I want. Niantic is fantasy."

The system of government of GLP probably does most to underscore the promise and contradictions inherent to any reformist project. The women establish their own rules and methods of discipline. They resolve house issues through majority vote and they hassle out problems and dispose of routine matters through group meetings. However any appearance of autonomy is a facade. Mrs. York, Deputy Commissioner of Women's Services, can terminate the project at will. Matters concerning budget, parole and monetary allowances are beyond the women's control. Decisions made by the group can be vetoed by Mrs. York. Inmates can be reassigned to Niantic. Even furloughs granted by the group can be disapproved by Mrs. York.

It is easy to analyze the GLP in terms of the real problems of incarceration as detailed by the Friends Service Committee and dismiss the project as inadequate. However, the project is a reformist effort to alleviate rather than to eliminate problems of incarceration and should be analyzed as such.

Aside from the women themselves, the biggest asset of the project seems to be the staff. From top to bottom, they seem to know the maternal and emotional problems of women as well as to know psychological theory. They also seem to care. Several women felt that the real difference between being locked up in Niantic and being at GLP was that the staff took an interest in them as individuals.

It is sometimes even hard to make a distinction between the roles of staff and those of inmates. On several occasions inmates referred to "the staff and girls" as if there was no real role distinction between "the staff and girls."

Perhaps the role of the staff is most clearly shown in what Vishno terms "after-care." It is Vishno's philosophy that aftercare is just as important as care during incarceration. In this effort staff mothers keep in touch with women after release and aid them with problems ranging from dealing with bureaucracies to dealing with domestic situations.

GLP does not solve the problems inherent in incarceration, but it is a more humane alternative to the way things were.

Report on Ponce Released

by Joyce Bressler
from the North Country Star

Vermonters For Justice has released an 18 page report concerning the shooting death of Luis Ponce Rodriguez last September. The report, which includes 115 unanswered questions was presented to appropriate state, federal and local officials. The report charged that the previous closed investigations of the incident could not have been impartial, due to conflicts of interest, and listed the following facts.

Conflicts of Interest Charged

1. Chief of Police Beaulieu, who conducted the Burlington Police Department investigation of Miles, knows and has worked with Detective Miles for years. (Miles is the officer who shot Ponce.)
2. All the men from the Burlington Police Department who investigated the Ponce shooting, know and have worked with Detective Miles for years.
3. The state police work in close cooperation with the Burlington Police Department. Detective Miles, as head of the narcotics division of the Burlington P.D., has made many contacts with officials of the state police.
4. Mr. Leahy and Mr. Murray (State Attorneys) know Mr. Miles, who has been a key witness for the Chittenden County State's Attorney in previous cases. Burlington is in Chittenden County.
5. At the time Miles was being investigated by the State's Attorney Office for the Ponce shooting, he was also to be a key witness in the Paul Lawrence case. (See this issue of NEPA NEWS.)
6. The police commissioners are too closely associated with the Burlington P.D. to objectively judge charges of police misconduct. The commissioners would have

to disqualify themselves as judges or jurors were Miles tried in court.

7. Mr. Pomerleau's niece is Mr. Leahy's wife. Commissioner Pomerleau was a big contributor to Mr. Leahy's senatorial campaign. (Leahy was elected U.S. Senator this past fall.)

8. Mr. Pomerleau has already judged Detective Miles by publicly stating his satisfaction with the police reports and must not sit in judgement at any further hearing on the Ponce shooting.

Demands

The report also included the following demands.

1. The immediate suspension of Detective Miles, with pay, pending the outcome of a public hearing.
2. A public hearing with the following conditions:
 - a. The police commissioners must disqualify themselves from acting as judges because their close association with the police creates a conflict of interest.
 - b. A panel to sit in judgement who are free of personal or political ties to the police, i.e., they would have to satisfy the same requirements as any prospective jurors. The panel should be representative of the people of Burlington.
 - c. A guarantee that all reasonable questions submitted to the panel be answered.
 - d. Subpoena power for the panel.
3. The creation of an independent civilian review board to investigate and judge future charges of police misconduct. The members of this board should meet the same requirements of objectivity as outlined above, and be representative of varying community interests.



photo by E. Kamman

4. Re-evaluation of police training and procedures.

At this writing in March the demands are being negotiated. The North Country Star (and NEPA NEWS--ed.) endorses the demands of Vermonters for Justice and we urge all concerned citizens to keep up the public pressure.

Anyone who would like a copy of the report should send \$2.00 to the North Country Star, 77 Archibald St., Burlington, Vt. 05401.

The North Country Star, which serves the Burlington, Vt. area, is free, but they ask for a \$3.00 donation with subscriptions to help the never-easy task of survival.

New Maine Criminal Code

We have not read the new proposed Maine Criminal Code described, in part, below. For this reason, we cannot take a stand on it, as author Peter Cox obviously does. However, we felt that some of the ideas raised by the Code need discussion, such as decriminalization (prostitution, gambling, drug use); determinate as opposed to indeterminate sentences; and tougher laws against white collar crime. For this reason we have reprinted the article.--ed.)

by Peter W. Cox
reprinted from Maine Times

The legislative hearings which began this week on Maine's proposed new criminal code will undoubtedly be highlighted by emotional rhetoric. In fact, the code is an essentially pragmatic document. It attempts through clarification and simplification to make it easier for police and prosecutors to carry out their duties while still protecting the rights of the individual.

One of the areas of hottest debate will be the morality crimes--sex and drugs.

Except for incest, sexual acts between consenting adults are banished from the list of Maine crimes. Prostitution is similarly ruled out, but pimping or soliciting in a public place remain crimes. Social gambling (where no non-participant makes a profit) is no longer a crime. Possession of marijuana for individual use is no longer a crime although you can still get socked with a \$100 civil fine.

The introduction to the code explains the reasoning behind such changes: "...To the extent that laws which prohibit fornication, social gambling and the like are in fact enforced, other laws dealing with more serious offenses cannot be. When the laws are not enforced, the whole system is undermined since it becomes quite clear that not everything in the law is to be taken seriously."

Jon A. Lund, chairman of the revision commission, feels the attitudes of society played a large role in the changes. Lund is not only a former Maine Attorney General, but as a legislator he is the one who pushed through the legislative mandate for the revision.

Lund explained that the police are particularly sensitive about being asked to enforce laws no one really wants to enforce.

"Suppose," Lund asks, "you were chief of police and someone came to you and said the president of the local bank is shacked up with his secretary in a motel and asked you to go down and arrest him for adultery."

Or put more generally, Lund suggests the individual consider a specific situation where he might be looking out the window and see his neighbor doing something that might be interpreted as criminal. What should he report to the police? Lund asks, "What would you report? Would you report a penny-a-point gin rummy game? Would you report smoking a marijuana cigarette? Would you report a couple getting in a car and driving off together?"

On the other side of the coin are those crimes which have previously gone unpunished. Embezzlement is a classic. The embezzler is usually protected for several reasons: (1) the employer knows him personally and feels some loyalty toward the offender; (2) the employer just wants to get his money back; (3) the businessman is embarrassed that his safeguards were so sloppy he could be robbed.

But reform groups have been asking for years: Why should the person who breaks into a store and steals a case of beer be sent to jail when the book-keeper who embezzles more in cash goes free?

By its emphasis on such crimes as forgery, perjury and bribery, the code recognizes this previous discrepancy.

The code does not merely reflect public opinion. Lund believes that a majority of people in Maine would still want to be allowed to protect property with deadly force, but the code makes it illegal. In order to blunt the criticism of this limitation on the use of deadly force, the code calls for restitution for property damage.

Essentially the new code says you may only use deadly force if your person is endangered. (Again, the code is quite specific. Arson, for instance, is considered a threat to the person and so

deadly force may be used if arson is reasonably suspected.)

The concept explains many cases which have caused controversy in the past. The classic, of course, is where a person sets up a gun trap and a person enters his house. The trespasser (or potential thief) is killed and the owner of the

law. But it is interesting to note that there were only three women among the group of 33 working on the code revision.

Sentencing would be for definite periods rather than the indeterminate terms now characteristic of the law. And "release will no longer depend on parole board decisions but on the willingness of the prisoner to earn the 'good time' de-



property is prosecuted for murder. Most people did not understand why this should be. But the new code makes clear the balance: you may not take another person's life unless your own life is threatened. Property does not have the same value as human life.

Lund sees the code as having a deterrent effect since it spells out the crimes and their penalties so specifically. Obviously, no criminal code is going to deter the person for whom there is no sense of right or wrong, whether the crime is violent or white collar. But there are new sections of the code which could be the determining factor in whether a marginal businessman acts ethically or not. In such cases, there is now a crime where none formally existed before.

For instance, a person could get five to ten years for "endangering human life by knowingly violating any federal, state or local statute or regulation whose primary purpose is to protect persons employed by him or consumers of his products, from bodily injury." As a hypothetical case, a person, in violation of a regulation calling for safety warnings, might sell a highly inflammable tent, unlabeled. The seller could then be prosecuted and sent to jail. There is no counterpart to this in current law.

Another area in which a specific deterrent is thought to exist is kidnapping. The penalty for kidnapping is 10 years to life. But the penalty will be reduced to five to 10 years if "the defendant voluntarily released the victim alive and not suffering from serious bodily injury, in a safe place prior to trial." This is clearly seen as an inducement to the kidnapper not to harm the victim.

Another area in which the commission replaces the nebulous with the specific is sentencing and parole.

The most obvious argument against such a clause is a case where the couple are separated prior to divorce proceedings.

But rape itself is a place where the code itself probably cannot solve the societal problem that turns the victim into the offender. Where the actuality defies logic, it is difficult to write a logical

ductions authorized by law. Educational, vocational and other programs may still be offered to prisoners, but the realization that there is no known program that can act as a "cure" for criminality makes it irrational to rely on a program participation as some sign of rehabilitation."

While this might at first seem to be harder on the convicted offender, it in fact jibes with what ex-prisoner groups have been saying for years. They maintain that the parole system is so vague that paroles are granted mainly at the whim of the parole board. They have said that parole boards often make judgements on how a prisoner looks or how convincingly he says he is sorry for what he did.

Lund feels the code should be reviewed and updated every five to ten years. This is a further admission that the law is not static. The introduction admits this by saying the revised code "sought on a case by case basis to find practical approaches to meeting the needs of today...It [the code] represents our best collective judgement at this time."

Despite the contention that the code is a common sense document, it will be attacked in some areas as violating common sense. One section almost sure to come under attack is that on rape. The new code leaves intact the common law restriction that a man cannot legally rape his wife; or, put the other way around, a man can rape his wife with impunity.

One section of the new code will probably be thrown out: the stipulation that plea bargaining take place in public. That stipulation is procedural and therefore under the authority of the judiciary rather than the legislature. The rest of the code, however, is substantive rather than procedural.

In the past, the statutes governing crime were a hodgepodge difficult for the court to interpret in a cohesive manner. Case law was often in dispute with statutory law. Lund therefore feels the clarification will decrease the number of substantive errors made by police and prosecutors and will also cut down on the amount of time it takes to prepare a case.

Repression at Thomaston, Maine

from Michael Orsini--SCAR
Dr. Rosser,

I am writing to you in regards to the treatment and conditions of punitive segregation.

Myself, along with Reggie Berube, Larry Trott, John Carr, and Richard Picariello, are at the present confined in punitive segregation. Reggie Berube is doing a 100 day plus 100 days loss of good time sentence. He has done 87 days of this sentence already. Larry Trott was sentenced to 70 days plus 40 days loss of good time. He completed this sentence 20 days ago, and is now being held under administrative sentence. This is not a time sentence, it is a hold which the administration puts people under quite frequently. John Carr was sentenced to 90 days plus 90 days loss of good time. He too has completed his sentence, which ended 10 days ago, and is also being held under administrative hold. Richard Picariello was sentenced to 50 days plus 50 days loss of good time. He is now doing 10 days, because this was the only way he could get in touch with us, so he requested to come up. "Communication with people in population is almost impossible." I am doing 70 days and 30 days loss of good time and I have a 20 day cell lock up sentence to do after I complete this segregation sentence.

Four of us have recently received notices of intent to prosecute on new charges stemming from a few incidents which have occurred due to the treatment and conditions of punitive segregation. These charges are the alleged reasons as to why the people, who have completed their sentences, are under administrative hold!

So therefore, we the below signed, would like to meet with you to discuss the treat-

ment, conditions and problems of punitive segregation.

The following are some of the conditions and problems we feel are necessary to end. How punitive segregation is detrimental to both our physical and mental conditions. How it is destroying us psychologically and this in turn is breaking our spirit. We are continuously subject to undue harrassment.



Karen Monaco

We don't receive proper medical treatment, and go for weeks (sometimes months) before we even see the doctor. There have been numerous cases of attempted suicides and suicide while people were subject to confinement in punitive segregation. People are cutting themselves over and over again, and there was one case where an inmate cut himself and then put feces (shit) on the open wounds. All this and much more happens quite frequently when people are forced to live under this kind of physical and mental stress. We spent 23 hours and 30 minutes, and sometimes 23 hours and 45 minutes, in these locked cells every day, 7 days a week. All this, plus the fact that we are denied visits from friends and family--many times without even being told that we had been denied a visit. We find out from our people, when they write, that they had been here and been turned away.

All this contributes to our physical and mental conditions, which usually ends up in deterioration of our beings--both physical and psychological. This is what punitive segregation does to the people who are confined to this unit.

Therefore, we feel, that because of these conditions, you meet with us because we are the people who are confined in punitive segregation. We feel that segregation should be abolished as a punishment unit and turned into an education building or something of that nature.

Some of these people have been confined to segregation for over 100 days. For these reasons, we feel that we have to meet with you to discuss the inhumane treatment and conditions of punitive segregation.

Respectfully I remain,
Michael Orsini

SCAR Opposes New Code

We called SCAR over in Maine to get their reaction to the new criminal code.

Their basic reaction is that the code is full of "the treatment philosophy bullshit that the Department of Correction is into."

Apparently, any sentence over a year is tentative. After one year, the DOC can apply to the court for a change based on the prisoner's "progress."

An "A" crime says that the sentence is to be determinate up to 10 years, meaning it could be one day. This is hardly indeterminate.

"The code will give the Department a lot more power. The DOC wants to expand all over the place. They want a new Diagnostic Center. They want six weeks to analyze someone, then send them to the appropriate place. The code is really very dangerous."

Under the new code, probationers would be sentenced to the department. Both SCAR and the Parole Board oppose

this idea, and will testify against it in the legislature.

The code is full of contradictions. There is a section which outlines the "reasons" for sentences. Among the listed reasons:

"#4. To eliminate inequalities."

"#5. To encourage differentiation among offenders with a view to a just individualization of sentences."

The real danger of the code is that it perpetuates, in many ways increases, discretionary powers, under the pretense of eliminating discretionary powers.

While the code increases penalties for "white collar" crimes, the discretionary powers in sentencing, and the ability of the DOC to appeal to the court for a change in sentence, will cause the new sections to have little or no effect.

The code, with its treatment philosophy, perpetuates the idea that it is the individual who is to blame. Yet the

population at Thomaston prison has about doubled in the last year. SCAR sees this as a direct reflection of soaring inflation and unemployment, which is over 12% in Maine.

"The decriminalization is good," said the SCAR spokesman. "The rest isn't here or there. It is valueless."

The SCAR member said he expected the new code to pass the legislature.

"What is important now is how many amendments we can add to it."

In sum, the liberal reformists have, in a misguided effort to improve things, fallen in to a trap liberals often fall into; they re-inforce the DOC's powers. In California, liberal reform produced the on-to-life sentence. In Maine, it appears to now give birth to full-blown treatment.

SCAR does not oppose rehabilitative programs, such as job-training or education. It does oppose coerced treatment. And if playing the "good boy" will get a ten year sentence knocked down to two by the court on appeal of the DOC, then the carrot-stick treatment program is in full force.

Conklin to be Transferred from NHSP

I am to be transferred against my will to the Bureau of Prisons (Federal) by the warden. He feels that I am a security risk to the prison. But at the hearing that was held by a member of the Board of Trustees and two guards that sat on the board, they listened to Deputy Fuller state that I was sent on this transfer because I wrote writs, and I also printed a magazine that was criti-

cal to the prison because it was an underground paper called "Bread and Butter" that was against the prison administration and for the prisoners. The truth of the paper told it as it was. Fuller (Deputy) also stated that it was his opinion the transfer was because I was an escape risk. I've never tried to escape and I never tried to do anything here but my time. But they do not want leaders in this prison, only followers.

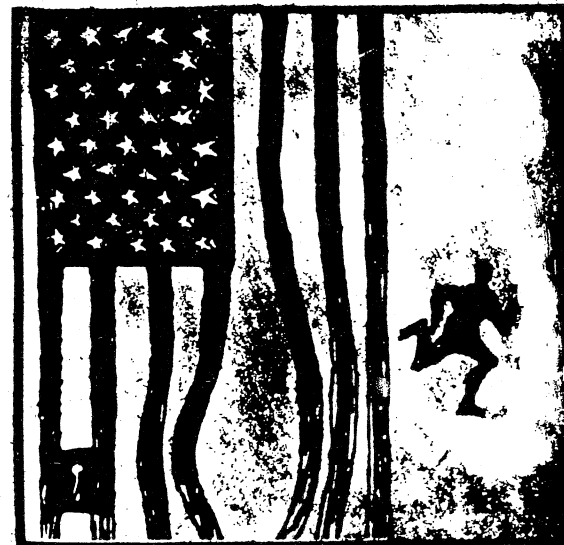
This is the statement of the warden to the PRC (Prisoners Reform Council) Committee: I do not intend to transfer involuntarily any prisoner (consult with PRC) and then did place me up to be transferred...involuntarily. What we have at this prison is another Vitek only smooth talking. At the hearing that could not produce any guards or inmates that was afraid of me. But they stated that was the reason for the transfer.

Larry Conklin
NHSP

Larry Conklin fought for about a year to be returned to NHSP after he was transferred during the Vitek administration. He is now to be transferred again.

Larry is a writ-writer. He recently submitted a writ to Federal Judge Hugh Bowmes asking that Deputy Fuller be cited for contempt of court because Conklin did not

receive his copy of NEPA NEWS, which Conklin claims was left lying around. In an earlier complaint to the court by many prisoners, Fuller had stated that the failure to deliver the NEPA NEWS to the prisoners one month was due to a mistake, and that it would not happen again. Hence the grounds for Conklin's recent writ.





not for women only



by Shelley Cooper Neill

Introduction

In our February issue, *Not For Women Only*, made its first appearance. This month's column is considerably longer, with a special section in celebration of International Women's Day.

We ask again for your support, in the form of poems, articles, graphics, etc. Again we wish to emphasize that the column will be aimed at and primarily written by women. However (as the title suggests) we also encourage contributions by men.

Hope to hear from you soon.

In the Struggle,
Shelley

Prisoners Wives Union

LONDON-(WNS)

Women here have launched a campaign to get into British prisons. The Prisoners Wives Union is demanding 48-hour visits to replace the current one-hour monthly meetings in communal visiting rooms. "Sex is not the main object," insisted organizer Pauline Hoare, 31. "We want to keep the family together. Many children get disturbed because they don't see their fathers. Some become lawbreakers themselves."

Inez Garcia



On October 21, 1974 Inez Garcia was found guilty of second-degree murder because she defended herself against one of the two men who first raped her and then threatened her life on March 19th of that year. Sentenced to 5 years to life by Monterey County, California Superior Court Judge Stanley Lawson.

Judge Lawson commented at the time of Inez's sentencing that he considered her a "dangerous woman." We agree with his observation, but differ on the reasoning behind it. Inez was/is dangerous in that she refused to passively accept male violence to her person. And she is also dangerous because she symbolizes, for a growing number of women, what fighting back and self-defense are about.

Also disclosed during the trial (but consequently under-publicized), was the following statement, taken in the form of an affidavit by her defense attorney: "The ones who shouldn't be breeders are the low elements; the blacks and the Chicanos should never foster children... they are the ones who are dumping their children on the taxpayers."

The statement was made by a member of Inez Garcia's jury.

Inez Garcia is the mother of an 11-year old child.

Rapists As Victims?

A recent study done at Rahway State Prison, in New Jersey, has some potentially significant implications. 75% of the 150 convicted rapists who have been involved in that prison's psychotherapeutic program disclosed (during treatment) that they had been sexually abused as children. In some cases, the abuses had been so brutal that the "victims" had completely repressed any memory of the experience.

Joanne Little

On April 4th, Mayor Howard Lee of Chapel Hill, N.C., will lead a march to Washington, D.C. in support of Joann Little. He is calling for the nation's other black mayors to join him.

Joann Little, released February 26 on bail totaling \$115,000 (raised in large part by the Southern Poverty Law Center Inc., in Montgomery, Alabama), is unclear as to whether she will attend the rally. "Security reasons" have been cited as a possible explanation.

Joann stabbed guard Clarence Alligood to death when he attempted to rape her in her cell at the Beaufort County Jail, last August 26. She was the only woman in the jail. She is Black, the jail staff is all white and male. As with Inez Garcia, this case raises clearly the issue of the right of women to defend themselves from sexual assault.

Joann's attorneys filed a motion for a 90-day trial postponement because Joann is too ill to stand trial. She suffers from a thyroid condition which was aggravated by 81 days in Beaufort County Jail and, after the Alligood incident, 6 months in N.C.'s Women's Prison. Currently the trial is scheduled to begin April 14 in Washington, N.C., home of the Beaufort County Court.

I swear to you

**I swear on my common
woman's head**

**The common woman is
as common**

As a common loaf of bread

And will rise

— Judy Grahn

Pat Swinton & Co.

A six-year Federal search for persons accused of responsibility for eight N.Y.C. bombings ended this month with the arrest of Patricia "Shoshone" Swinton. Shoshone, arrested in Brattleboro, Vt., was later released on bail set at \$200,000.

She has been charged with the same bombing that put behind bars Sam Melville (later one of the 32 Brothers shot at Attica); James Hughey (now on probation); and most recently Jane Alpert (who is serving a 27 month sentence after voluntarily surrendering).

Shoshone has indicated that she was not surprised by her recent arrest. She felt that once Jane Alpert turned herself in, it was only a matter of time.

Jane Alpert has admitted to voluntarily supplying information to Federal authorities. Shoshone has pleaded not guilty to the bombing charges.

Sex And Such

Lloyd H. Baillo, who is doing time in the federal system at Texarkana, Texas, has filed suit against the U.S. Attorney General, charging that he should be allowed to conduct a normal sex life with a woman of his choice. Denying prisoners the right to sex, the suit charges, constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment."

Not too many folks are gonna argue with that last point; however, a federal district judge in New Orleans will decide.

More on Jane Alpert

In the January, 1975, issue of NEPA News we reprinted a petition that is being circulated by women who work with N.Y.C.'s City Star. In the February, 1975 issue Kit-si Burkhardt wrote a letter to the Editor in response to that article. Check out this month's letters to the Editor for a continuation of that discussion.

Rising Up Angry



In August of 1974, the women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, the only women's prison in New York, rebelled against the administration. The rebellion occurred after six male guards and several female guards beat Carol Crooks, a Black woman prisoner.

70 prisoners conducted a non-violent demonstration. In reply, the women were attacked by 300 state police and guards. The administration then placed 28 women in segregation and locked another 40 in their cells. On September 1, 1974, 11 women, including Carol Crooks, were sent to Fish-kill, a new facility next to Matteawan Prison for the "criminally insane."

In October, as a result of an earlier suit brought by Carol Crooks, a Federal Court prohibited Bedford Hills from continuing to violate prisoners' constitutional rights by refusing to give 24 hour notice of charges, and placing women in segregation without a hearing.

However, the prison refused to comply with the ruling. Consequently, a class action suit was filed to protect the women at Bedford Hills. The second suit seeks relief from "abusive disciplinary hearings and notorious conditions in the segregation unit."

Bedford Hills defense workers are urging people to write N.Y. Governor Hugh Carey (among others) demanding an investigation.

Thanks to The Sunfighter

Cuban Women Now



Photo from Cuban Women Now

Cuban Women Now, by Margaret Randall, appears to be a good book on the effects of the revolution on Cuban women. The book is largely comprised of interviews with Cuban women. Available through the Women's Press, 280 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. \$5.25 per copy.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Herstory

International Women's Day (IWD), began in New York City in 1908. A group of women, most of them garment workers, gathered in a demonstration for: 1) an end to the "sweat shop" conditions; 2) equal pay and equal work for all workers; 3) the abolition of child labor; 4) decent child care; 5) the right to vote.

Two years later, inspired by the N.Y.C. garment workers, Clara Zetkin, a German Socialist, put forward during a meeting of the Second International (the international organization of Socialist Parties) the idea of organizing an International Working Women's Day.

Alexandra Kolontai, Russian member of the International Socialist Group, and also present at the meeting, supported this effort. Kolontai wrote of International Women's Day: "(it) was created to involve the masses of women in militant political activity; working women were encouraged to fight for their liberation as women and their liberation as workers."

sing a battle song

poems by women in the Weather Underground organization

Sing a battle song was sent to us, as the introduction indicates, in celebration. We have reprinted below 2 sections from the book's introduction. The poems speak for themselves.

"in celebration of International Women's Day...a day when millions of people around the world celebrate the victories that women have won in the struggle for liberation. Gather and reaffirm our commitment to the struggles that lie ahead."

For a Troubled Sister

Make your need known
need is human
pain is woman

You are precious
to me
to the circle
to the people.
Becoming resigned to
a life without need

without silence or rest
is incorrect. A bad example
a short-sighted way.

Is this a cycle?
If so where is its door?
How do we break it,
Shatter on to some new plane?

The others of us must hear your voice
and add ours
plan strategy to defeat this
thing sapping you
and others, too.

Our value is no Puritan one of joyless labor,
but of hard work and fine life
from each according to her ability
to each according to her need

Our cures are homely tings
sweet teas for the late nights.
borrowed Chinese magic
digging fingers into the black Earth to

ease mind and tire body
We must apply them seriously and
measure our progress.

We must watch out for each other better
nurture your well-being
the way we guard you from the enemy.

Nothing is more important to do
than to renew,
regain your beautiful strength
which moves mountains.
August 1974

Welcome

Red Moon child
your soft breathing
long labored for.
the struggle to create you
harder
more ordinary
than lyrics or stories convey.

natural
to give birth
in the sense that it is human
to strive
despair
determine
to want you.
welcome here
half moon baby.

Fireflies and fairy godmothers.
herald
your coming
into the struggle
for life.

spring 1973

March 8, 1975

This year, 68 years after its inception, a variety of activities were scheduled around the country.

In Boston, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) held workshops that discussed the recent meeting of the Cuban Women's Congress. The latter (since its creation in 1960) has seen as its goal: "to raise the ideological, political, cultural and scientific level of women, in order to incorporate them into the tasks assigned by the Revolution and so to allow them the role they are entitled to play in the new society."

In Detroit, groups including the Congress of Afrikan People (CAP) and the Black Women's United Front (BWUF), demonstrated in protest to that city's hospital policies around forced sterilization.

In N.Y.C., women celebrated with "An Evening For Women and Chile" reporting on women in Chile, songs and poems from Latin America. There has been a great deal of participation/leadership this year by Black and Third World women.

The more traditional feminist groups (NOW, etc.) have refrained from participating in IWD this year. They're opting for August 26, the day that U.S. women got the vote.

"The culture of women, the telling of our struggles, joy, pain and survival has been a great source of strength to us, passed down through centuries, engraved on a clay pot, stitched in a quilt, written on paper and bark, sung in laments and ballads, tales told by our grandmothers and their grandmothers before them. Our proud moments and victories, our setbacks and defeats are recorded and passed on."

--excerpts from the introduction

For Our Men

gentle-eyed men
long hair curling and straggling
down your backs.
Shaggy bodies.
peace in the set of your shoulders
when you walk.
men of peace.
sinewy warriors of the animals
and the birds
fruit eaters
fierce lovers of the human spirit.
may you multiply and cover this
cannibal land.
summer 1972



5 years ago, this month, Diana Oughten, Ted Gold, and Terry Robbins were killed in the N.Y.C. townhouse explosions. *Sing a Battle Song* is in part a dedication to Diana's memory.

News On Prisoner Conference

Plans for the Second New England Prisoner Conference are falling into place. People with experience in a wide variety of programs and study have agreed to help lead the workshops. Registration forms are beginning to flow in. Please, if you are planning to come, send us your registration form (see page 19).

We have discovered that the cost of the conference--to prepare materials and to produce the results of the conference--will exceed the resource we now have available. For this reason we are requesting that each person attending the conference pay a \$3 registration fee. Obviously, if you do not have the money, we will not exclude you. But if the conference is to succeed, we need you to dig deep and come up with \$3.

Our experience has been when you get several hundred ex-cons and prisoner supporters together, the results will be valuable not only for the movement in New England, but also for the entire U.S.

Your registration fees will enable us to publish the proceedings of the conference for national distribution.

So far we have one definite addition to the list of workshops--Art in Prison. Shelly Killen, a regular NEPA NEWS contributor and an art teacher in the Boys Training School in R.I., and R.I. artist George Knowlton, will conduct the workshop. The time will be Saturday afternoon.

Art in Prison. - Slide presentations of art programs in the ACI, Cranston, R.I. and Boys Training School, R.I. and discussion of the value of the program, relationship of art programs to the general public, history of the relation between the administration of the ACI and our workshops. The primary aim of the workshop is to educate the public as to past, present and possible future for prison art programs, and the engendering of suggestions as to ways to hold prison administrators more responsible to the needs of those they have incarcerated. The work-

shop will also include information on an experimental unit in the Barlinnie Prison Glasgow, Scotland, in which the arts have played a major role in transforming the quality of life from enforced passivity and dull work to meaningful, socially oriented activity.

In addition, some SCAR members are working the idea of a workshop based on the ideas found in NEPA's film, *3000 Years and Life*, the idea of prisoners running the prison. Other folks have written saying they want to attend more than one workshop at the same time. They wanted to know if repeats of workshops, or perhaps new ones, could be held on Friday or Saturday nights. The answer is yes. The workshop rooms will be open at night. Folks desiring to continue or to hold repeat or new workshops should get together and let the conference co-ordinators know, and they will be announced at the summary sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

We look forward to seeing you all at a very productive and energetic conference.

News from New England and Mass News

Prison Bussing Program

Visitors to Norfolk and Walpole can ride with the Prison Bussing Program three days a week. The bussing program is run by the Family and Friends of Prisoners. Since all expenses have to be paid by the people running the program, donations for gas are needed to keep the bussing program going. Support the bussing program and save yourself some transportation money at the same time.

Prisoners, tell your people about the program if they have not yet heard and if they can use it. People's transportation is better than the MBTA ripoff.

Bus Schedule

Buses to Walpole and Norfolk leave Dudley Station at 11:00am and Fields Corner at 11:30am every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Buses leave from Central Square on Sunday nights for Concord.

For Billerica--night visits either Sunday's or Monday's.

Call 265-1583 to reserve a seat on the bus and to get departure times. Call at least 48 hours in advance.

Stars in Stripes

14 prisoners at MCI-Norfolk, under the name "Stars in Stripes" have put together a stage production of "The White House Transcripts." The show premiered inside Norfolk on March 21 to an audience of prisoners and outside bigwigs.

The play dramatizes the Nixon gang's plots to run the country under the table. Commented Terry Bernard, who played Nixon, "I help up a bank and got 5 to 16. Nixon held up a country and he got a pardon."

The play was directed by Bernard's bank-robbing partner, Mark Frechette, the leftist activist in Antonini's film "Zabriskie Point."

--Info from N.Y. Times

Norfolk 26

While the men of the "Norfolk 26" have won a first round court battle to return to Norfolk from Walpole, they have not yet been returned. After the Federal District Court ordered them returned, the Attorney General appealed the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals. A decision is expected in mid-April. District Judge Skinner's original decision was printed in part in last month's NEPA NEWS (February).

Bridgewater

The reason we haven't printed anything about Bridgewater in a while is that we are still waiting on the suit to close the damn place down. While no decision has yet been rendered, the dungeon remains the same horror house. More when the decision comes.

Quincy Cops

As we reported in our December, 1974 issue, Quincy, Mass. cops have added machine guns and shotguns to their arsenal. Since then, a teenager has been paralyzed in Quincy. In noting that the weaponry may well be used against striking workers and protesting unemployed, the Mass Worker commented:

"It seems as though the police are arming for war rather than to protect the citizens."

"Guns don't stop the conditions causing an increased crime rate, such as unemployment topping 13% in Plymouth and 11% in Quincy."

"People in Quincy have been struggling for better living conditions, not clamoring for better guns."

Help Wanted - Walpole

Walpole is hiring medics now (or was as of mid-February). Said an ad in the Boston Globe: "ATTENTION MEDICS Openings at Walpole State Prison, full and part time. Must know suturing. Call Mike Kenney at 762-6500 or 668-2100." Emphasis ours. Just let em get stabbed; don't close the place down, or cool the place out by giving the men something to do.

Solidarity Day

Workers, unemployed and many other persons demonstrated in cities across the U.S. on February 22, Solidarity Day. Called by the Congress of Afrikan People (CAP), the demonstrators' demands included full employment, an end to U.S. war preparations, and against rising costs for food stamps. Demonstrations were held in Newark, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Washington, D.C., Wilmington, Baltimore, Gary, St. Louis, Detroit and Cleveland.



Puerto Rican community in Newark rose up against police brutality last fall.

Walpole Visiting

For prisoners in Walpole's new maxi-maxi section, visiting has been reduced to two, one-hour visits weekly. There is an exception, however. If the family or friend lives 100 or more miles away, visits may be two, two-hour sessions per week. We have heard that men in walpole have not been provided with this information. So, men inside, contact your social worker and arrange an OK with the visiting office.

Of course, this situation is outrageous. As Family and Friends have pointed out, getting from Boston to Walpole and back can take all day, what with the lousy mass transit system in the area; you might as well live 100 miles away--it takes at least as long. Then again, the department never did care too much for the welfare of either prisoners or families. They never have given a real reason for cutting back the visits from 5, three-hour session per week.

County Prisoners

As of November 30, 1974, there were 1768 men and 31 women incarcerated in County Houses of Correction and County Jails in Massachusetts. The figures included 1135 men and 23 women convicts in the Houses of Correction, and 632 men and 9 women detainees in the jails. The number of pre-trial detainees is actually higher, as some women are detained at Framingham, and some men at Bridgewater.

Prison Radio Shows

For prisoners, family and supporters, there are in Eastern Mass. (and can be heard in other places) radio shows for prisoners.

On Sunday nights at 11:00 there is the Lock-Up Show on WBCN, 104FM, with music, dedications and news.

Radio Free Norfolk:

in Boston	WBUR 90FM	Tues. 9:30 pm
in Worch.	WICN	Fri. 9:00 pm
in Hyannis	WCOD	Sun. 11:00 pm
in Framing.	WVBF	you'll have to check the time.

N.J. Cops Charged

A Newark, N.J. Grand Jury has charged police with two murders and a "conspiracy of silence" to cover up the murders. Two Puerto Rican men, David Perez and Fernando Rodriguez Cordova were killed during several days of demonstrations by the Puerto Rican community last Labor Day.

The police attacked a Puerto Rican festival in a park, which touched off the rebellion. The cops escalated with beatings and mass arrests, and the murder of the two men. Mayor Gibson expressed "concern" over the findings of the Grand Jury. The prosecutor said that he could not act because neither he nor the Grand Jury could identify which policemen had committed the murders.

Maine News

by Tim Kiley

Last July, S.C.A.R. organized a Portland Bail Fund. They have a sizable sum and the money is available to anyone who needs it. At present they're attempting to form a statewide bail co-op so that all bail projects in Maine can pool their resources. Also they hope to start another bail fund in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

Every 10 days a van leaves Portland and goes to either Maine State Prison or to Windham. This is to provide transportation to people who wish to visit someone in the joint but can't afford it. In the future a bus may be procured to increase the number of visitors. For the exact dates and times of the rides contact S.C.A.R.

Every Sun. S.C.A.R. has a radio show on WBLM FM. 106. The topics are stimulating as well as educational. Lend an ear and see the light. Another Public Service from the good people at S.C.A.R.

Also on Sun. there is a meeting at S.C.A.R. headquarters to discuss current happenings in Portland and the area. The Public is urged to attend.

FOR FUTHER INFO. AND ADIVCE CONTACT S.C.A.R. 374 Fore St. Portland, Me. 04111

N.H. News

Prison Aid Refused

reprinted from the Concord Monitor

For the fourth time in two years, the Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency has refused to fund the position of a lawyer for inmates at the New Hampshire State Prison.

On a unanimous voice vote, the commission tabled the \$21,212 application for the prison lawyer on advice of Roger Crowley, commission director.

Crowley said he first would want a list of priorities from the prison "on how we can spend our limited funds at the prison."

Merrimack County

The Merrimack County, N.H., Commissioners have requested a study of the economic viability of the 400 acre County Farm. An initial cost-free study would check out the farm's soil, agricultural possibilities and cost.

The farm is worked by the prisoners at the County jail and the produce helps feed both prisoners and patients at the County Nursing Home.

At the same Commissioners meeting, they voted to raise the "wages" of the County prisoners to \$3 per month from the current 50¢ per month. This generosity must be approved by the county's legislative delegation, and will set the county back some \$500.

Around

7 Jailed

7 persons have been jailed for refusal to cooperate with a grand jury "fishing expedition". The government has been hunting Susan Saxe and Kathy Powers for a 1970 Boston bank robbery (as we go to press, Saxe has been apprehended). The 7, mostly women, were jailed March 5 and 8 because they refused to aid the FBI by testifying before the grand jury. In allegedly seeking Saxe, Powers and other fugitives, the FBI has been harassing Lesbian and feminist groups across the country.

Wounded Knee

Early March marked the second anniversary of the Wounded Knee occupation by members and supporters of the Ogala Sioux. And in early March, a Federal Court convicted Wilbert Provost and sentenced him to nine months probation for larceny of the Wounded Knee trading post.

Meanwhile, 50 more cases are likely to be dismissed as the Justice Department says it has insufficient evidence. More cases are coming up in both Federal and State courts. In April the Wounded Knee conspiracy trial will begin in Tuscon, Arizona. Five members of AIM (American Indian Movement) will be tried for alleged violation of the "Rap Brown Act", which prohibits, among other things, crossing state lines to instigate a riot.

As part of its escalation, AIM members in several places have been newly arrested on bogus charges and/or assaulted by gangs of thugs set up either by the state or its allies in established tribal councils. One such incident occurred after a judge ordered a new election for the Ogala Sioux in North Dakota. The old leadership, allied with the state, rigged the election to defeat AIM candidates.

Puerto Rico

On February 7, Puerto Rican police shot and killed Jose Santiago Rivera, 20, in an attack on a squatters group.

The squatters had seized 390 acres of empty land and began building homes. The police arrived and began shooting wildly, and beating and clubbing. Santiagos' wife said he was a bystander who lived nearby, not a squatter. Many squatters required medical attention.

The squatters say they have a right to the unused land because they are married, have children and have no place to live. They point out that there are plenty of luxury houses and hotels for the rich in Puerto Rico.

Attica

Not all the news of Attica goes on in the courtroom. About half of the 1600 prisoners at Attica have signed a petition for a union, but the administration refuses to recognize the union as legal. The organizers have been made the subject of reprisals, arbitrary punishment and transfers.

Felons on Juries

John Hunley Abbott, a World War II resistor who served 18 months time, has won a suit in California that allows ex-felons to sit on a jury. In 1966, Abbott had won a suit restoring voting rights to felons in California.

Bicentennial

The current U.S. government does not want to go the route King George III followed in 1776. To make sure the bicentennial "celebration" is a party and not a revolution, LEAA has set aside \$1 million to combat "terrorism." The money will be granted in lumps of \$40,000-\$60,000 to cities holding major "celebrations."

Meanwhile, a coalition of Native American groups has said they would not support the "celebration" and would work against it. Indians, like Blacks, were not exactly freed by the war which began in 1776.

Industrial Crime

The imperialists spend a lot of bread and blood promoting a panic about crime in the streets, calling for law and order. But more people are killed by on-the-job accidents and industrial diseases than by "crime in the streets". These are deaths that could be eliminated if not for the anti-human drive for profits that characterizes capitalist enterprises.

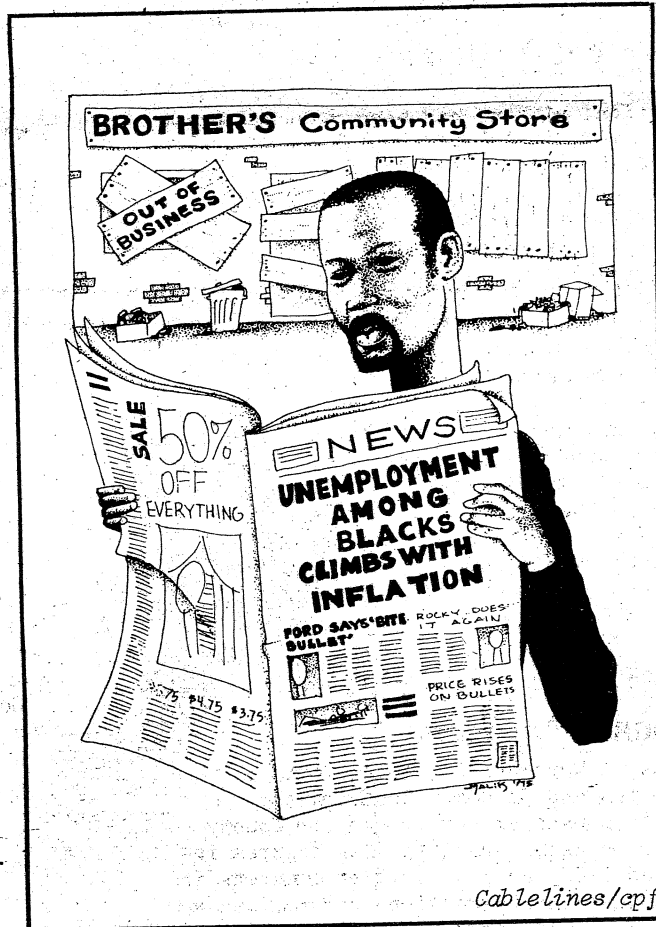
In the U.S. during every working day, 65 people are killed, 8,500 are disabled, and 27,000 injured in industrial accidents. In addition, 400,000 people are suffering from job-related diseases such as black lung (miners), brown lung (textile), pesticide poisoning (farm workers), asbestiosis (chemical) and radiation poisoning (nuclear energy). Over 100,000 die annually of these conditions.

from Osawatomie

Today

41% of all Black teenagers looking for work cannot find it. Oil company profits climbed from 6.2 billion to 16 billion dollars from 1972 to 1974. Overall corporate profits increased 18% in 1973 and another 36% in 1974, after adjustment for inflation. Meanwhile, wages decreased 1.3% in 1973 and 7% in 1974, after the adjustment for inflation. Women's wages average only 57% of men's. Even before the current inflation spiral, 50% of all U.S. old folks were classified as poor. Pres. Ford wants Social Security raises to be kept to 5%, while inflation is 12%. The price of food has gone up 50% since 1970. HEW has cut its funds for abortions, but continues to pay 90% of the cost of sterilization, and increasingly welfare departments are coercing welfare women into sterilizations.

But, according to the capitalists, we don't really need much change. A little war in the mid-east, or perhaps southern Africa, and we will be rolling again.



Urban Planning Aid

Urban Planning Aid, Inc. (UPA) has many low cost pamphlets and books for community groups (costs from 15¢ to \$3.00). The areas covered include Housing (tenants rights to a guide on real estate research); Occupational Health and Safety; and other materials such as how to research a corporation.

UPA also publishes The Price of Punishment, an excellent study of the Mass. Correctional system (see Nov., 1974 NEPA NEWS for excerpts).

For a full list of materials, write UPA, 639 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139, or phone 617-661-9220.

Butner

Construction on the Butner, N.C. Federal Center for Correctional Research began again in mid March. Construction had been halted at 60% complete when Ranger Construction Co. of Atlanta defaulted on the contract. Tandy Construction Co. of Charlotte, N.C. is now doing the work, which is expected to be completed by May, 1976. We hope Tandy goes bankrupt.

Butner's plans were developed after pilot projects were launched in such places as Springfield, Mo. (START) and Marion, Ill. The Federal Bureau of Prisons says there is no reason for fears that the prison will abuse prisoners. But the Feds said that about START, which performed such

non-abusive actions as chaining prisoners to metal bunks for days on end, to wallow in their own excrement.

START was closed down under heated pressure from prisoners and supporters, and later was ruled unconstitutional by a Federal Judge. Suits are now pending against similar programs, such as at Marion, Ill. No doubt the Feds will just try to be a little more slick in the Butner operation.

To find out what START was really like, what Butner can be expected to be, check out the January, 1974 issue of NEPA NEWS (the Behavior Mod issue), still available from us for 25¢.

Hawaii Guards Strike

Guards at Oahu Prison and Halawa jail in Hawaii have been protesting conditions at the joints. As could be expected, the guards want adequate staffing, adequate training, decent safety and health procedures. However, the guards also protested against the prisoners' lack of recreation time, craft shops and low wages (9¢ per hour).

Said Guards Union steward Joe Moniz, "If you're going to treat men like animals and keep them always locked up with little to do, then you're asking for trouble."

In reply, Gov. Ariyoshi said, "Some drastic action will have to be taken."

Commented Hoe Hana, a Hawaiian people's paper, "Unfortunately, the Governor was not referring to the abolition of institutions like Oahu Prison." Concluded Hoe Hana, "Our justice system needs to be turned around."

Police Control Violent Unemployed

(CPF) State troopers will be posted at unemployment offices in Michigan to control what the Wall Street Journal terms the "huge, sometimes violent crowds" at the offices.

State officials also plan to experiment with the alternative of mailing checks directly.

(From Liberation News Service)

Miscellaneous Niggers

(CPF) Police files in Houston, Texas contain folders marked "miscellaneous niggers" and "swingers." This is the latest revelation of the continuing effort by city officials and citizens to uncover blatantly illegal spying, bugging and record keeping by the Houston Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

The CID is most notorious for planning and executing an armed attack on the headquarters of People's Party II and killing its founder, Carl Hampton, in 1970. The People's Party is patterned after the Black Panther Party and is presumably full of "miscellaneous niggers."

The investigation has discovered files on more than 1000 citizens with non-criminal records. Current Police Chief Carroll Lynn discovered that his phone had been tapped by previous chief Herman Short. The ACLU has filed a \$55 million lawsuit on behalf of two persons who were in the files. The cops tried to destroy the files. Federal Judge John V. Singleton impounded the files for safekeeping, and will invite the other 1000 persons to join the ACLU's suit.

Free Martin

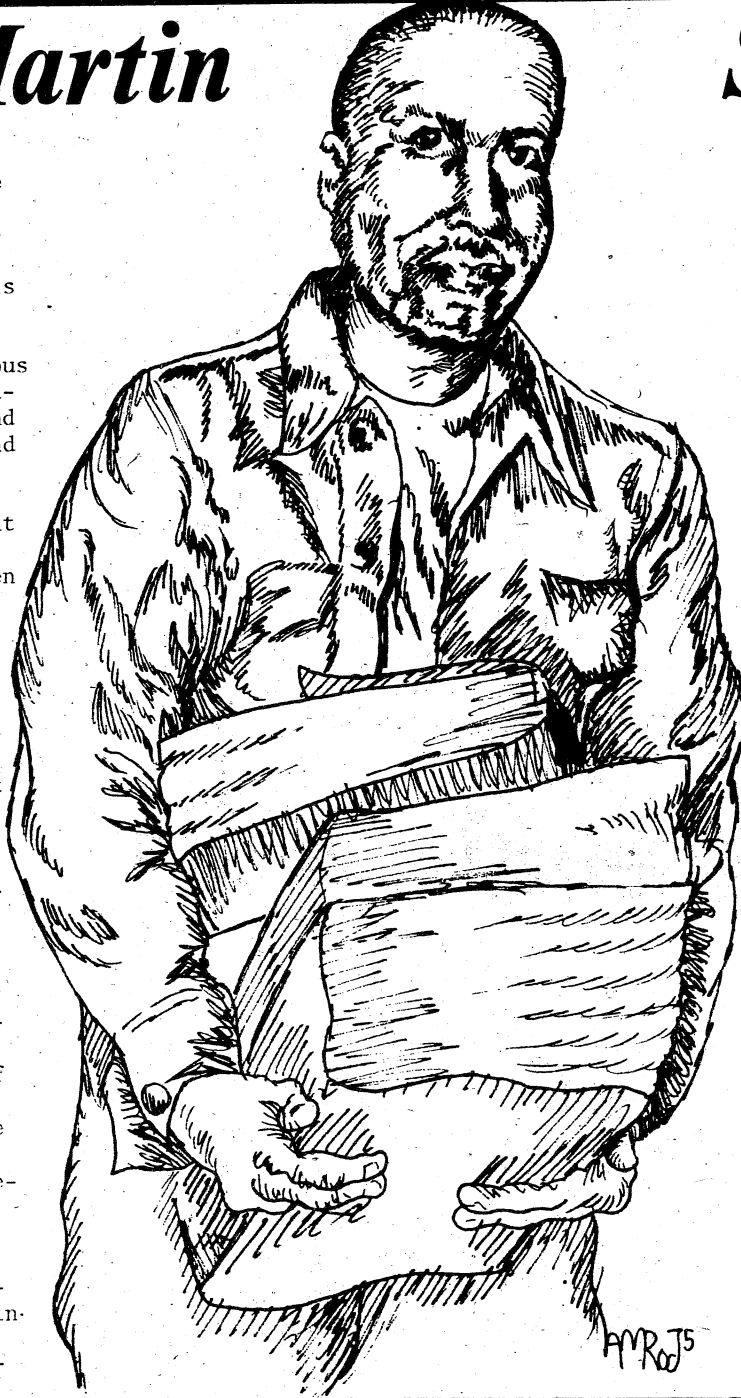
by Ron Sturupp

Since going to prison in 1968, Martin Sostre has apparently been an intolerable challenge to the New York Correctional Commission. His life and personality appears to be alien to the values existing within a walled-in society whose officials are able only to destroy those they seek to rebuild.

His constant and persistently courageous attempts to establish standards of prisoner's rights, to unite other inmates behind these efforts and to improve the harsh and brutalizing conditions in which most of them live has moved the prison officials to keep Mr. Sostre in solitary confinement for five of the past seven years he has been incarcerated. He has been beaten ten times for steadfastly refusing to submit to a rectal examination by the guards.

Mr. Sostre's refusal to strip himself naked and submit to a rectal examination is apparently incomprehensible to the guards at Clinton Prison in upstate New York. That a man who, after all, is nothing but a prisoner, and black, will not submit to such an indignity must have triggered some inhuman mechanism deep within them. Several of them leaped on Mr. Sostre, lifted him into the air, choked him into unconsciousness, slammed him to the floor, kicked him in the ribs, stomped on his head, called him a nigger, ripped his clothes from his body, spread his legs to the point of pain and proceeded to inspect his rectum. Mr. Sostre was then charged with assaulting three of the guards and dragged into court, as if dignity and worth as a human being can be handed down from the bench.

Inside the courtroom, Martin Sostre repeatedly tried to tell of the dehumanizing conditions inside Clinton Prison; of the beatings, of the inhumane conditions in solitary confinement and of the forcible rectal examination. Judge Robert Feinberg, presiding over the proceedings, repeatedly cut him off, consistently refusing to allow testimony referring to con-



Sostre!

ditions inside the prison to become a part of the record.

Six defense witnesses who were locked in the solitary confinement unit at the time of the forcible rectal examination testified, under oath, that they heard violent movements like a scuffle, heard Sostre scream and heard guards yell nigger. The major defense witness, James Sullivan, a trustee-porter in the solitary confinement unit testified that three days prior to the forcible rectal examination incident he heard the guards plotting to beat Mr. Sostre the next time he refused to submit. Sullivan signed an affidavit testifying to that conservation. Judge Feinberg ruled that the affidavit was inadmissible as evidence.

Another witness, a chaplain at the prison, Reverend Cormac A. Walsh, testified that Martin Sostre is honest and non-violent. Reverend Walsh admitted that upon understanding what was happening to Martin Sostre, he wrote a letter to Judge Feinberg. It read in part:

"I have been a Catholic Chaplain at Clinton Prison for sixteen years. I have come to know the defendant, Martin Sostre, real well and I think he is a gentleman in the highest sense of the word. In my frequent contacts with him in unit 14 (solitary confinement), I have seen bruises left after each encounter which involved rectal examination....I have seen bruises on Martin's legs when I visited him in unit 14. I'm sure they were not self-inflicted.

It is time to stop this harassment of Martin Sostre, and others, and get on with the business of rehabilitating inmates."

Judge Feinberg refused to allow the letter to be introduced as evidence. In his charge to the jury, Judge Feinberg ruled that the prison guards were performing their "lawful duty" by forcibly making the rectal examination of Mr. Sostre.

The all-white jury deliberated for less than an hour, finding Martin Sostre guilty as charged.

Navajo Warriors

Armed Navajo warriors occupied a plant owned by Fairchild Corp. which produces electronic hardware. Fairchild laid off nearly half of a work force of 1000, then fired another 150 workers at the Shiprock, New Mexico plant. This set off the seizure of a week, which ended with key concessions being made by Fairchild.

The 40 Native Americans, some of whom are members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) raised many demands which linked together the struggles of the workplace and the needs of the Indian community.

les. The smog for the reservation is like that in Los Angeles.

--A demand that educators be of high quality and respect Navajo culture.

--Last of all, amnesty for the occupiers.

The day after the takeover, some 200 Navajo gathered at the plant gate to show support and to discuss Fairchild. They pointed out how Fairchild workers only get about \$2 per hour, how the safety conditions are poor.

Because it is on a reservation, Fairchild pays no taxes to either state or federal government; and the Navajo council originally agreed to no taxes for 20 years. Fairchild is one of the world's 500 largest corporations.



--An end to layoffs and firings; work or unemployment checks.

--Review of hiring, firing, seniority and promotion policies; the workers are Indians, the foremen almost all white.

--Demands for the local public health service hospital to be more responsive and responsible.

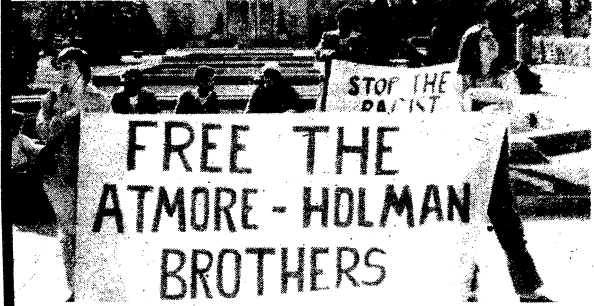
--Renegotiation of the lease, pollution control and other demands against the Four Corners Power Plant, which produces power not for the reservation, but for Los Ange-

les. After negotiations, Fairchild agreed to a week's severance pay, the formation of an investigation committee as demanded for the other grievances, and no reprisals.

"What AIM really won was the support of the people for this militant form of action against a new target--big business," said one observer.

Stated AIM and the Coalition for Navajo Liberation, "It is time for Navajos to control their own domain and their own destiny,

Atmore-Holman



Recent demonstration in Birmingham to free the Atmore-Holman Brothers.

by Ron Sturupp

The state of Alabama has won the first round of its court sanctioned "legal" rip-off of the Atmore-Holman Brothers.

The trials of the nine Black inmates from the state's two largest prisons--Atmore and nearby Holman--on charges stemming from their resistance to racism and brutal conditions, ended with one of the nine men receiving the death penalty; two receiving life imprisonment; one receiving 51 years; and one a directed acquittal. Round two of American "Just-us" will resume in June when the other four Atmore-Holman Brothers will undoubtedly be pronounced guilty.

The facts of the Atmore-Holman Brothers' lives, arrests, prison treatment, resistance to dehumanization, etc., etc., etc., has been told over and over again all over America for the past several hundred years and it still goes on and on and on, and the time has come for talk to turn to action.

People: This Brutalizing, Crushing, Dehumanizing, Capitalistic System Has Got To Be Eliminated Before It Eliminates Us!

Free The Atmore-Holman Brothers--By Whatever Means Necessary!

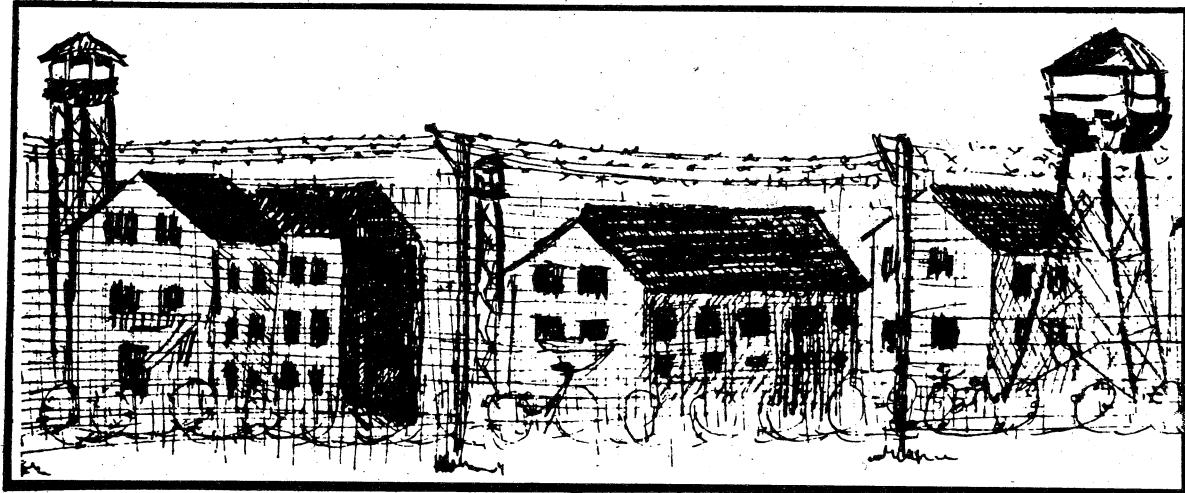
rather than to remain victims of the white man's industrial enterprises. Justice for the Navajo comes first!"

A flash as we go to press. Fairchild has announced that it would close its plant because "we cannot be assured that further disruptions will not occur." AIM in reply has called on the Navajo nation to appropriate the plant.

Dear Nepa:

I write this in response to a letter written in defence of Jane Alpert by Kathryn Burkhardt. I found her letter very well written but filled to the overflowing of emotion; mainly outrage at the way a fellow "sister-in-struggle" was "railroaded" (quotations mine) by the leftist newspaper, City Star.

Ms. Burkhardt pointed out, quite correctly, that the left cannot fall into the trap of condemning anyone or anything without sufficient proof: "This kind of repression and sloppishness is no different than the repression used against individuals who have disagreed with, say, Nixon or McCarthy or the FBI."



Yet, I find no reference to any research Ms. Burkhardt has conducted in her defense of "...one lone, and probably lonely individual..." I can only submit that her letter was written in anger and without much conscious thought to "...an unyielding commitment to truth." For the truth is that when Ms. Alpert surrendered she made no attempts to contact any real people's media, but called only upon that bourgeois capitalist's tool, the New York Times, to air her torments. Thus the

Alcoholics

The reason I have written this article on alcoholics, is to hopefully give you a better understanding of the pain and frustration that they go through, and also the injustice they receive and what we, as concerned human beings can do to help free them from this injustice.

Q - Who becomes an alcoholic?

A - Anyone can become an alcoholic: poor, rich, man, woman or child.

Q - How does a person put themselves in a position to become an alcoholic? Sure he drinks every day, maybe even in the morning, but every morning he goes to work. It's things like this that goes through an alcoholic's mind and he can't understand why his family, friends, etc. would think that he is an alcoholic. As the months go by, he begins to take afternoons off from work, months later he begins to take all day off, and finally he doesn't even bother going to work at all. He still won't be honest with himself, even when his hands begin to shake when he picks up a bottle of booze, for an excuse he will say; "I must have the grip, or something." After more months go by, his hands shake so bad that he has a hard time even getting the drink to his

Brothers and Sisters:

On the front page of the Manchester Union Leader on the 7th of March I was very indignant at a graphic that showed a man, his wife and their kids; the man was saying "Sorry kids, I guess we won't eat tonight... A convict got the job."

The way that the Manchester Union Leader down grades a convict, a fellow man--you would think Mr. Leob and his party would rather see a convict be without a job and see his wife and kids go without food or warmth. The Union Leader has a thing about trying to turn their readers against men and women who have been in jail, regardless of the reason, to instill in the readers mind that the man who has done time is worthless and has no right to come on the streets and try to do well, get a job, support their family and show that they can be usefull and decent people.

It is newspapers such as the Union Leader that set the rehabilitation programs back year after year, with articles that are the base for further degrading of the EX offender.

Letters

the Weather Underground. The sisters do not know them, never have, and have stated so, but are nonetheless serving time for contempt of court for refusing to reveal their whereabouts. In Vermont, the only alleged member of the Sam Melville group who was still at large was busted by the FBI. Patricia Swinton was a friend of Ms. Alpert and they lived together for a time when both were underground. But when Ms. Swinton was arrested, her lawyer stated that Ms. Swinton expected the FBI when she

direct quotes from the only other source, the New York Times, are entirely in line.

Before Alpert's surrender, law enforcement agencies have had to rely on their old contacts (infiltrators, informers, etc.) to try to outwit revolutionaries. But since her arrest, people all over the left have been subjected to police harassment and persecution (to wit: some sisters in Connecticut are currently being harassed by a grand jury eager to get a line on Saxe and Powers, two members of

lips without spilling it all over himself. Now he has reached the bottom. His clothes are always dirty and wrinkled, his wife and children have left him, and he has no job.

The friends he once had, now shy away from him, as he is always asking for money so that he can get a drink that he needs so bad. He has gone almost as low as he can go. If he can't have a drink when he wakes, he gets sick, his stomach will be in agony from cramps, his head feels like it's coming apart, and he gets the dry heaves, but with a few drinks in him, he feels better.

People who knew him may say, "He sure looks a lot older than his age, look at all the wrinkles around his eyes." Yes, just look at his pitiful eyes when he looks at you. They seem to plead, please someone take mercy and help me out of this hell that slowly snuck around me and tore me apart.

The remarks: Oh! there goes that drunk again, the police arrested him for being drunk again. Just this year alone, he has been arrested five times. The first three times the judge sentenced him to a program that is supposed to help alcoholics, but being forced into the program, the alcohol-

heard Alpert was "cooperating fully." I am not saying that these acts are de-facto proof of Alpert's cooperation with the FBI, but I am saying it's possible.

But there is no need to go further. There is only one person who can clear the air in this matter and that is Jane Alpert herself. If she reads this, or any other article concerning her conduct, she needs only to write to any anti-imperialist paper. Then again, why should she? If she has truly sold out, talked to the FBI, then her censure by the left media is entirely correct. If she has not, her continued silence is convicting her in the hearts and minds of her comrades. The purpose of the public censure by the City Star was not only to condemn and criticize Alpert, but was also a warning to anyone else that cooperation with imperialist forces will put our comrades' lives in danger. We face enough peril without the aid of a rat in our ranks.

Alpert said she was sucked into revolutionary acts by the man she thought she loved, but is now disillusioned. So, what? She has a mind of her own. Surely she could see that the US government is as criminal in its actions as was Hitler's government. Turning your back on a problem does not make it go away. It only makes it harder on the next person. Maybe Sam Melville was a little weird by today's standards. But in those early days people were confused by conflicts between what they were taught about the US in school and what they learned to be the truth of Viet Nam. (Getting one's consciousness raised does not mean hating men, but understanding them. Just as the task is for men to understand women, not hate them.)

The real issue is this: did Jane Alpert collaborate with the enemy or not? She does not deny it.

Roger Boberg
NHSP

ic did not see for himself that he has a problem, he could not admit he was an alcoholic and therefore the program was no value to him. Now the judge has sentenced him to (90) days in jail, and while in jail, he sits there thinking of the day he can get out so he can have another drink. This will continue for as long as he, the alcoholic lives, unless new programs can be instituted that would make the alcoholic aware of his problems.

It is a disease and should be treated as such. When a person is arrested, instead of giving him the choice of going to jail or attend a program, place the individual in a facility where he may receive counseling, understanding and to discover why he drinks. Jails may force the alcoholic to stop his drinking, but only until he is released. Attending a program does not convince the drinker he is an alcoholic. Placing the drinker in a home with people who are capable of determining the cause of his drinking, then and probably only then, there would be a possibility for a cure. DON'T YOU, AS A TAXPAYER, THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO INSTITUTE SUCH A PROGRAM?

In Unity
Henry J. Routhier
N.H. State Prison



It costs the taxpayers of New Hampshire, Yes you out there, you can thank Mr. Leob and his Union Leader for the money that is spent each year keeping men in prison, Mr. Leob doesn't mind--he isn't even a citizen of N.H.!

Comrades,

I am presently being held captive in Amerika's foremost Kamp, Leavenworth. USP, and I acquired a copy of your NEPA News, which was one of the best publications I have had the chance to read, dealing with the real struggle that goes on from inside and out of these Kamps.

Please send me all of your future works, and do enroll me as a member of your association. Together in the Struggle.

David A. Staeger

Are you concerned? I hope so. I hope that all concerned people will write and protest the Union Leader's poison words.

It is way past the time for New Hampshire citizens to begin thinking for themselves and voicing their views, as did our ancestors 200 years ago when they too faced corrupt government and power hungry men who sucked the life blood of the Colonies from afar.

In Unity
Henry Routhier
N.H. State Prison

Reply to Prisoners, America and Revolution

NEPA:

I would like to offer my comments on the brothers' essay in February's NEPA News under Prisoners, America and the Revolution. The essay is a fair expression of most of our ideas with respect to ourselves and our revolutionary obligations, with the precondition that we have realized that there is a revolution going on. While the essay attempted to define, I feel like too much was left undefined, too abstract, and garbled in meaningless slogans, if considered in the proper context--i.e., we are here attempting to define something that we attach our lives to and die for, or are murdered for. We are attempting a definition for a road on the way to an end. The first concrete consideration we must accept is that we are the slate at the bottom of the pit from which gravel is drawn to pave that hard road. This is the position with which we must first deal with an open mind. There is no need for us to feel inferior because of this particular position; it can be said that we have been just a little more prepared than the average worker, we have had on more experience: we have been forcefully and physically enslaved as opposed to his economic bondage. However, this boast of still further oppression, or of being "the most oppressed", is certainly not sufficient to justify a feeling of superiority (class distinctions) over our comrades in the unemployment lines who may not have experienced mace, clubs, or lonely nights in cages. To do so would be to display what our so-called intelligentsia term as false elitism. What we must realize, however, is that we are at the bottom of the pit and therefore have necessarily experienced the harshest, or ultimate expression of oppression. Because of this we will be the first among the restless, militant masses to taste the reactionary executions that will come when the going gets really heavy.

There have been questions raised of what the "prisoner's role" is in the revolution, and more, there have been theories that we might ultimately form some type of "vanguard". Such theories and questions are too confining, too narrow, if we are to really think of ourselves within the context of world revolution. Notwithstanding, on those two points millions of hours have been expended in the isolation cells across the nation as we discussed these two questions.

I feel that such broad discussion, without careful preparation, tends to: 1. give the new-born "political prisoner", as such, wings before he has flown; and 2. deprives him of grasping the fundamental principles

of international struggle in that he is required to think within the perimeters of four granite walls.

Point one is expected. Most comrades are outraged at their condition and instinctually grope for some form of protest (which is reactionary). Since being a "political prisoner" seems to be the thing most aggravating to the authorities he will latch on, or assume, that role--and foolishly so if he does not work hard every day to eliminate the thing that has forced his cause, or "stance". This is important because, whether consciously or not, once any brother or sister proclaims themselves as "political prisoners" or "revolutionaries", they are marked--the police do not know that they are not serious, or do not know why or what they are saying; the police are very serious because they are protecting and enforcing the interests of the system that garnishes them with pet favors and privileges for their good work.

Many of us, in learning, learned that it is foolish to try and threaten prison administrations with proclamations of whom we are. It would be best to admonish our younger comrades not to broadcast or "write the enemy a book", but rather, make the administration expend a little of their time and energies seeking out the source of all the new resistance.

Point two is most important. If we sit down with a young comrade who asks us about this elusive revolution that he has heard about someplace, and we tell him he is of the "prisoner class" and that he will undoubtedly be in the ranks of some "vanguard" we are, at the outset, imprisoning his mind--he is not ready to think in such terms. If we teach in such constraining terms our new comrade will have to first break his head out of the jail we put him in and then graduate into the most basic idea of internationalism. Why should we give him yet another obstacle to overcome?

Marx realized and forecasted systems by first getting to know them--digging to their roots. He gave us a good framework to build on. In a scant 127 years since he and Engels issued the Communist Manifesto, Marx's analysis has caused two of the three superpowers to follow his line of thought. Yet we confine our brothers and sisters to their concrete cells with talk of "prisoner classes" and projections of prisoners, as such, forming a "vanguard".

If we learn, in the first instance, in terms of internationalism, and we explore with our new comrades our historical situation, then we must inevitably realize the

class character of our situation in that we are of a class, but not a class--at most our sub-class should be explored for what it is, rather than heaping a world-wide movement upon its weary shoulders. Therefore, we should always consider our particular situation only in relation to the class most interested in revolution, i.e., the class of the working men, or proletariat.

As a starting point, then, we must realize that we are simply prisoners, expropriated from the working class by government sanction for our rebellious ways and nothing more. If we integrate ourselves into the revolutionary struggle there is no need to define ourselves out of, or apart from, the class from which we came. We remain a part of that class. Our people are that class. We are revolutionaries who are, for the time being, located on the prison front. Such a realization seems important because with this attitude, when and if we are released from our dungeons and come back again for our political struggles on the streets, then we will come back with an attitude that we are performing one more task--this time teaching those who have not had such experience. At the same time, we will have no trouble relating to the sisters and brothers outside who are working now for the same cause that we are working for.

It is not likely that any "prisoner class" will form a "vanguard" in the revolution that we are a part of. This is not to say, however, that there are not some among us that will be, or are in, the Vanguard. George Jackson felt that prisoners were "resilient" and I tend to agree to the extent that we must be either resilient or cows. Our militant stance presupposes such ruggedness. But our brothers and sisters outside in those picket lines and marches are just as rugged and resilient and we must relate to them because they are the ones who have mastered the backbone of the economy. With their command of industry, they are the ones we must assist in taking back the power. Once we are in control of the means of production those workers become our teachers.

Therefore, I feel that our "role" in this revolution is no different than that of our people on the streets--our job, however, is to realize this.

In Peace and Struggle,

James L. Potts
Leavenworth Federal Prison

Letter from Starke, Florida

NEPA:

Comrade-Brother Jaribu Imari Kamau (slave James Earl Edwards) will be going to trial April 4, 1975, on a spurious charge of assaulting a prison guard. He faces another 15 or 20 years if convicted. Prison officials are determined to see him convicted for such a charge which they have framed him on, for he will be taken to a small town about 15 miles from Florida State Prison called Starke. Starke is known for its racist atmosphere and anti-black climate; in short, racism is blatant there.

Brother Jaribu is one of the Garment Factory 14; as a result of the disturbance in the Florida State Prison Garment Factory, which was instigated and provoked by racist-anti-black prison guards, he was given 20 years imprisonment in addition to the 10 year sentence he originally had. The Garment Factory "slave rebellion" transpired in 1973, in which 14 brothers were discriminatorily and systematically singled out by the fascist and racist prison administration and charged with "assaulting" prison guards. Comrade Fahari (s/n Nathaniel Pressley), who was also alleged to be a principal participant in the "slave rebellion" in the Garment Factory, was given 30 years--and he had life already. Comrades Chaka (s/n Willie C. Holley), Brown Eye (s/n Harry Grays), and Jap (s/n Ernest McCloud) made self-sacrifices to get this trumped up charge dropped against the remaining 9 Brothers but were given 5 years apiece in the process.

Brother Jaribu has been indicted as a consequence of prison officials' going



opf

into his cell on September 23, 1974, and forcefully taking the eating utensils (metal) which he had held, among other things, protesting the deplorability of conditions here at Florida State Prison. Prison officials physically attacked him and actually charged him with assaulting them. Such charges should be dismissed, for they are obviously discriminatory and racially inspired. The charges placed against Brother Jaribu can be viewed as an attempt to repress the revolutionary struggle we are waging here against oppression, racism, exploitation, and repression. The fascists want to make an example out of this case in which Brother Jaribu is going to

trial on in an attempt to discourage other Brothers in the future and to instill a feeling of powerlessness in them. Efforts must be organized and unified in order to prevent the capitalist fascists from winning this case. The people must win. This is a case in which the people versus the capitalist establishment, as in the cases of the Attica Brothers, Atmore Brothers, San Quentin 6, Ruchell Magee, and countless others.

Furthermore, let us look at the conditions that led to our mild, peaceful protest on September 23, 1974, at Florida State Prison: we face dehumanizing conditions here. They are intolerable enough to compel any rational, normal human being to resort, after all other remedies have been adequately exhausted, to aggressive measures. After all, oppression and repression only breed violence and resistance on the part of the oppressed elements; brutality, moreover, breeds brutality. Our resistance in the walls of Amerikkka's Koncentration Kamps is nothing more or less than a response to social oppression, to physical and psychological deprivation. People have a human right to resist slavery and oppression. It is a natural instinct for a man/woman or child to want to be treated as a human being. The following shows what I mean.

Brother kwa detailed in his letter the abominable conditions at Starke. There is no hospital, only a clinic called by cons the "death parlor". The food is, as in most prisons, insufficient in quantity and quality. The whole prison process from entry to departure is designed, step by step, for the dehumanization of the convict. The prisoners receive no pay for their work. Mail, incoming and outgoing, is rejected, censored, confiscated and "lost".--Ed.

Prisoner Conference

Schedule

Registration: Thursday night, Friday morning.
 FRIDAY: 9am-12 noon, introductory session; debate and discussion on the value of alternatives.
 1:30-3:30 Workshops
 4:00-5:00 Summary of workshops; meeting. Night-Party; place to be announced.
 SATURDAY: 9:00am-9:45 am General presentation.
 10:30-12:30 Workshops
 1:30-3:30 Workshops
 4:00-5:30 Summary of workshops.
 Night: Presentation by National Campaign Against Prisons (Regional Meeting).
 SATURDAY AFTERNOON:
 SUNDAY: 9:00-11:00am State Caucuses
 1:00-2:00 Summary of Caucuses
 2:00-4:00 Closing session: what can we do in the future based on what we have learned.

I am coming; here is my \$3.00 registration fee plus a \$_____ donation.
 I plan to stay at a hotel/motel.
 Please arrange free housing at a home.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

I plan to arrive Thursday night; Friday morning; Later.

Please check off your first two preferred workshops in each session. This does not commit you to the workshop, but enables us to plan for the best use of space.

Workshops

FRIDAY

Pre-trial Action.
 Alternative Uses of the Corrections Budget.
 NEPA NEWS and the Role of the Press.
 Decriminalization of the Law.
 Community Control of Crime.
 Community Corrections in Vermont.

SATURDAY MORNING

Alternative Concept: Women Imprisoned.
 Should We Abolish Parole?
 Alternative Sentences.
 Architecture of Community Corrections.
 Community Based Correction Center.
 Alternative Master Plan; Goals.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

How to Do a Bail Project.
 Parole as a Viable Alternative.
 Probation.
 Alternative Juvenile Programs.
 Alternative Master Plan: Strategy.
 Education and Work Release Program.
 Art in Prison.

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

On April 15, 1973, the New England Prisoners Association was formed as a result of the first 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 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 psycho-surgery;
- 7) to organize and assist families and friends of prisoners;
- 8) to develop means of transportation and communication to families and friends of prisoners;
- 9) to develop quality legal assistance to 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 Center for Community Service at Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. Our address is NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580; phone 603-823-8501 ext. 5 or 0.

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Narc Busted (Cont.)

night with him. She refused and two weeks later was busted for selling dope to him.

Late in March, Mr. Gensburg announced that Lawrence was indicted on six more charges relating to his outstanding bust record. He was charged on March 14 with 2 counts of perjury--once in a disposition and once during his first trial; 2 counts of larceny under false pretenses--involving his misuse of police funds; and 2 counts of giving false reports to the police. His trial is expected to start soon. Gensburg also announced that several cases that did not involve convictions were dismissed and that no one who was convicted has been pardoned--yet. It was also learned that two civil suits have been filed against Lawrence.

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 I am a prisoner. Here is my subscription in the amount of \$_____
 \$3.00 regular subscription.
 Here is my donation in the amount of \$_____ to support the continued publication of NEPA NEWS.
 ADDRESS CHANGE. I am moving to a new address. Please mail future copies of NEPA NEWS to me at the above address.
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MEMBERSHIP

- I am a con. Enroll me as a member of the New England Prisoners Association.
 I am on the outside. Enroll me as a member of NEPA. I enclose \$4 for a subscription to NEPA NEWS and for a copy of the N.E. Prisoners Resource Manual.
 I am on the outside, have no funds, but please enroll me in NEPA.
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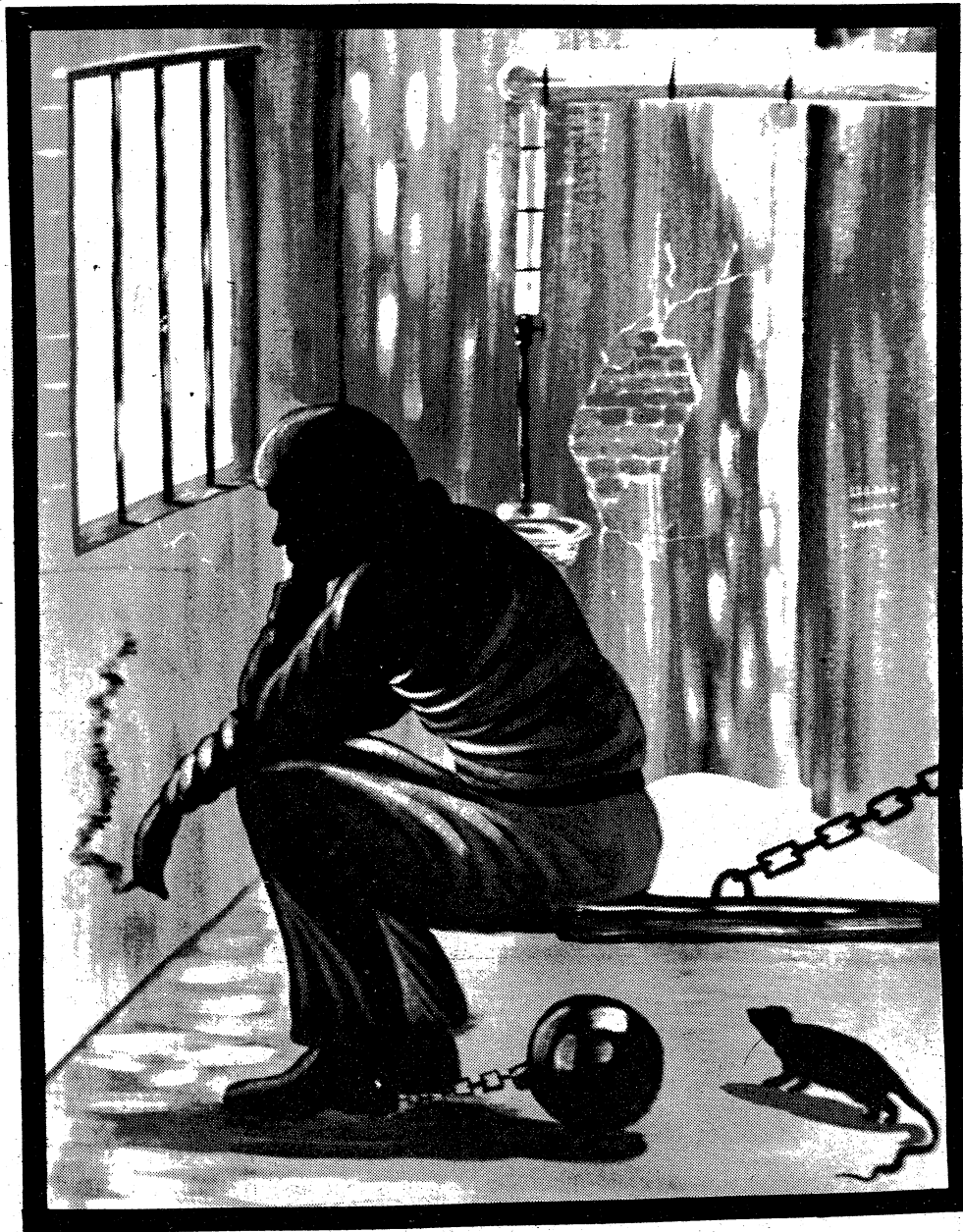
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