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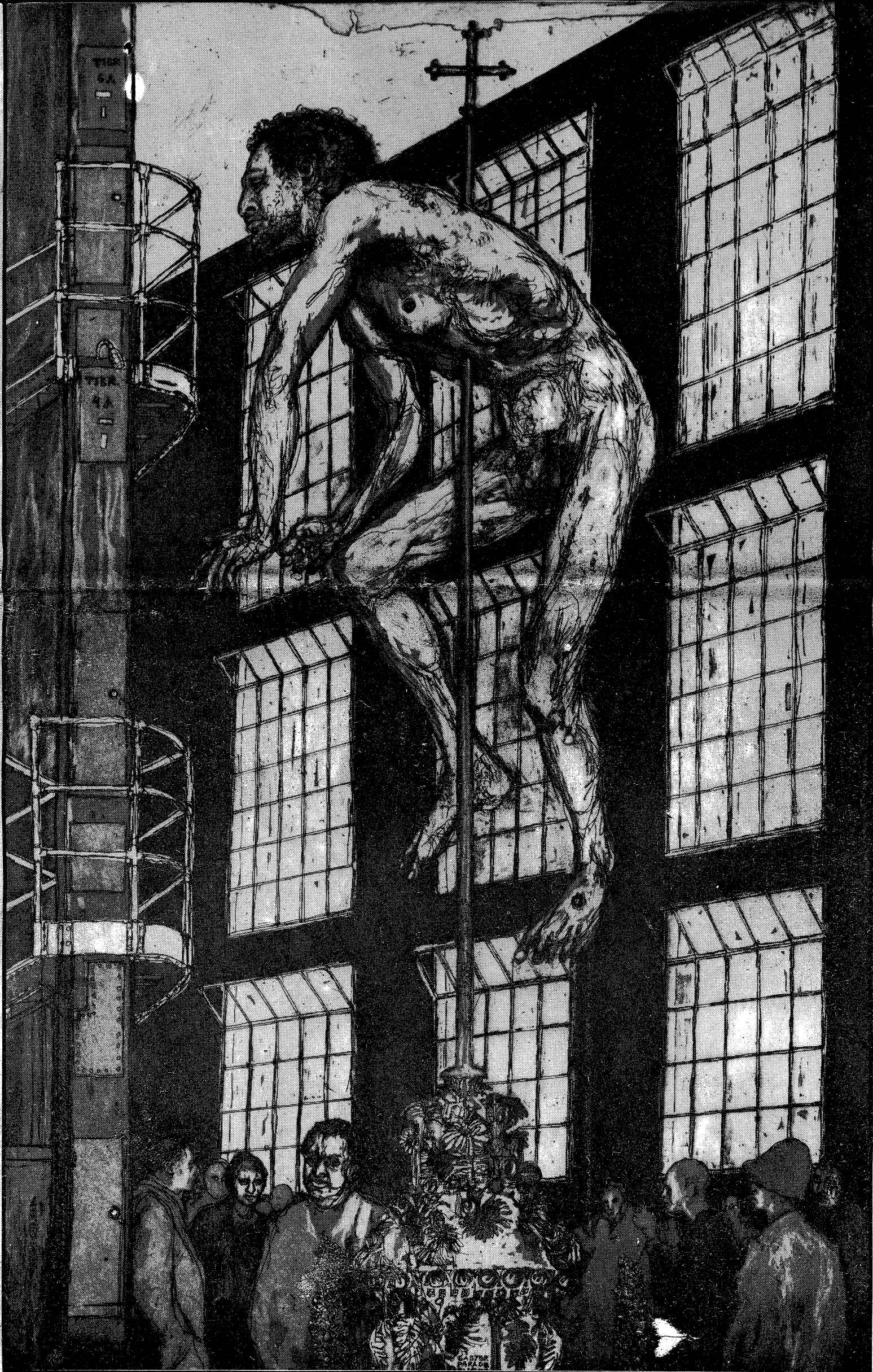
February, 1975

Vol. III, No. 2

25¢

NEPA NEWS

The Voice of the New England Prisoners Association



NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

Prisoners' Conference

Two years ago Franconia College sponsored the first New England Prisoners Conference. For three days in mid-April, 400 ex-prisoners and other interested citizens shared their experiences in and out of prison. It is no exaggeration to state that the conference was exciting, and we all learned considerably from the experience.

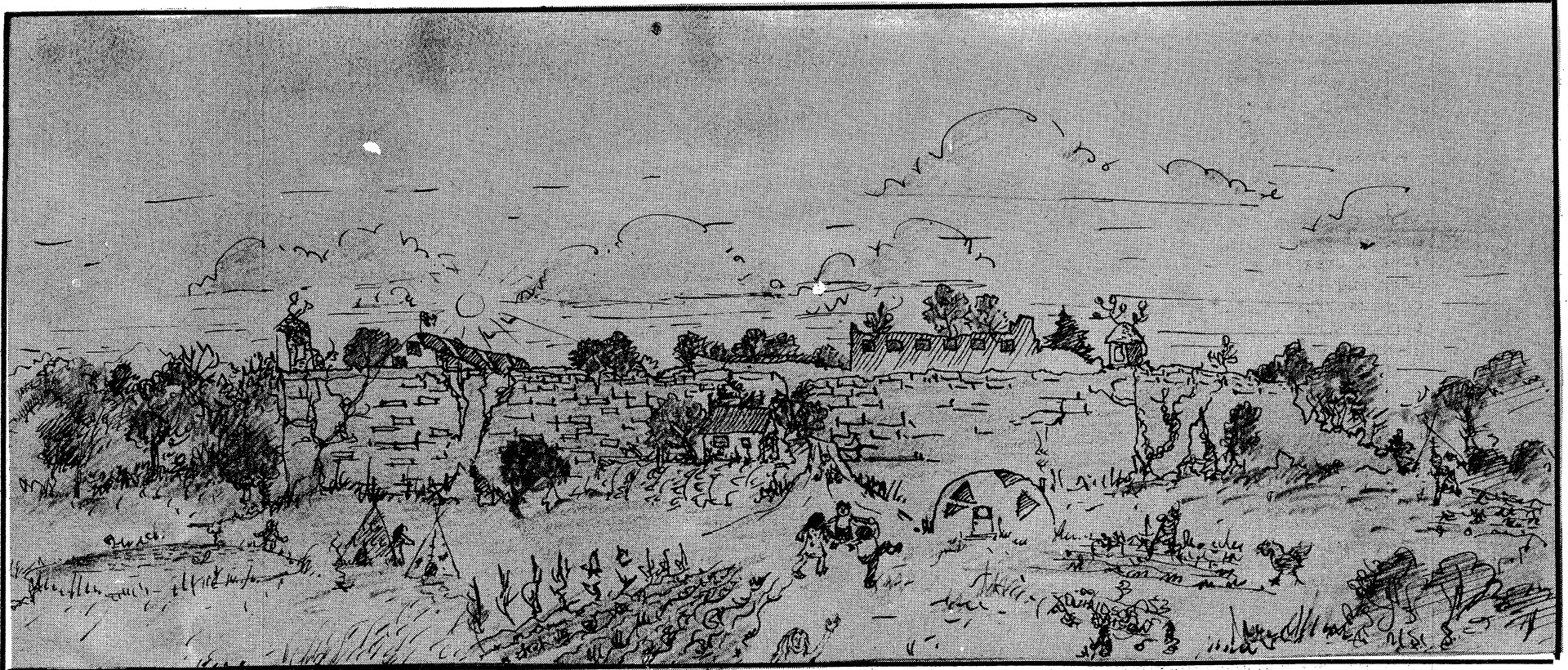
On result of the conference was the

basis, having nothing to do with one's release.

A third position would be that both of the above is locked into an assumption that the current socio-economic system is fundamentally just or is at least here to stay. Such a third position would say the relevant need is for social revolution, for the creation of a new social order. This view tends

were to start cutting off the prisons? The prisoner movement in some places has already outlined such plans.

Community Corrections in Vermont. Vermont will soon be the only state in the U.S. with no maximum security prison. Most of Vermont's prisoners are kept in Community Correctional Centers (CCC's). How did this come about? What are the CCC's really like (com-



MAY THE WALLS RETURN TO THE GROUND FROM WHENCE THEY CAME

establishment of the New England Prisoners Association and, subsequently, NEPA NEWS.

We hope to repeat the excitement and success of that conference again this year. On April 25, 26 and 27 the Center for Community Service of Franconia College and the New England Prisoners Association will sponsor a conference on "Alternatives to Incarceration" at Franconia College. We are hoping to make this an event not only of regional significance, but of national significance as well.

As you can see from the tentative conference plan described below, we hope to focus on ways of achieving one of the stated purposes of NEPA--the abolition of prisons.

Registration will take place Thursday evening and very early Friday morning. We ask those of you who plan to come to send us the pre-registration form on the back of the paper so we will know how many people plan to come and so forth.

Introductory Debate

The conference will open Friday morning with two or three speeches by persons yet to be announced. The speeches will, in essence, comprise a debate on the value, if any, and if so why, of alternatives to incarceration.

One facet of the debate sees alternatives good in and of themselves. This assertion is often deepened to argue that alternatives can be used as a step-by-step method toward the total restructuring of the prison system. Each small step removes some prisoners from the old system and helps persuade the public of the viability of change.

A second position argues that the alternatives model is based on the myth of rehabilitation. And rehabilitation does not work in big prisons, small prisons or half-way houses. Says one such proponent, Robert Martinson, "We have to give up the idea that you can make use of the cage to help the person being caged." Such persons generally call for all individuals convicted to serve short terms in prison, having a definite, immutable release date imposed from the beginning. Rehabilitation programs may be available on a voluntary

to see the prison as a necessary tool of the current system. The question of alternatives to prison is useful only inasmuch as they are or are not an asset to revolution. Those which are not only perpetuate an unjust system, maintain the illusion of reform, and do not solve the problem. Likewise the concept of equal punishment for all, including the middle and upper classes, via short jail terms, must not be considered in and of itself, but from a revolutionary perspective. This position throws into question the very right of the system to imprison anyone. The key point here is the need for a strategy which integrates the prisoner movement with in a broader revolutionary movement.

Workshops

We have scheduled 18 workshops so far. More may be added by conference time. A brief description of each follows below. On Friday night we will rent out a bar, get a band, and let it all hang out. Saturday night we will have films for those of you who are interested. Sunday morning we will have state caucuses so persons from the different states

can assess the conference in relation to different things happening in their states. A wrap-up session will be held Sunday afternoon.

Each workshop will have a chairperson and several resource persons who are very knowledgeable about the subject under discussion. So here are our workshops:

Friday

Pre-trial Action. Includes discussion of all means to eliminate the need for a trial, to provide help and resources for those in need before the trial. Pre-trial diversion, negotiation of warrants could eliminate many persons from the trial, sentence, "you're a loser" syndrome.

Alternative Uses of the Corrections Budget. Most "corrections" money goes to security (guards' salaries) and next to the upkeep of mammoth dungeons called prisons. What if the Corrections Departments were to start spending the money elsewhere, on community corrections and half-way houses for example, and

community oriented or just mini-prisons)? What can other states learn from Vermont?

NEPA NEWS and the Role of the Press in Pushing Alternatives. Can NEPA NEWS really develop into a vehicle for communicating what we are doing and learning? How can the press such as NEPA NEWS play a more effective role in educating the public? What role can or should the "straight media" play?

Decriminalization of the Law means everything from eliminating victimless crimes to eliminating the government which writes the law. How can we push for taking victimless crimes off the books? How can a state which has committed atrocities such as the Indo-China war claim the right to imprison anyone for anything? Who writes the laws, for whom, why? What can and should be done? So this workshop centers on a topic which involves both nuts and bolts type stuff and very sweeping and fundamental political questions.

Community Control of Crime: Cuba and China. Most crimes in these countries are dealt with on a community, local basis. The courts are neighborhood/community based and controlled. The 'punishment' and 'rehabilitation' is viewed as a responsibility of the whole community. How does this system really operate? Can we learn from it? Could we implement such a program in the U.S., or must the more basic social and political structure be changed first?

Saturday A.M.

Alternative Concept: Women Imprisoned With plans for the potential construction of a new women's prison in New Hampshire already underway, the importance of this kind of workshop is made crucial. We will examine the kinds of discussion generated by the N.H. project during their plenary sessions and the important questions they raise. We will also look at alternative projects and programs available elsewhere and their successes and drawbacks.

Should We Abolish Parole? The N.Y. Citizens Inquiry on Parole and Criminal Justice recommends that N.Y. State abolish parole. They argue that parole plays no useful re-integrative or sup-

Conference

portive role. Is this true of New England states? If so, should we work for parole reform or parole abolition?

Alternative Sentences. In some states persons can be/are sentenced to something other than prison. These include weekend sentences, therapy, AA, drug-addiction assistance, etc. The idea is that if a person has a problem, then the smartest thing to do is to alleviate the problem which led to the crime. How have such programs worked elsewhere? Can/should they be expanded?

The Architecture of Community Corrections. The environment in which we live has a huge impact on our emotions and our thoughts. If the place is barren, oppressive, lifeless, then our energy must go mostly for survival, in combat with the environment. But if the environment were warm, supportive, pleasurable, then our energy could be directed toward creativity, growth and happiness. Here and there, architects have worked on plans for community correction centers with this in mind. What do their plans look like? What would they cost? What would be their effect?

The Community Based Correction Center. The Delancey Street Foundation in California's Bay Area is a huge complex with rapidly growing political strength. Largely for cons and ex-cons, the Foundation has jobs, industries, services, stores, drug and alcohol treatment. And it is self sufficient outside the system.

In Newark, N.J., the Congress of African People (CAP) is developing its own community controlled structures.

I have become increasingly irritated at the short-sightedness on the part of almost all of the advocates and supporters of prison reform and the abolition of prisons. Concerned peoples of this area see most clearly the glaring inequalities of the criminal justice system, how the laws harbor the rich and their crime while singling out the poor and powerless for harsh punitive measures.

Anyone can see the imbalance of police effort - long on shaking the doors of merchants' shops at night, but very short on investigating the 1250% increase in profits in the sugar industry. The barbaric conditions of our penal institutions are only equalled by the barbaric institution of slavery.

What few of the Bleeding Hearts type can see is the criminal in America as a productive force. That's right, today's criminal in America does produce and the criminal's product is much more needed. We have grown dependent on it.

One of the first thing they produce is the need for the criminal justice system. Without criminals, thousands of judges, court clerks, bailiffs and other officials would be out of work. Who knows how many police there are? They would be the first to go, along with the manufacturers of mace, dum-dum bullets and handcuffs.

With the police gone (if criminals went on strike and crimed no more), who would the masters and the mistresses of industry have to call in to break up strikes or stop long haired anti-war protestors from exercising their constitutionally guaranteed right to assembly and free speech?

Without criminals, what would the newspeople report? Why the Boston Globe and the New York Times and other 1st newspapers would be out of a lot of c? Then think of all the wardens and guards who would be out looking for jobs. The makers of gang-locking devices, bars and locks would be looking for jobs. Why all the people at LEAA would have to pick up their tents and steal off into the night.

Middle America sorely needs the criminal, for this most despicable of types lets them know that they are okay, clean and law abiding. The walls of prison define the good guys very

Though no by and for convicts, still it is community "rehabilitation" and self-development; and then perhaps all Afro-Americans are prisoners of America.

Do these and other models provide us with tools to help re-structure the criminal justice system? How did they develop?

The Alternative Master Plan: Goals. In Massachusetts, Gov. Dukakis has

called on the Dept. of Correction to come up with a master plan for the Department. The prisoner movement in each state should have such a plan. But before we have such a plan, we ought to know where we are going. What should criminal justice look like in the United States? What should be its function?

Saturday Noon

How to Do a Bail Project. If you can not get out on bail, your chances of being convicted and imprisoned are vastly higher. So bail is almost a necessity for a fighting chance. Yet all the time people have bail set too high, they cannot raise cash or collateral. Hence the bail fund/bail project.

Parole as a Viable Alternative. The earlier parole workshop was to study whether parole should be abolished. This workshop is to study whether parole can be changed to become a system where prisoners get out much earlier, and have available the help and support needed to make it on the street. Can this be done by the state via the parole system?

Probation. Can probation be extended to far more convicts? Can or should a Probation Dept. be something more than another cop to check up on you? What should or could it be?

Alternative Juvenile Programs. Any

and all programs that will keep young people out of "training schools", change the special laws which oppress young people, and programs which develop the supportive services needed by some young people on a voluntary basis.

Alternative Master Plan: Strategy.

Assuming the first master plan workshop actually attained a consensus on goals, and some rough outline, the question is how do we get there? What are the educational, service, political and social strategies/means to implement our vision of the future? Who are our main allies and main enemies? What is the role of the courts and legislatures? street actions? the media? What are the first steps and their timetable, then the second steps?

We Need Your Help

So far we have 18 suggested workshops. We could have a few more. We would like input from outside sources and from prisoners. Ideas for additional workshops, for things that should be covered in existing workshops, should be sent to us as soon as possible.

In addition, we will print up a packet of material for each workshop. This material will be to help prepare the participants for each workshop so that the most informative, lively and productive workshops possible will happen. So if you know of good resources for any of the workshops, send us the information, the material itself, or suggested organizations, books, magazines and persons.

Any comments, criticisms, suggestions or help can be sent to: Conference, NEPA; Franconia, N.H. 03580.



clearly by who is not in, as well as who is in.

The big profiteering monopoly capitalist simply love the criminal. The criminal, in his/her petty activity, sends up a smoke screen that hides the monopoly capitalist's daily thievery of wages, profits and work in unsafe workshops. While the common people worry about the crime in the streets, they rarely worry about the crime in the suites that robs them at the gas pumps, in the grocery store and at the work place.

The CIA, while overthrowing democratically elected governments in Chile and elsewhere and spying on American citizens, depends on the \$750.00 robbery of this or that store to distract the mass of American people. If all the criminals in America had gone on strike six months before the last presidential elections, law and order Nixon and Mitchell would have lost the election.

The criminal produces a fantastic myth for a lot of poor and working

people. When a bank is robbed and the criminals careen off, loaded with the bankers money, a lot of people secretly gloat with envy, wishing it were they stealing from the rich bankers; they do not realize that the losses are made up for by the Federal Government from tax dollars, the greatest proportion of which come from the poor and working people.

So, you see, the criminal does produce a great deal. And we, in our oversight of this productive role, lock them away in the most despicable of places-not quite the way one would treat a valuable productive force in American Society. Maybe we should set aside one day a year to show homage and respect to the criminal and the contribution he/she makes to the American way of life. Furthermore, we should be very careful when we state that we wish to eradicate crime. If we are sincere in that desire, we must be prepared to come up with alternative methods of producing the goods and services that criminals do today.

Surviving

by Dwight Greene

Surviving childhood is getting rougher all the time. There was a time when, if you made it past the childhood diseases, didn't get caught stealing food, ignored the junk pushers, adapted your lungs to cancerous air, and staggered through a repressive school system, you might have a chance at survival. Now of course things are a little tougher, and although nobody asked me (or the kids either for that matter), I'm beginning to think it downright unfair. The politicians have enjoined themselves in the battle against childhood survival.

Senator Lieberman (D. New Haven) has introduced a bill to the Connecticut General Assembly that would allow some fourteen-sixteen year olds, accused of class A felonies, to be tried in Superior Court. And upon conviction to be given long-term sentences in maximum security institutions.

It seems as if some politicians come with soft plastic consciences. Consciences that can be plied by the hands of opportunism to fit whatever mold is popular. And since prisoners have never been popular in this country, it seems as if the poor kids (the only ones who would ever go to jail anyway) have another formidable obstacle to survival.

Lieberman and his opportunistic colleagues fool nobody. They are playing the fears and misconceptions of an uninformed public into political hay. They don't seem to realize that it is more profitable to rebuild a life than it is to destroy one. And they don't seem to care that poor kids have a hard time surviving already.

Crime in New Haven

by Dwight Greene

On January 27, Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI) held the first of a six-part series of community involvement discussions on the criminal justice system in New Haven, Ct.

The first discussion, "Crime in New Haven", was coordinated by Pat Wallace, director of CBCI, and featured New Haven police chief Biagio Dilieto and attorney Fleming Norcott. Mr. Norcott is an attorney for the Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning (CARP) of the NAACP.

Although Chief Dilieto opened the discussion with some impressive statistics on the increase of street crimes over the last year, he later conceded that the statistics were probably grossly inaccurate and misleading. (However, these same statistics had been presented to the Board of Aldermen earlier to back up a request for \$330,000 for a part-time police reserve force. The good Aldermen gave the police \$150,000 more than they requested.)

Atty. Norcott also took issue with the emphasis on street crime and the de-emphasis on white collar crime. He said that the cost of white collar crime was considerably higher than the more discussed and feared blue collar variety.

Norcott, who has been both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, said that the profile of the average victim of a violent crime would show him to be Black, single, male, under 35, and making less than \$10,000 a year. He claimed that minorities are more often the victims of crime because, being less protected by the police, they are easier to rip off.

Both Chief Dilieto and Atty. Norcott felt that the crime rate over the next few months would be reflective of the state of the economy. Chief Dilieto made it clear that the police department was only one part of the criminal justice system and that society would have to take its share of the weight in curbing crime. Addressing himself to the same point, Atty. Norcott said that, "Crime is like roads. You can't stop them, you can only control them." He said further, "As long as we continue to use LEAA money to buy more guns and funny bullets and ignore groups like this (CBCI) we can expect an increase in crime."

Connecticut Legislation

Legislators in Connecticut really seem to be into repression this year. There are a few good bills which we support, but also some real abominations.

Let's look at the positive side first.

H.B. 5288 and H.B. 5029. Both of these bills would have as one result the restoration of voting rights after a person has secured a final release from prison. Cons should actually retain their voting rights inside, as they do in some states; but this is at least a step in the right direction.

H.B. 5293. Concerning the possession, use or potential use against any person of any weapon proscribed from use by any international treaty or by the treaty of the United Nations. The essence of this bill is to prohibit the use of hollow point or "dum-dum" bullets. Such bullets are seeing increased use by police forces, including those in Conn. These weapons can turn a minor injury into a fatality. Also, such a bill might be a good preventative to other horrendous weapons the cops might like to turn on the poor.

H.B. 5130 and Sen. B. 48. Both of these bills concern the compensation of victims of violent crimes. The House bill covers the loss of time at work or injury as the result of crime. The Senate bill just says "compensation of innocent victims of violent crime" and seems to come from an anti-prisoner perspective, but could be a bill that has some good results.

But that about does it for the good or OK bills that we know about. And the bad ones are really bad.

H.B. 5123. Prohibiting parole on a life sentence before 25 years have been served. Obvious insanity. Massachusetts discovered that during World War II, when they lowered the eligibility time for lifers, recidivism for lifers went down. So this bill seemingly wants to raise recidivism.

Sen. B. 45. Concerning the treatment of fourteen to sixteen year olds accused of class A felonies. A good means of getting 14-16 year-olds set on a lifetime at Somers or Enfield. See the article by Dwight Greene.

H.B. 5145, 5137, 5133. Respectively, the death penalty for multiple murders, for every murder, and for forcible rape. No evidence exists that the death penalty deters others, or that it restores the victims of the crime. It is strictly an act of social revenge which has the unfortunate drawback that if a mistake is made, it is too late for restitution. Further, it is virtually never practiced against anyone who is not poor and/or from a minority nationality.

H.B. 5142. Concerning state rewards in multiple murders. What can we say.

H.B. 5214. Concerning bail of persons arrested more than five times in a year. Another example of legislation attacking the poor. This will make it harder for persons to make bail, therefore increasing their likelihood of conviction, and prove that persons arrested a lot really are criminals because they were convicted. A fair trial, in practice, demands that the defendant be bailed out, and the Constitution recognizes such. This bill doesn't. Further, this bill fails to recognize that a person is presumed innocent until found otherwise; that persons are often arrested on a cop's hunch, or because the suspect already has a record of arrests. Another bill that must be defeated.

Only one of the positive bills has much to recommend it, which is the outlawing of dum-dum bullets, a must-pass piece of legislation. The anti-prisoner mentality has been far more prolific in writing legislation: death penalty, more time for lifers, no more bail for more persons. We at NEPA News can only hope that the legislature has the sense not to pass these oppressive bills, and to outlaw the dum-dum bullet.



Ct. Parole

The parole system has been continuously criticized as an integral part of the "life on the installment plan" sentence. An article by Fred Findling in the January edition of NEPA did much to clarify the frustrations and tensions built into the system. A recent report compiled by the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, A Connecticut Report on Parole, also emphasizes the inadequacies of parole even in the more liberal state.

The report claimed that 80% of cons eligible for parole receive a favorable decision at their first hearing. Yet John Manson, Commissioner of Corrections, conceded that in the back of every inmate's mind is the realization that 20% are refused, and he may be a part of that 20%.

Despite the fact that the Connecticut parole board has one of the lowest caseloads in the county (20-25 cases/week compared to a national average of 50-60 cases/week), there were 2700 supervised paroles during 1973, 1800 at a given time. The sheer number of supervised paroles make the staff of 22 parole officers (2 Black, none Spanish speaking) ineffective in accomplishing even stated aims.

Connecticut has one of the most liberal parole policies in the country. 76% of parole revocations are for second offenses, compared to only 5% nationally. However, the rate of revocation for second offenses rather than technical offenses illustrates the unevenness of the system. Even in the best system 24% of the parolees are reincarcerated without having committed another criminal offense.

Aversion 'Therapy' at Somers Rapped

It is taken for granted in and out of prisons that a prisoner's behavior, participation in programs, work record and politics have a profound effect on parole release. A strong case in point is being filed in Federal court in Connecticut to challenge this "compulsory participation" in certain programs to get released. A suit has been filed by the National Prison Project of the ACLU on behalf of Somers prisoners Robert Graves, Donald Oberdorf, and Melvin Taylor to shut down the aversion therapy program for "predophiles" (technical name for child molesters) in Connecticut. These prisoners refuse to participate in this program and have been denied parole as a result.

Commissioner Manson has done a very good job in keeping the program low-profile and patching things up when the publicity got adverse. In most states that's precisely what is expected of a commissioner of corrections.

The aversion therapy program at Somers is considered by many to be the ultimate in behavior modification. The program utilizes three different techniques: group therapy, faradic aversive conditioning (electric shock), and covert sensitization (hypnosis).

In group therapy, it is expected that the participants will expound on their past actions, motivations, and intentions in as detailed a manner as possible. The

group's role is to access the candor of the speaker and to analyze his past and present behavior.

Before administration of electric shock, each prisoner is asked his sexual preferences. Based on his preferences, a slide show is assembled using adult portrayals from *Screw* magazine, alternated with slides of nude children. The prisoner is told to lie on his back, naked save for under-shorts, and electrodes are placed in the groin area. When the slides depicting children are shown, the prisoner receives a shock unless he requests that it be changed within 3 seconds. A second technique shows alternating adult and child slides, and each time a child comes on screen, the prisoner is shocked. He has no option to ask that the slide of the child be removed. A third aversive technique is introduced whereby a prisoner is shocked when he signals that he has fantasized a sexual situation.

In covert sensitization, each prisoner is interviewed as to his previous sexual activities with children, his fantasies about children and his anxiety and disgust provoking fantasies. These are then made into a taped narrative which is played to the prisoner after he has been hypnotized. The narrative pairs pleasurable fantasies with suggestions of aversive events, such

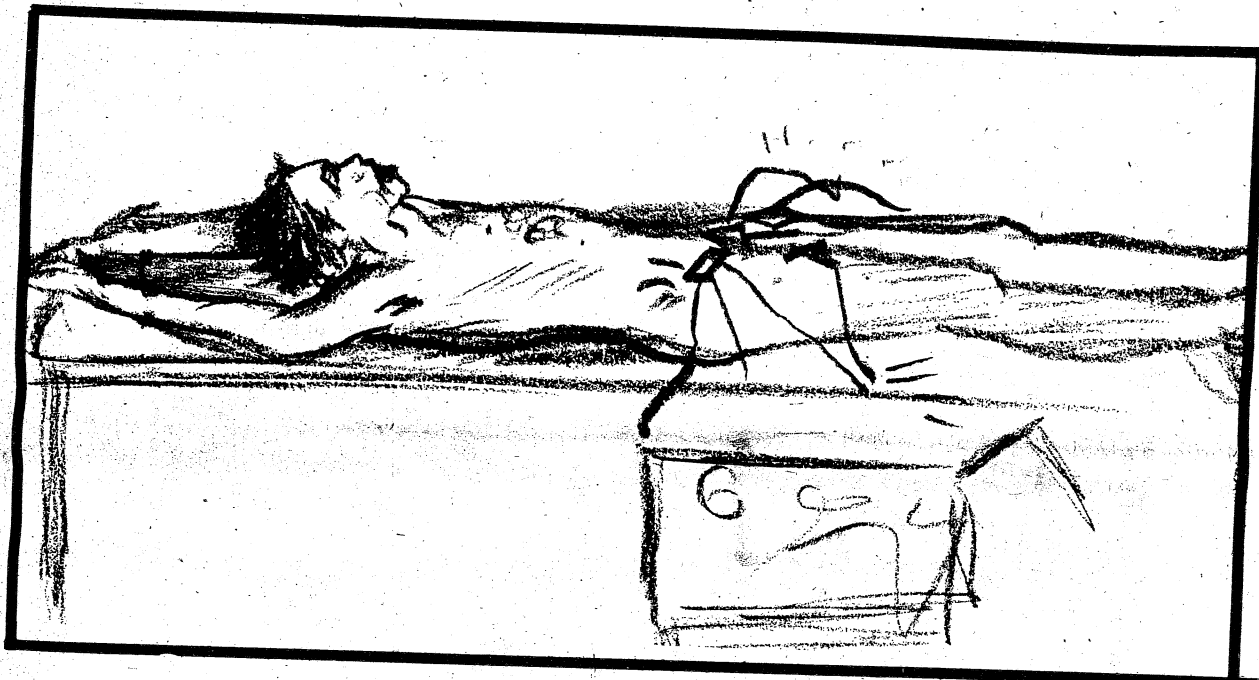
as being attacked by vicious dogs, stung by hornets, being unable to breathe, or being castrated with a hot iron.

Each prisoner in the program will go through 20 sessions of each type of therapy. Presently, no means of assessing the effectiveness of the program has been instituted. The only "concrete" assessment of the program is in the rearrest rates of its "graduates". Indeed, no sound method of evaluation may exist. No similar program, employing a combination of the described techniques, has been attempted elsewhere.

Prisoners are routinely told by the mental hygiene unit staff that participation in the program was viewed favorably by the parole board. They are also told it was in their right to re-use the program. At other times, prisoners were told that participation was essential for parole. The three plaintiffs in the suit were denied parole for refusing to participate in the program. In one instance, parole board member Bert McNamara said that if he had his way, the prisoner would be on the end of a rope. At the same hearing, parole board member Herbert Smith asked the prisoner whether he masturbated. The prisoner said that he would rather serve his full sentence rather than participate in the program. The board denied him parole.

Although Connecticut Corrections Commissioner Manson and others have stated time and again that this is a voluntary program, they are only telling half the truth. Granted that no one is strapped to the bench and shocked nor is one thrown in the hole for refusing to participate in the shock program, the coerciveness manifests itself in the worst possible way; the failure to get out of Somers.

This suit, filed in the Federal District Court in Connecticut on January 29, points out several things. First, Somers is one of New England's most oppressive prisons. Second, the parole board is shown to be a repressive element in prisons. Third, behavior modification programs must never be instituted in prisons, because within a prison there exists no means for such a program to be voluntary. Because one's activities inside so strongly affects one's chances for release, participation in programs such as Aversion Therapy can only be a tool to secure or deny one's release. In Somers, this was a blatant fact; but it is a fact in any prison, even if not stated.



Parole Hearing at Somers

May 31, 1973

CASE OF: MELVIN D. TAYLOR

No. 22894

My name is Smith, Herb Smith, and I'm acting as the Chairman and this is Mr. Morano and the gentleman who will sit here very shortly will be Mr. McNamara. He'll be sitting right here. Now, Mr. Taylor, I want to talk to you about the possibility of parole. I know you've been denied--you were denied last May.

Mr. Taylor: Ah, yes.

Mr. Smith: Right?

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. Smith: Since that time, as a matter of fact at that time, there was some concern about you getting involved in some kind of a program or at least they discussed this I understand. You've had some discussions about getting into some kind of a program that might help you begin to understand what makes you tick.

Mr. Taylor: Well, I was in a program before it disbanded.

Mr. Smith: What was the name of that program.

Mr. Taylor: That was Dr. Kawiecki's group.

Mr. Smith: Right. Okay. Now, what?

Mr. Taylor: Well, I haven't been in anything since.

Mr. Smith: OK. Now, you know that the Board has been very interested in trying to develop some kind of a program with you and it's our understanding that in the institutional psychiatric

department there is a Mr. Marino and a Mr. Wolf (Marino is head of the Aversion Therapy program--ed.).

Mr. Taylor: I've spoken to these people already.

Mr. Smith: And it's our further understanding that, ah, you might be willing to participate in that program.

Mr. Taylor: I'll be willing to participate in one thing and that's getting out of here. I've been here long enough, people have given me the run-around all these years, it's time I was put on the street period. I'm willing to participate in some program outside if you want it but I've been here long enough. I've served my time more than I should have. I don't belong here to begin with. You all know I've been on trial already twice. This kind of business doesn't make any sense. It's costing my family and myself thousands of dollars already. It is miserable injustice when I'm capable of earning a good living outside and nobody gives me a chance. Nobody investigates anything, to give me a chance to find out what kind of a person I really am.

Mr. Smith: Do you have any problem with going into that program here?

Mr. Taylor: I do not want to go into that program, and I've been denied all these years in here. This is not right.

Mr. Smith: We think you need a program.

Mr. Taylor: I will not, no way. I'll

do all my eleven years before I'll participate in any program here. Outside I will cooperate but I want to get out of here. I don't belong here.

Mr. Taylor: You want me to do all twenty years I'll do it.

Mr. McNamara: You know if I had my way what you'd do.

Mr. Taylor: I'd do it.

Mr. McNamara: You'd be on the end of a rope.

Mr. Taylor: If I had done this I would certainly admit it. I'm not ashamed of anything that I've done.

Mr. Smith: No. Let me ask you one question. Do you masturbate?

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. Smith: How often?

Mr. Taylor: Oh, every once in a while.

Mr. Smith: Why do you hide?

Mr. Taylor: Hunh?

Mr. Smith: Why do you hide it?

Mr. Taylor: I don't hide it.

Mr. Smith: You don't hide it at all.

Mr. Taylor: No.

Mr. Smith: When you get ready to masturbate.

Mr. Taylor: No.

Mr. Smith: You just go right ahead.

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. Smith: OK. Do you--step out--do you have any questions of Mr.--.

No.

Step outside and we'll call you back when we've made our decision.

(Parole Denied)

PRC Report on NH Prison

PRC Report--Introduction

A joint committee of the N.H. House and Senate was formed in March, 1973, after the lockup at the NHSP, "to review the factors which had resulted in the deterioration of conditions at the prison."

The Special Joint Legislative Committee released its final report on October 15, 1974. The report is 67 pages plus an appendix. Toward the end is a list of 29 recommendations. Five spokesmen of the NHSP Prison Reform Council (PRC) issued a report on their top ten priorities out of the 29 recommendations. The PRC is the official, elected representative body of the NHSP prison population. We present below portions of the PRC Spokesmen Report. In italics, we print the Joint Committee proposal for your reference.

The Prison Reform Council Spokesmen have been requested to review and comment on the proposals included in the Final Report of the Joint Legislative Committee on the N.H. State Prison. Specifically, the Spokesmen were asked to list the top 10 priority items among the proposals and comment on them.

First, the PRC Spokesmen believe that any proposal or other effort to improve living conditions in prison, and which aim to the establishment of procedures and programs to enable prisoners to earn and/or learn their way out of prison is worthy of support.

Reasonable and intelligent people should not want to have any person imprisoned in maximum security confinement any longer than is absolutely useful and necessary to society. Such confinement is deteriorating and destructive to any human if applied to him or her too long a period of time. In addition to the human waste, the dollar and cents expense to the taxpayers of keeping a person in prison beyond what is necessary is financially wasteful and does not make sense.

Prisons at today's prices are far too expensive and wasteful to use unwisely. Long sentences applied solely for the purpose of revenge and to satisfy some sick, vindictive and voracious appetites were never just or wise and they are even less so in this day of the advanced and enlightened society.

The 10 proposals listed herein were selected by the Spokesmen after much study and discussion. It was difficult to make a selection from the proposals for top-priority designation for 10 of them. In reality, each of the 29 proposals is in one way or another a top-priority item and should be considered as such. It is not the intent of the Spokesmen that any proposal outside of the 10 be dismissed or considered unimportant.

The list below is not set up in order of preference but the more important items in the minds of the Spokesmen will be kept at the head of the list.

1. Proposal #29--Furlough Program
The Special Joint Legislative Committee on the New Hampshire State Prison has under consideration and expects to submit a separate report on the implementation of a furlough system at the New Hampshire State Prison.

There is in existence a furlough program in 37 states (at last count) and throughout the Federal Prison System. There is great need for the implementation of a furlough program for prisoners in the state of New Hampshire. It is not only humane but a useful tool in the hands of prison administrators. Many times it is essential as well as desirable that an inmate be allowed to leave the confines of prison during the serving of his sentence. The reasons for such valid release of temporary furlough are far too numerous to list. However furloughs should and would be granted: To visit a family member who is critically ill at home or in a hospital; to attend the funeral of a close friend or relative; to attend to pressing family business that could not be handled any other way; to strengthen weakening family ties that are eroding due to the inmate's incarceration; and to seek gainful employment prior to release. Oft times a prisoner is denied release for

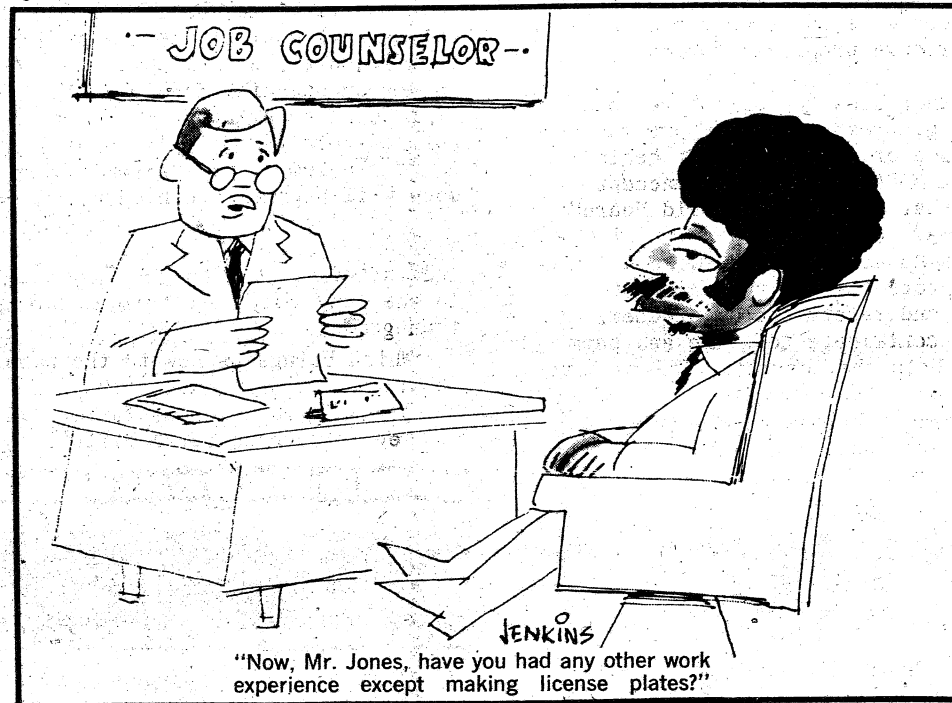
attending such matters due to the fact that prison officials are without the legal means to grant temporary release, absent a furlough program. Even when legal means can be obtained in time, there is always confusion and an inordinate effort required of the officials to provide release. A furlough program would totally eliminate all these problems. Large salaries are paid to men for their expertise in handling such prison matters and their reasoning and responsibility should extend to the care and maintaining of a furlough program.

Occasionally there is news of a failure on the furlough program in other states. Compared to the success rate the failure is miniscule indeed. In fact, just over the state line, in the sister-state of Massachusetts the failure rate on the furlough program there is less than 2%, or in better terminology, the success rate is greater than 98%!

The Spokesmen conclude this issue at this time by saying that a furlough system should be implemented in the State of New Hampshire--not only for the sole benefit of the inmate but to further assist the state's penologists in bringing about reform in convicted criminals. Society in general can only benefit by this--the demand should be for such programs.

2. Proposal #24--Expansion of Half-Way House Program

That the Half-way House Program be expanded to facilitate increased work-release and educational release opportunities for eligible inmates, preferably to be located in the population centers of our state.



The Spokesmen concur with the proposal as presented by the Joint Legislative Committee. Fortunately, a Half-way House has been in use successfully and for sufficient time that its value as a tool in corrections is obvious.

3. Proposal #23--Department of Corrections

That a long-ranger study be undertaken to determine the feasibility of establishing a department of corrections in New Hampshire.

The Spokesmen are not satisfied with the language of the proposal as it is presented in the Final Report. The proposal is that a long-range study be undertaken to determine the feasibility of establishing a department of corrections in New Hampshire. If such a study is necessary at all it should not be on a long-range basis. New Hampshire is one of the very few states without a department of corrections. There are no more than two other states in the entire country that do not have this vital organization.

A great amount of study has gone into this proposed department of corrections over a period of many years. Almost every time the Legislature convenes, some enlightened member recommends a bill to establish a department of corrections in the State of New Hampshire. Each time the issue has been defeated due largely to the fact that a strong lobby group against the esta-

ishment of the department exists in this state. What their motives are have been kept a jealously guarded secret, but who they are is well known and this year would be a good time to take them to task and learn why they deceive the public and oppose this much needed piece of legislation.

With all due respect to the Joint Legislative Committee, the time for a department of corrections in this state is now and not at the end of another long-range study. The matter has in fact already been studied to death.

4. Proposal #25--Visiting Improvements

That capital budgeting be provided for adequate space to accommodate expanded visiting opportunities as well as other rehabilitative programs.

Same as #5 below.

5. Proposal #26--Visiting Improvements

That expanded visiting hours be established by the Prison administration to assist the inmates in maintaining family ties and personal relationships while in the institution.

Both Proposal #25 and 26 deal with the matter of visitation. The first is for capital budgeting to enlarge the space for expanded visiting opportunities as well as other rehabilitative programs. It would follow naturally that more visiting hours could and would be established with increased space. There are two items that are vitally important to almost every inmate without exception and these are the mail and the visits. It is a fact that even the most passive-type individual in confinement will bristle and even become hostile if his mail or visits are in any way threatened or interfered with. The State

of California recently performed a study on the correlates to people successful on parole. The only correlate they could establish related to the visits. It showed consistently that the more visits an inmate had during his incarceration the greater his chances of being a success on parole.

6. Proposal #3--Administration Reorganization

That an administrative reorganization take place and that an administrative chart be developed for all prison personnel clearly delineating roles and responsibilities.

It is imperative that this proposal be seriously considered and put into full effect as soon as possible. The Spokesmen recognize the fact that Warden Helgemoe, though only recently assuming duties at the state prison, has set about to make an effective reorganization and that all prison personnel clearly understand their role and responsibility. Undoubtedly the Warden needs legislative assistance in areas of budget for personnel and materials. The efficiency of any business depends almost entirely upon its organizational structure. The Legislature, to help, must recognize its own important role in providing funds, making new laws, changing old ones and in keeping the matter of corrections as top-priority at all times.

Legislation for New Hampshire

by Monty Neill

A variety of legislation has been offered in this year's session of the N. H. Legislature. The N.H. Chapter of the New England Prisoners' Association (NEPA) has, thanks to Rep. Dudley Dudley, entered some legislation to reform the parole laws. Several furlough bills have been introduced, as well as the financial requests (capital budget and operating budget) for the state prison and the half-way house.

On many of these bills NEPA, inside and outside, takes a divided position. For example, the furlough bills. NEPA believes that, given the demonstrable fact that prisons don't work and are destructive, furloughs should be instituted as a right to all prisoners except the very few who can be shown to be violently dangerous to others.

We worked out such a bill but, due to our legislative inexperience and the simple fact that few boat-rockers inhabit the N.H. Legislature, the bill was not introduced. However, two other bills were. Both are more similar than dissimilar in that they call for furloughs (or "approved absences") as a privilege to be earned. One, the more restrictive of the two, initially had the backing of the NHSP Board of Trustees who, a month later, rescinded their official approval.

NEPA takes a divided position on these bills. On the one hand, the existence of such furloughs is certainly beneficial to the few recipients. Further, should the recipients keep it cool on the streets, as they no doubt will, additional support could be gathered for a more sweeping furlough proposal: furloughs as a right.

On the other hand the bills are both dishearteningly restrictive. More fundamental, however, are the ideas behind them. We of NEPA simply do not accept the notion that a prisoner should "earn" his or her way out of prison.

If imprisonment has any rationale, it must be to protect society, punish the wrong-doer, and reform the wrong-doer. But prisons contribute to crime and harm rather than help the convict. Prisons have no useful reason for existence, so there exists no reason why one should have to "earn" one's way out.

The dangers of many reform bills, such as the two furlough bills we are considering, is that they fundamentally reinforce the illusion that prisons can be reformed, that convicts ought to "earn" their way back to society. Yet virtually all prison reform efforts over the past century have only made the situation worse. The solution is to tear the walls down, not to reinforce them with carrot-on-a-stick programs for the prisoners.

We take a similar approach to the capital improvement budget submitted by the Board of Trustees. How much will or will not be cut by Meddlin' Mel before he submits his capital budget to the legislature is as yet unknown. However, plans now call for some extensive renovation of the Concord facility: a new dining room and kitchen; re-furbishing the Annex; moving around to provide a larger, more accessible library; and a new auto-repair shop in the North Yard.

Well, it would certainly be hard-hearted to come out against a new kitchen and dining room when the old one stinks. And use of the new dining room would free up space and guards for more recreation, library time, classrooms and other goodies. Also not something to which one cares to say no. The same holds true for the auto-body repair shop, which will have the dual purpose of training cons in auto repair and enabling the state to get its cars repaired more cheaply once the initial investment is made.

Yet fixing up a prison only makes it more desirable to keep. And no evidence exists that most of the new programs will benefit more than a minority of the cons in any substantial fashion. The public will have new programs to see, the cons more carrots (definitely edible), but the basic problem of the prison's very existence will become more hidden. So we of NEPA are faced with balancing the obvious short-run benefits against a deep-seated understanding that history proves that in the long run, more harm is being done than good.

Which brings us now to the parole reform bills. NEPA had a more comprehensive plan than what was introduced. Rep. Dudley introduced our legislation with

some trepidation, fearing that to raise the issue of parole could lead the Thomson-Loeb forces to offer amendments to our legislation that would have the effect of making parole worse.

The substance of our legislation is as follows: 1) A parolee could only be violated if accused of a felony or a misdemeanor. No more could a person be returned for breaking curfew, going to a bar, hanging out with "bad company" and other such things which are normally part of a parolee's contract with the parole board.

2) Should a person be violated (arrested for a crime), then he would not be found guilty of the crime, he/she would immediately be returned to parole, with the parole date retroactive to the original parole date on any official forms.

3) If a person stays clean on parole for two years, he or she receives a final discharge from the prison (unless regularly scheduled for an earlier release). As it is now, people can be on parole for 5, 10 or more years, up to life. Thus a constant threat hangs over the parolee, making his/her adjustment back to society more difficult.

The essence of our proposal is to allow a parolee a more normal life, reducing the pressure. Another bill has been introduced, upon our suggestion, that would enable a person who has been clean for three years after final release to appeal to the court to erase the record of conviction. This too would relieve the pressure kept on the ex-con, pressure which makes finding and keeping a job and living a normal life very difficult.

To sum up, we feel our parole reform bill is very important and ask all persons to contact their legislators to urge support for our bill. For the other legislation, we do take a divided stance. However, weighed in the balance, given the political climate in New Hampshire and its domination by the Loeb-Thomson forces, we feel that passage of a furlough bill is desirable. But we promise that in the coming years, we will be around to see the passage of a bill to make furlough a right available to the prisoners. And this will be simply a step on the road to the abolition of prisons.

PRC

7. Proposal #20--Study of Parole System Effectiveness

That funding be provided for an independent study of the State Parole Department to assess the effectiveness of the system. The Committee considers an effective parole department to be a vital and necessary link in our correctional system.

In an advanced and truly modern correctional system it is doubtful that parole systems, as they are known and in use today, would serve a useful function. There are far superior methods of supervision for prisoners on early release. Too often a parolee is returned to maximum security confinement when skilled counselling would have accomplished a more desirable end result and at far less expense to the taxpayers than a return to prison. The best interests of society are never served when any person is returned to prison merely for rule infractions and misdemeanors. If a parolee has committed no actual crime there should be no placement in prison just as there would not be if a person not on parole did not commit a felony. If a parolee shows signs of failing the intent of parole should be to counsel, to find causes and to help up to and including returning the parolee to half-way house for strengthening until the parolee is again ready to meet the challenge and competition of every day life in the community.

8. Proposal #6--Legal Services

That increased availability of legal services be provided to the Prison Administration through the Attorney General's office, as well as establishing the posi-

tion of a full-time lawyer to meet the legal needs of the inmates such as the program outlined in the LEAA grant application.

Legal services should be available to inmates from an independent source. The services should be provided by a full-time attorney paid specifically for that service from LEAA funds granted to the Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Prison Board of Trustees has recommended and urged that inmate legal services be provided from the Crime Commission. Repeatedly the commission refuses to fund the legal services for inmates. If the Crime Commission were not so choked up with a heavy membership of police officials then a more realistic solution may have been already issued other than a flat denial. The Spokesmen question whether the present structure of the Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency is compatible to and meeting standards for federally provided LEAA benefits. Perhaps the legislature should request clarification from Washington and request guidelines on the matter and an investigation by LEAA officials to determine if in fact the Crime Commission is operating in legal and satisfactory manner with the federal funds provided it for distribution.

9. Proposal #16--Drug Problem

That a separate Drug Unit and rehabilitation program be funded for the Prison to provide adequate and meaningful treatment.

It is highly recommended by the Spokesmen that a separate Drug Unit and rehabilitation program be funded for

adequate and meaningful treatment. But it cannot be recommended that the services and treatment take place at the prison or in any prison-type environment. To begin with, most drug offenders are the victims of their own crimes. More clearly, involved generally in this category is the classic victimless crime. Many criminal experts question the wisdom of committing such offenders to prison in the first place. There need be specialized medical/psychological treatment to accomplish results with drug-related offenders. Perhaps such programs as Project Turn Around can be properly funded so as to enable it to provide adequate service for the prison's needs.

10. Proposal #9--Recreation Director, Programs, Equipment

That the position of Athletic Director be established to direct the present program and that adequate funds be appropriated for innovative and expanded athletic programs and equipment.

It is hoped by the Spokesmen that this proposal will receive much serious consideration. There is very little in the prison to meet the needs of the inmates regarding athletic programs and equipment. A director could perform a good service in obtaining equipment, planning programs and creating an interest to participate.

Boredom in prisons is the root of a large percentage of problems. This could be effectively eliminated through the application of this proposal.

Next month we will discuss the other nineteen recommendations of the Joint Committee.--ed.

Skinner Rules on Norfolk 26

The case of *Arthur Fano et al v Larry Meachum et al* has provided Massachusetts prisoners with more guarantee of due process, has hampered the Department of Correction's use of informants and fabrication, and has once again exposed the corrupt nature of the DOC.

Fano is one of six prisoners who sued Norfolk Warden Larry Meachum, Correction Commissioner Frank Hall and others in Federal District Court in Mass. before Judge Walter Skinner. The six men were of the group now known as the Norfolk 26 who were shipped out of Norfolk following fires and a work stoppage at the prison last fall. Claiming a lack of due process in being transferred to a more adverse condition of confinement, the six attempted to get the suit declared as a class action suit. Skinner declined to certify a class action; but he did note that his decision stands as precedent for the 11 other men who would have been included in a class action.

In his finding of facts, Skinner first noted the fires and tension in Norfolk last fall. On Oct. 25, Supt. Meachum presented each plaintiff with a copy of a disciplinary report, and referred each charge of an offense to the local D.A. Meachum claimed that this procedure meant no disciplinary procedure was necessary, and none was held.

Then, on Nov. 4, 1974, each plaintiff received a notice of a classification hearing. Each notice claimed information had been received from a "reliable source". And though each plaintiff had a lawyer, neither lawyer nor plaintiff was allowed to hear the evidence presented against the plaintiffs. Reportedly, the evidence consisted of a recitation by Meachum "of information purportedly furnished to him by a confidential informant. The nature of this information has never been made known to the plaintiffs or to their counsel even in summary form. They have not been informed of even so much as the dates and places of the alleged offenses."

After Skinner noted that the conditions of confinement at Walpole and Bridgewater are substantially more adverse than those at Norfolk, Skinner made his ruling.

He referred to the due process requirements of *Wolff v McDonnell*, U.S. (No. 73-679, June 26, 1974) and Skinner's own elaboration thereof in *Daigle et al v Hall et al*, CA 74-4783-S, filed Jan. 7, 1975 (the decision in the struggle of Bobby Daigle, Arty Morrow and Jerry Sousa to get out of Walpole's Departmental Segregation Unit).

Skinner stated that the defendants claimed they could not give a hearing

Who's Deceiving Whom?

by Richard O'Brien

As of this writing (1/23/75) all prisoners at Walpole are locked in their cells while the whole prison is being shook down.

Many guns have been found within the prison and just as many rounds of ammunition.

This letter is for you! The Public, Commissioner Hall, all the Prisoners in Massachusetts and our silent as well as out-spoken politicians.

Mr. Hall has stated over and over again his desire to rid this state of its state prison in order to construct a community based correctional system with smaller prisons for those who need them. (Governor Dukakis also stated his negative feelings toward Walpole.) Mr. Hall realizes that he needs the support of the community in order to have the communities accept his proposals for reform.

In order for the D. of C. to create a new and more positive image and also to relate to the public that Walpole is

because that would cause risk to the informant. But, ruled Skinner, "It is absolutely basic to any concept of due process that a person charged be given sufficient information concerning the charge against him so that the may intelligently prepare a defense."

Declaring that the department must have at least similar hearing procedures in each prison, he found that Norfolk must: 1) follow Walpole's regulations (Institution Order 4310.1); 2) or "develop independent evidence which would obviate the need for the confidential informant's testimony;" 3) or "to forego disciplinary action if the interest in preserving the secrecy of confidential information is deemed paramount."

Order 4301.1 states, in brief, that no evidence can be taken in the absence of the accused unless either the absence is voluntary or the board chairman determines that disclosure would involve "Subjecting the informant to a risk of harm" or a substantial security risk exists. If one of the latter two reasons is found, the board chairman must note such a finding on the record, and summarize the information for the accused and "state generally the board's reasons for protective action."

After ordering the department as a whole to have due process that is essentially uniform in each prison, Skinner went on to really blow the cover off the DOC:

There is one further matter to be discussed. During the course of the hearing, the following exchange occurred between the Assistant Attorney General, representing the defendants, and the Court.

"Mr. HARROD. Your Honor, I am sure this system as I know it and to which I have applied my efforts in defense in the last two years will find some way of squeezing around your order, but I am not so sure that either the interests of the Court, the public or the inmates are best served by that course of action. I am sure they will be in the same historical perspective as the dropsy cases arose as a result of certain orders of the Court. I am sure that in this instance the very pliable or flexible Department of Corrections for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will find some way to discipline these men in spite of we would consider to be a very imbalanced Court order.

'The COURT. In short, you are going to say they are going to start lying and submitting documents that are inaccurate and false and working in fraud of the orders of the Court; is that what you are telling me?

'Mr. HARROD. I am not suggesting that, your Honor. I am suggesting that they will use their God-given brains and talent to find some way of legitimately obtaining the same effect that they now enjoy through the presentation of evidence.'

'Dropsy case' is a slang term used by lawyers to describe the situation in which a law enforcement officer supposedly falsely testifies that contraband which he has seized without warrant 'dropped' out of a defendant's pocket or vehicle onto the ground right before his eyes. The purpose of such testimony is to justify what would otherwise have been an illegal search and seizure.

Forewarned is forearmed. If this Court should become sensible that its orders were being deliberately frustrated it would be inclined to embark on some disciplinary procedures of its own.

Skinner then ordered the plaintiffs returned to Norfolk in general population, and not to be transferred to "confinements substantially more adverse... by reason of their specific prior conduct" unless they have a hearing meeting the requirements of Institution Order 4301.1 and Commissioner's Bulletin 72-1. Hall and Meachum must submit to the court, for approval, "regulations governing the inmates at MCI-Norfolk."

In sum, Skinner's decision re-affirmed and strengthened the due process requirements. It eroded, hopefully shattered, the ability of Meachum and others to rely on informants (and--this is a perhaps--to totally fabricate evidence under the cover of using an informant). And the DOC blew its pretense of obeying Court orders so thoroughly that Skinner had to publicly warn the Department.

We do not know how actively Skinner will seek to find out what the DOC is doing or not doing to comply with the order. It will be up to the prisoners to force Hall, Meachum and company to follow the ruling, and to drag them into court at the first sign of non-compliance. Sure would be interesting if Skinner ends up feeling forced to slap DOC heavies in jail for contempt of court.



to be a symbol of the past, it has to be destroyed, "while prior to doing so" the prisoners should be given a chance to prove themselves to the community.

Why then is all this detrimental news coverage being centered solely upon the prisoners at Walpole?

Why is it that the media is isolating the prisoners as the sole source and reason for all the weapons at Walpole?

If the "New Philosophy" is to construct a better and more positive image of prisoners to both the legislators and the public, why is the D. of C. sanctioning this unjustified exposure of the prisoners by the media?

Why isn't the D. of C. speaking out and giving some other alternatives as to the source of these weapons and how they are getting inside a Maximum Security Prison. A prison in which you the tax payers, you the victims of violent crimes, you the people who are going to have to face and live with 85-90% of these prisoners once they are let out of Walpole, you the people who are paying \$17,500 per man per year to keep them in there, you the people who were just charged over \$1,000,000 to have steel walls and metal detectors installed throughout the prison, yes, to you the people who are being used

(cont. on p. 14)



Mullaney & Finney Out?

from SCAR'd TIMES

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has brought charges of improper conduct against Warden Mullaney and Deputy Warden Finney at Maine State Prison.

The charges were brought after a complaint was filed with the union by Jeffrey P. Currie, a former guard at the prison. Currie was forced to resign by Mullaney and Finney after being told that they had sworn statements from several inmates stating that he had smuggled marijuana into MSP. At that time, Currie asked to see copies against him and was refused.

If Mullaney and Finney do have this information, and they have not turned it over to authorities, they are acting in violation of criminal statutes. If they do not, then it should be considered that they are intimidating their employees to force them to resign.

The Portland Press Herald, in a recent editorial, has called for a full investigation by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.

Somerset Jail

The harassment of prisoners continues at the Somerset, Maine, County Jail, and possible out-of-court resolution of a lawsuit against the jail now appears stalemated by the stubbornness of Sheriff Francis Henderson.

Alcoholics and drug addicts have been denied medical attention, others have been locked without bedding, and one brother was confined to the drunk tank in his shorts. When he protested the inhuman conditions, he was maced in the eyes.

Sheriff Henderson, when confronted with the written standards of the Dept. of Mental Health and Corrections, admitted he had never read them.

As a result of the conditions at the prison, a lawsuit was initiated, SCAR et al v Henderson et al. The suit seeks to establish minimum standards for the prisoners. By contrast, SCAR member Robbie Bothen reports Henderson as saying that a person in jail has no rights.

Bothen was working to raise bail for Terry Leet, a plaintiff in the suit, and had gone to visit him at the jail. He found the jail in a lock-up and was denied entrance. Henderson said that he had never heard of the bail fund and that Leet shouldn't be allowed bail anyway.

So with Henderson's attitude hardening, the chance of an out-of-court settlement being negotiated by the lawyers grows remote. Either Henderson is pretty sure of his power or isn't playing with a full deck. But with SCAR on his ass, he is likely to lose the whole thing, like Tom Eisenstadt, Suffolk, Mass. Sheriff who had his whole jail ordered closed.

Windham

from SCAR'd TIMES

The men held in the Men's Correctional Center Windham, Maine, have begun to more actively work to change the prison from the inside. Attempts are now being made, through meeting with the superintendant to change some of the little rules and regulations that are a constant source of aggravation to the brothers there. In a January 21 meeting inside, discussion centered around these topics:

1) access of all inmates to a pay phone

Death Squad Not Punished

A former Portland cop who has admitted, along with three others, to conspiring to kill ex-convicts in the Portland area is still walking the streets.

Patrolman Edward Foster admitted in Civil Service hearings two months ago that he had helped form the Portland Death Squad, whose sole purpose was to "eliminate" the so-called troublemakers in the city. At the hearing three other cops also admitted that they had been involved.

Foster was fired and now drives a cab. The other three still are walking their beats in the same areas as before, which happen to be the in the parts of town where many ex-cons hang out. In recent weeks at least one of these cops, Serfes, has gotten consistently more and more provocative towards the people in the streets, especially ex-cons and SCAR members. Apparently this cop feels bolstered by the fact that he and the other cops got off scott-free in this death squad business, so far.

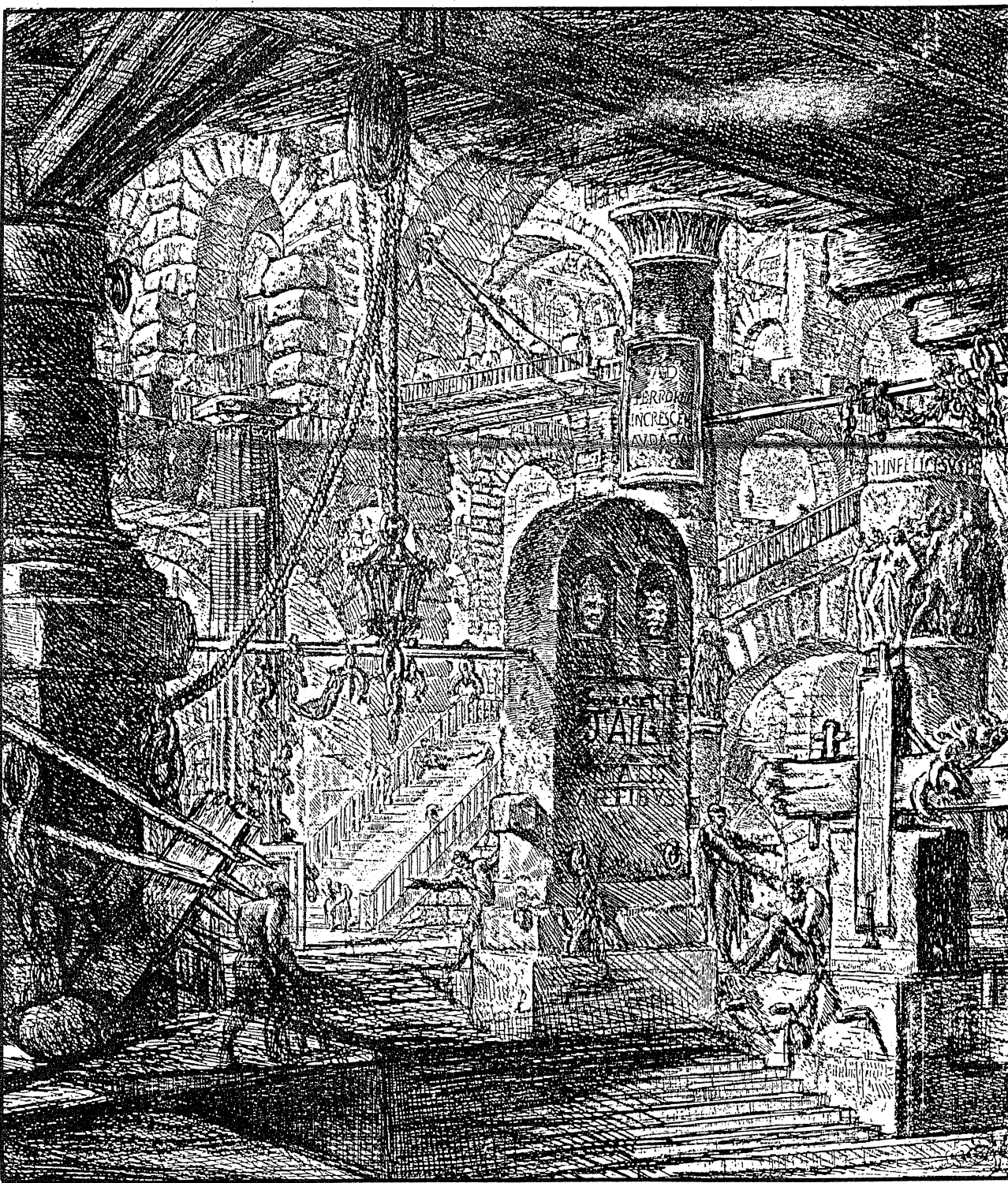
Because of the provocative, egotistical, fascist attitude displayed by Serfes, SCAR is more actively that ever seeking

justice in this entire matter. We are attempting to meet with the Attorney General to push for indictments against these cops for conspiracy to commit murder. We intend, also, to more actively seek the dismissal of Serfes and the other cops involved in this plot. These men are dangerous and should not be allowed to wield power and authority over others.

This entire incident is yet another example of the travesty of so-called justice in America. Four cops admit publicly their intent to people and there isn't even an indictment issued.

If the courts don't act on this matter the message will be clear to ex-convicts and other community people that there is no sense in relying on the "establishment" for justice. If something comes down against one of our people, we will know better than to petition the courts!

We demand that appropriate action be taken, NOW! There will be no time for explanations on why things weren't done if enemies of justice like Serfes are not stopped now.



- 2) more furloughs
- 3) an inmate council suggestion box
- 4) inmate fund records being made available
- 5) more concerts, to be paid for out of the fund
- 6) stricter discipline of certain guards
- 7) revive the swimming program
- 8) require food servers to wear hats
- 9) change and expand visiting privileges
- 10) more meetings with the superintendant

According to a brother recently released from Windham, the most important issue there is the question raised about how and where the money from the Inmates Fund is to be spent. The fund was created for the purpose of making purchases not covered by state funds but, allowed by law for the bet-

terment of inmate life. Money for the fund comes primarily from inmate labor. All records concerning the fund are kept as secret as possible. The inmates, for whom the fund was founded have no voice in its operation. It has been over a year since any official report has been disclosed as to the status of the fund. At that time \$8,000+ was reported.

The time allowed for visits is another important question. Out of the 105 awake hours only 3 hours a week is open for the personal visits from family and friends. At the State Prison inmates are allowed verbal contact with family and friends through the use of pay phones but in Windham this is denied.

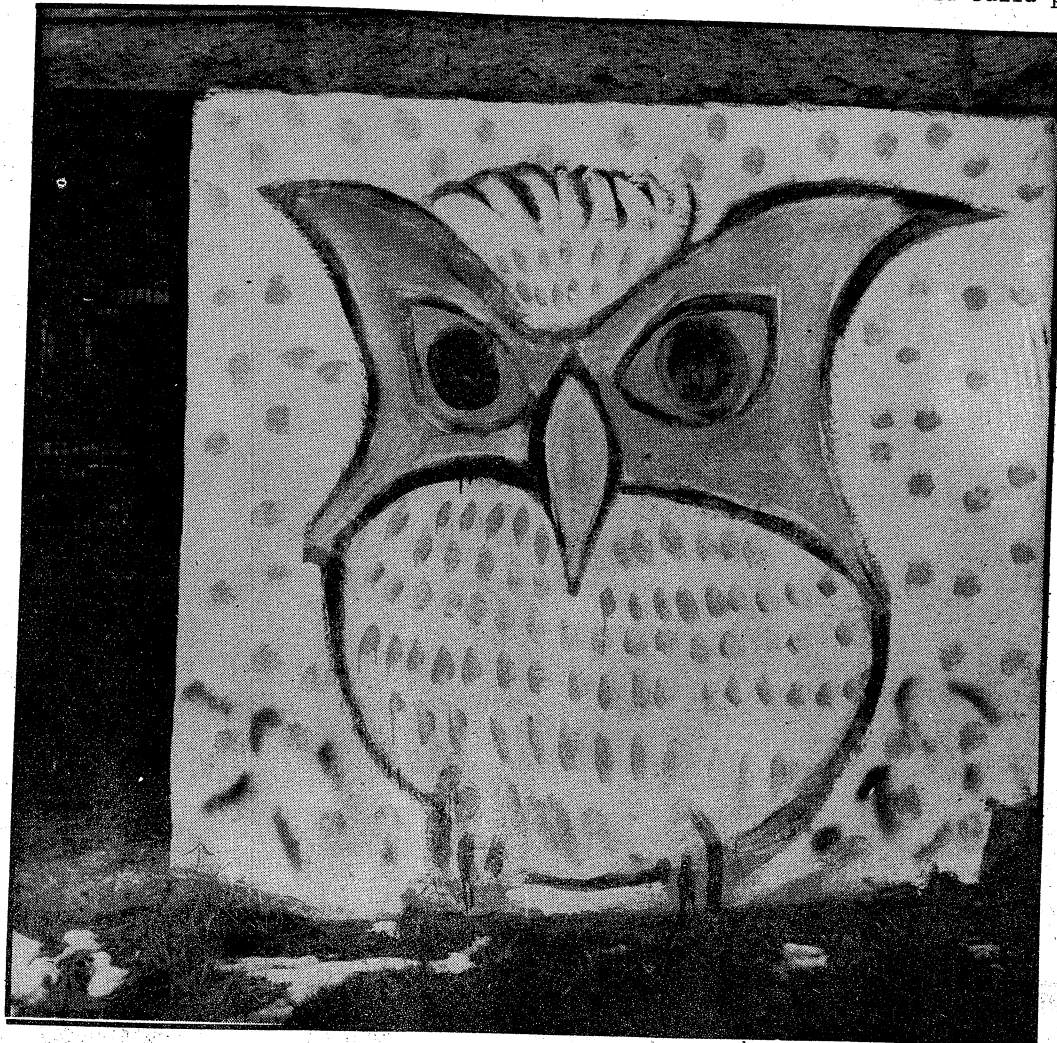
City as Prison

The December issue of NEPA NEWS article on HARTFORD: THE URBAN FORTRESS points to one of the most crucial evils of our time - the city as prison. The hard walls and the fences of prison architecture are becoming the models for public buildings throughout the United States. Schools, hospitals, offices, and homes are being built to house machines and protect property. Current faith in "security" gadgetry (billions are spent each year in U.S.A.) and trust in the cruel form of the cyclone fence increase human misery and make the environment less secure. Genuine security is based on trust between people, pleasure in natural contact, and delight in the warmth and variety of the environment. Prisons are a paradigm of man's attempt to force other men to conform to a standard rule that bears no relationship to the human organism. Walls that are flat, dull and heavy express the feeling of resistance to life, limits of life, enclosure of life. Fortresses and prisons are based on fear and fear breeds more fear.

The regular destruction and cover-up of

of voice can be a wall. Indifference to another human being is probably the most monstrous of walls and the one that injures in a deep and lasting way.

As of yet, the R.I. Training School has not covered up the exterior walls painted on maintenance and office buildings, but I do not trust that the murals will last. In a sense the murals are not important - what is of major significance is the right of people to shape their own environment, change their own environment, and transform their own environment to meet their needs. By enforcing idleness, passivity, dependency and helplessness in the prisons, the administrators act against life in a profound way. It is a person's right and ultimate need to grow. Those who would deprive living creatures of this right are doing all life an injustice. However, it is most heartening to see that men, women, and children continue to create and grow, despite the system. It is imperative that self-directed activities of all currency be fostered within the prisons, and in doing so we shall succeed in un-doing that dark side of man that would build prisons.



murals painted in the Rhode Island Boys Training School is symptomatic of an unhealthy impulse to deny reality and choose the mask of emptiness to the face of expression. Administrators in public institutions create walls daily between themselves and those they fear (anyone who is not a company man or an administrator). A face can be a wall - a desk can be a wall - a tone

The large owl painted on the outside of a R.I. Training School Wall serves as a reminder of the double aspect of all experience - the owl symbolizes darkness, night, and death, and it also symbolizes WISDOM. As we transform ourselves by assuming responsibility and concern for our own identity and that of our brother and sister, we serve the wise side of the owl.

Jaycee Christmas Party

The ACI Jaycees, in keeping with their tradition, held their Annual Christmas Party for Children on December 22, 1974.

An overflowing number of adult guests and children, after being individually greeted by their loved ones here at the ACI, celebrated for three hours, during which time recorded music was played for the enjoyment and relaxation of all, refreshments served, and jubilant, smiling tots received bags of goodies, Christmas stockings and toys from good old Saint Nick.

A very relaxed atmosphere prevailed all during the night's festivities, and the cares and woes of those in attendance were put aside.

A theme of the ACI Jaycees, "doing for others," has become almost proverbial with this group. Over the years they have come to the aid of many with their family days, Christmas parties, and assistance to the mentally retarded, to name just a few.

Because of the physical set-up of the institution, and although at times it becomes quite frustrating for a conglomeration of men such as the Jaycees to complete their progressive and humane programs, the end result is most significant and meaningful, especially when the joy and happiness of their loved ones is the ultimate goal.

So, another Christmas has come and gone, and we all give special thanks to a group of guys who made things a lot easier for us through the Holidays--the ACI Jaycees.

Conditions at ACI

from the Providence Journal Bulletin

I heartily agree with your paper's editorial of Dec. 26, 1974, concerning the disheartening lack of job training for ACI inmates. Having recently toured the maximum security building, I saw for myself men who are allowed to reflect only the poorest aspects of life on the streets they have left - men unemployed who have nothing to do except "hang around." Any bored group of individuals will sooner or later get into trouble. Is there any wonder that the emphasis on control alone has not worked?

In addition to the lack of job training, there is a total lack of educational facilities beyond the high school equivalency program, which could supplement vocational training.

Also, conditions now are less than sanitary, to say the least. I have never seen or smelled a less inviting cafeteria than this one. Grimy ceilings are washed by men standing above food prepared for inmates. An open hole full of water and bobbing refuse is the receptacle for what appears to be a waste hose. Sheets and towels are infrequently washed, and corridors outside are cold, dirty, and dank.

Millions have already been voted in bonds to improve the ACI. Bonds were turned down this fall by voters, some of them probably feeling that pouring more millions in to a bottomless pit would be of little more than cosmetic value. A substantial and foresighted program must be presented which would include a vocational rehabilitation program and higher education.

We must remember that the "C" in ACI stands for "corrections," not for "control." Only with corrective and rehabilitative measures will the men of the ACI have any hope of a better future when they return to our streets than they did in the past. Only then will we be safer.

A further step would be a comprehensive program that would include potential ACI inmates, adolescents who frequent the training schools and later "mature" to the ACI. There are virtually no rehabilitative programs available at the training schools. A humane and forward-looking attitude would be one which would see the benefit of spending some dollars to "prime the pump" by supplying adequate job training and education today in order to avoid outbreaks and violence in our prisons tomorrow.

Janice Perelman
Cranston

ACI

Intramural Basketball

With a slant of practicality, a recently new innovation has changed our chapel-theatre-auditorium into a chapel-theatre-auditorium-basketball court.

Fortunately our winter sport enthusiasm has replaced our summer sport laxity. The basketball court is a hit. The idea, whoever's, was short of genius but long of smarts.

Our intramural basketball league is complete, from a Commissioner, down to "file in records". Four teams, the Stars, the Righteous, the Eagles, and the Unpredictables, contend nightly for the thrill of victory. The team standings reflect the competitive spirit of the men playing.

	WON	LOST
STARS	9	3
EAGLES	6	4
RIGHTEOUS	3	7
UNPREDICTABLES	3	9

The league high scorer is D. Carpentier with a 289 point total with a Brilliant .609% from the foul line. However, the versatile Don "Chief" Prout is the league leading foul shooter, gathering an amazing .733%, hitting 11 of 15 attempts from the line.

We have many fine basketball talents among the men who are participating. We know the league is a success. What we are wondering is, will the winning team receive a steak dinner?

New Prison

It all began in the State of Pennsylvania by the Quakers in the days of yore. Believing that penitence was the answer for the lawbreaker, and that whippings and beatings were unjustified and unconstitutional, workhouses, penitentiaries and jails sprung up all over America. Over the years these "institutions" came to be known as penitentiaries, prisons, big houses, "country clubs", brigs, reform schools, reformatories, correctional facilities, treatment centers, etc., etc. In keeping with the changing of names of such facilities, the offender, who was subsequently confined, was referred to as prisoner, convict, inmate, and resident, etc.

Now, in the 20th century, we still do not have a prison definition. The question of whether we are trying to punish, educate or simply incarcerate remains totally unanswered. The truth is that Society is still floundering about trying to determine just what to do with a convicted criminal. It fluctuates from theories of rehabilitation to theories of incarceration for punishment to theories of incarceration as a deterrent to theories of incarceration simply to get the criminal out of the way. We do not know what we are doing for the simple reason that we do not even know what we are trying to do.

Institutions throughout the land vary widely in their expectations of the lawbreaker. They go from such extremes as forced labor to classifications of "unemployed"; from compulsory education to not even caring what an offender's grade level might be. Some institutions offer meritorious or extra good time for participation in such programs as educational, religious, recreational, and other facilities offer nothing--a big fat ZERO!

1975 ACI Legislation

from NPRA News, Oct. 1974

1) Furlough Bill H-6375

A bill to permit the Director of Corrections to authorize furloughs to committed persons under prescribed conditions for a period of time not to exceed fourteen days a year for the following reasons:

- a) to visit seriously ill relatives
- b) to obtain special medical services not available at the ACI
- c) to seek employment prior to release
- d) to secure a residence prior to parole
- e) to visit the immediate family in the interest of psychological rehabilitation
- f) to participate in public informational activities relative to the ACI.

NOTE: thirty-one other states including four other New England states have such a bill. The Warden is most anxious for this bill to pass for its psychological and pragmatic values and as an incentive to residents for good behavior. It is anticipated that the bill may be amended to read that a man must have completed one-sixth of his sentence before being eligible to apply for furlough. No class of prisoners would be excluded from applying for furlough.

2) Parole Time H-6353

Arrest and Revocation of Parole would provide that parolees upon violation of a parole permit shall "not" forfeit every day that the parolee faithfully fulfilled the obligations and conditions of the parole, this shall be considered a part of the parolee's original sentence.

NOTE: If a parolee had served all but one week of the parole and is observed associating with an ex-felon or accused of the most minute law, the parolee is currently subject to for-

From the very beginning, lack of incentive and sheer idleness have paved the way to trouble and have forced bored and futureless men to dream up excitement.

The dollar sign has, and is presently being used, as a weapon more powerful than the consequences of the atom split. The only time Society sits up and takes notice is when incidents occur behind the walls that are so horrible they make a sub-novice of Edgar Alan Poe.

So, Society, most of the whippings and beatings have stopped (we say "most" because there are individuals, still living in the days of yore, who are addicted to such practices), but where do we go from here? What direction, what avenues do we take? Do we allow the proverbial dollar sign to continue to act as a detour on the road to progression?

Citizens of the State of Rhode Island--what about the 7.5 million you presented us with more than two years ago? According to current feedback, the State of Rhode Island, after this investigation and that investigation into the sad conditions of its "correctional" facilities, are finally about to invest the 7.5 million. There is much talk and many reports of a "diagnostic center". We assume this "diagnostic center" will house awaiting trial and admission-orientation inmates. As we understand, the individuals at this "diagnostic center" will go through a rather extensive program, which prognoses should determine the individual's projected needs during his further incarceration.

In all probability, the many counselors, investigators, etc., who will be employed at this "diagnostic center", will begin with a pre-sentence report supplied by the probation department; will analyze the circumstances of the individual's offense;

evaluation of probable institutional adjustment; the inmate's immediate needs regarding the colossal field of rehabilitation; custody assignment; whether or not there is a need for such programs as Alcoholics Anonymous, drug therapy, education, vocational, etc.

Now, where do we go from there? What happens after their probings, investigations, psychological testings, etc., etc., etc.

Let's analyze the situation by gazing into our crystal ball: We see images; a spanking new building, a neatly-dressed staff and leather-upholstered office furniture. We see a young man being put through this test and that test . . . and more tests. We see a classification board and they are reviewing this man's complete record, the record that has been compiled for him during his stay at the "diagnostic center." We see their decision as if written in gigantic neon lights: "Go to jail; go directly to jail; do not stop at GO, do not collect \$200.00". It is a game of Monopoly.

All of the testings, probings, evaluations and decisions relative to this young man have been in vain, for our next image from the crystal ball is that of a young boy being led into the same old sheriff's van, and subsequently dropped off at the same old ACI. He is now housed in the archaic and barbaric "Dante's Inferno", where he will become accustomed to the idleness, frustrations, etc., etc., etc. It is here that we discard our crystal ball, for we do not wish to see the "final chapter."

If we are wrong, all off base, tell us! We would like to know more regarding your "long range" plans.



NPRA NEWS OFFICE Left/Right; Steve Jaron - Center Ray Blais, Editor - Robert Forslun

feiture of "all" time served while on the parole. If the parolee commits a new crime, he will be tried and sentenced separately.

3) Work Release for Lifers

A bill which authorizes persons serving life sentences to participate in the Penal Work Release program after serving eight (8) years of their sentence or within twenty-four months of parole eligibility date. This opportunity would be investigated and authorized by the Classification Board of the ACI, subject to confirmation and final approval by the Director of Corrections.

NOTE: The percentage of men serving life terms who are ever returned to prison is three (3) percent nationally against a national average of eighty percent for all other prisoners. The majority of men serving life sentences are considered better risks than other inmates by correctional personnel and those knowledgeable in penology.

Blood Donations 13-2-44.2

Twenty (20) days for each pint of his or her blood donated to any veteran's organization, civil defense unit, hospital, the armed forces of the United States, or the Red Cross or any fraternal or religious organization or the purposes of scientific research. Each prisoner shall limited to four (4) donations per year, credits not subject to forfeiture.

NOTE: Other states give as high as thirty (30) days deducted off prisoners sentences for a blood donation. Blood is always in demand for hospitals and any incentive towards getting more blood should be a number one priority in corrections. As a reward towards army dedicated years of volunteer blood donations to society, the community should reward its benefactors--the inmates of Rhode Island's Adult Correctional Institutions for inmates faithful service of blood for the entire community.

Prisoners, America

Introduction

As the authors indicate below, the piece that follows was written in response to *Prairie Fire*. For those among you who are not already familiar with *Prairie*, it is the political ideology and strategy of the Weather Underground. It has been printed by numerous collectives around the country, and a committee has been formed to help bring the ideas of *Prairie* to the people. The following address is made available to those of you who wish to obtain a copy: New England Free Press, 60 Union Square, Somerville, Ma. 02142. \$1.65 a copy.

This paper is written in response to, and as a further discussion of the ideas brought forth in *Prairie Fire*. It was written by a group of black and white revolutionary prisoners from a N. E. prisor. It was written not as a critique of *Prairie*, but rather because we felt that it did not go into much depth in the area of prisons, prisoners, and ex-prisoners.

Although all of us came from somewhat different levels of experience in the struggle, we found that the ideas and analysis presented in *Prairie* were important and to be taken seriously. We share amongst ourselves, as well as with many others in this country, the understanding of the importance of a mass anti-imperialist movement, a vanguard party, and a militant action arm. We do not feel that prisoners as a group are a vanguard force, but we do believe that the experiences of captivity, the day to day high level of repression that we live under does give us a certain understanding and spirit that needs to be discussed and shared with our comrades in all areas of struggle. We also feel that it is crucial - for prisoners first, but ultimately for all people moving for freedom, that the people outside gain a better understanding of conditions in captivity and the need for stronger and more real solidarity between prisoners and people outside. We offer this message in the same way as *Prairie* was presented, as a starting point, something to be heard, discussed, criticized and commented on. While we invite responses from all people, we hope that more of our captive sisters and brothers read this, as well as *Prairie Fire* and respond to them.

Send Responses To:

Amerikan kamps being what they are, we suggest that any communications regarding these words be sent to the New England Prisoners Association, Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. 03580, so that we are sure we will receive them.

Function of Prisons in America

A society, such as the U.S., which is based on private accumulation of wealth, on private ownership of productive forces, and which elevates the exploitation of the many by the few to a hallowed level, such a society will have many penal institutions. First to serve as a warning to all those regular people who might not perform their jobs in the way the rulers proscribe, or who might balk at the lives they are forced to lead. Secondly, as a source of free or in actuality slave labor. Also as brainwashing institutions, which attempt to regroove those people who have not conformed to the rules of a dog eat dog system--or for those who, like the majority of prisoners, have attempted to enrich themselves at the expense of others, but who were not part of the monied class, who steal legally. Finally, prisons are used as human warehouses for the workers which Amerika does not need--therefore, has to repress.

(On prisoner labor, see the article on prisoner labor in this issue, reprinted from *Winter Soldier*.--ed.)

Revolution in the country, revolution in the capitalist system, revolution of a system that lies, that oppresses through manipulation of mind control, through cultural control, through education control and living control. Prisoners need revolution and many understand this in an intense way. We are experiencing it in a community level, political level, psychological level, working person level, family level and barbarian level.

We understand the meaning of inflation, racism, unemployment, police state, poverty and real crimes. Why do we know--because we are the people that are put into test lab type of institutions where we are the guinea pigs for the control programs the state would like to use on the people in the streets. We are picked of our minds, feelings, and pride. Yet we learn to survive in a steel ghetto, we learn of gestapo-like repression that echos the cries of concentration kamps of Nazi Germany.

As much as there has been progress in society, there has been that much more progress in methods of uses of the human entity for the benefit of political and cultural control. Examples of developed methods in prisons can show a pattern of how close we are coming to a total police state. These methods are widely referred to as behavior modification. Just as physical lobotomies still exist, psychological lobotomies, in which a person is deceived through trickery and lies, are practiced.

These methods can be traced back to the idea of a dangling carrot on a stick, where the horse is blindly led. Today the carrot is replaced with such things as good time, meaning a possibility of an earlier release, or furloughs, etc. If these steps don't work another level of disorientation is used where your free form thoughts are shattered and replaced with robot-like ideas. This works like the rat in a maze that is taught through shocks of pain. In prisons, captives are shocked with bestial acts of confinement in isolation units, shocked with jolts of constant harassments of loss of so called privileges (in reality loss of some of peoples' essential needs), shocked with numerous set-ups where one is caught up in vicious circles of receiving more time, till the captive realizes that his/her whole life has been ripped off. The ultimate level of behavior modification is physical trespass of ones human rights, either by lobotomy, electro shock, or filling a person with drugs that leaves the prisoner literally helpless in both mind and body.

(See the article this issue on *Aversion Therapy at Connecticut's Somers Prison*.--ed.)

Racism is also used as a method of control, playing one victim against another, but because of changing attitudes among the people, racism is becoming harder to see for it hides in newer disguises of tokenism. No more is it just "nigger this, nigger that", but also the Mr. Nice Guy approach where you then become a victim of some set up by the prison staff. Of course racism in its brutal naked form is used as well.

Although prison keepers don't officially recognize political prisoners, they do try to use differences between political and regular captives. The real differences between political and regular prisoners is sometimes only a thin edge blade because of the shared oppressive conditions we face, yet within the walls it goes deeper than its thin edge. Regular prisoners are primarily those that have acted out against the people or state for capital gains or for individualistic even fascistic ideals, while political prisoners are the realized victims of acts against the state oppressor. There is also another type of political prisoner--and more of these each day--namely the person who has been incarcerated for ordinary criminal acts, but who has become politically conscious and active while in captivity. Basically any differences between political or criminal prisoners are not crucial, for only with unity and understanding of each other can victories be won.

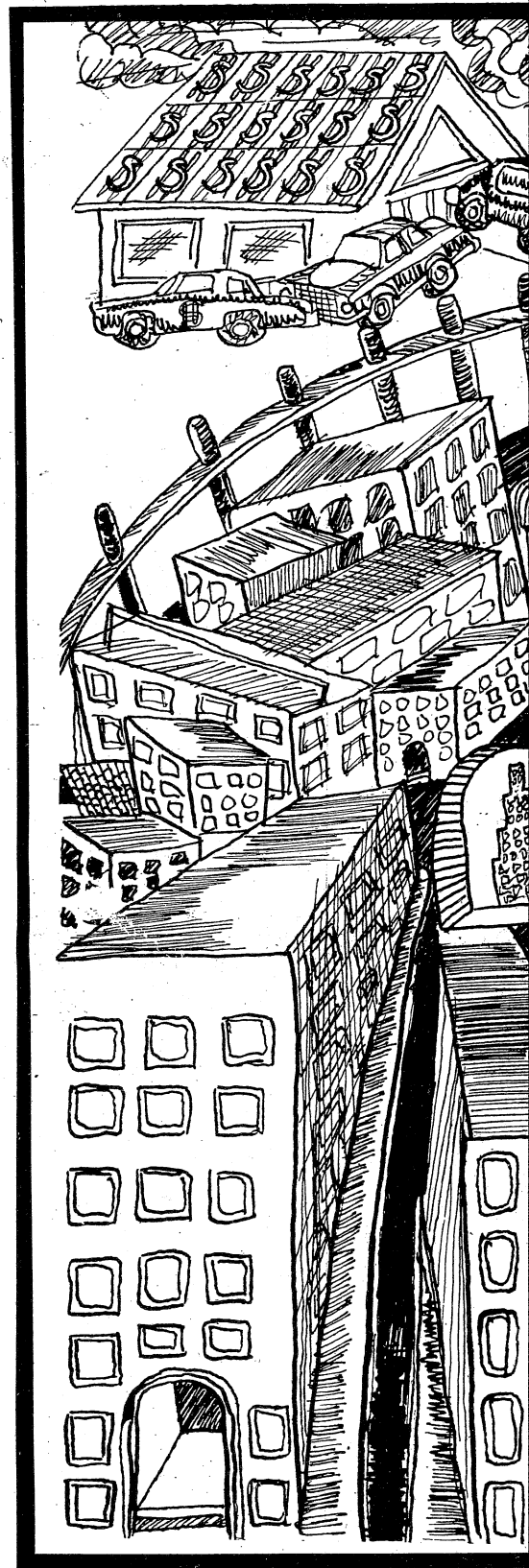
Outlaw to Rebel- Rebel to Revolutionary

In the past several decades the type of people sent to prison has changed. Previously the average person sent to prison had little education, few had high school diplomas--not that a piece of paper is important--but the average prisoner today does have more education and through education comes clearer understanding, better methods of organization and hence the more intense and political prison struggle of the recent years.

Besides education, other factors have made prisoners more aware and active. Important among these has been the national strug-

gles that have been going on for the past 20 years, especially the struggles of Black people. The recent wave of prison struggles can be traced back to Muslim struggles in and out of prisons in the early 60's, followed by other Black efforts, and in the past 10 years we have seen many captives not only move for special group rights, but unite together to fight for common human rights.

A person commits a crime and is sent to



prison. They have acted out against how society is formed because evidently it wasn't formed with him or her in mind. The act is done to satisfy needs or to play out anxieties. Once inside the person might rebel against the authority and conditions of prison life. In rebelling more repression is wrought on that person. This is the period when a qualitative step can be taken--is taken by many--to advance the person's understanding, to encompass the common struggle that needs to be waged by all prisoners of amerika, whether max security (prison) or minimum security (streets).

Many people leave prisons today to continue the struggle either by organizing around penal issues or by bringing to light just where the whole system is at. Not that there weren't people like this in years past, but there are many more people being sent to prisons now and on the whole they are less into gangsterism, younger and/or more aware.

Prison Movement -In & Out-

One might ask, what exactly is the prison movement? Apart of it is that prisoners as

and the Revolution

a whole are demanding their civil and human rights, to be treated fairly and justly as people under the provisions of the Constitution. Another part is that although the movement has reformist tendencies, a large part of it questions and refutes the basic right of the system to lock up people for what the capitalist system considers crime--in essence it is largely an anti-imperialist movement. The great upsurge in the prison movement is

posing repressive rules and when the captives move to oust these new rules, the state sends in their shock troops, demonstrating their contempt for the well being of their charges. Often we hear prison administrators saying that all prisoners should be lined up against a wall and shot, and of course the world has seen this happen.

Inside the walls prisoners have been forming and are now forming committees, advisory councils, and unions to air our needs and to organize for our rights. These efforts have met with even greater resistance than outside groups have had to deal with when they organize. Administrating staff and guards fear prisoners because they sense that once we get together, really together, they would be powerless to carry out their campaign of selective or all out repression. So if the guards see a group of captives getting down with books by Marx or other revolutionary literature, if they see people talking together about conditions or how to combat them, they report it and once again the iron heel comes down.

In every prison there are people at least fairly adept at writing legal writs for themselves or others. These people too, often feel the worst of the oppressors might. Legal petitions are an important method of struggle behind the walls, but there are definite limits to this tactic--and it should be seen only as a tactic, not a strategy. Legal petitions are overly dependent on the whims of a judge and just about every court in the country, if not every single one, are not sympathetic to prisoners. Also the laws themselves are geared to not serve the interests of poor people, especially captives, so along with these court efforts food strikes, work stoppages (usually a very important method since prisons are profit important institutions), even full-scale uprisings are used.

The state ignores the fact that prisoners are people, not animals to be kept in cages, and because of this the forces of "law and order" become naked oppressors, but thus, are also seen as legitimate targets for insurrection. Even the Declaration of Independence states this, but the U.S. obviously doesn't pay much attention to such details.

In what is probably a unique feature of the american struggle, we believe the prison movement is an integral part of the revolutionary struggle in general. First because prisoners are living in the pit of the beast and the pit is growing daily. The distance between the poorest and most oppressed "free" communities and prisons is usually one step--even an accidental one. And the people who are most constantly in conflict with the state are also the people who comprise the large majority in kamps, i.e. minority, poor, etc. Even the civil rights struggles in prisons are usually of a revolutionary nature--as for the participants, many are understanding that while these are necessary survival struggles, the real injustices of prison cannot be eliminated without the abolition of corporate capitalist amerika.

Problems of Ex-Prisoners

Even when (if) released, ex-prisoners face severe problems. Most prisoners are released from captivity on parole, which means the ex must abide by the conditions of parole in addition to police state laws. A parolee for instance must get permission to obtain any license, to get married, to move, to change jobs, and to travel. His or her home is open to search without even the protection of the law which others have. A know ex is usually the first person the pigs will hassle if something was done in the vicinity. An ex can be returned to prison for an offense a person without a prison record wouldn't even get in trouble for. An ex usually has a hard time getting a job and usually a job is a must to get out on parole, and of course with the worsening economic conditions jobs are getting next to impossible to find for anyone. So when you compound this with being an ex-prisoner, you realize an ex will have to take any kind of employment, no matter how little it pays. But by taking a low paying job and not having enough money, an ex-prisoner is likely to resort to crime as a method of survival.

The large majority of all released prisoners are returned, usually within one year. Many times prisoners lose the affection and trust of their family and friends, which means they must try to make it on their own when released. When a woman or man is released he/she is given some clothes to wear and not more than 100 dollars, usually less. Added to this few states have any sort of post release services or programs. All this almost insures that the released prisoner will soon be back in captivity--part of the approximately 1.2 million men and women that are in the custody of the criminal justice system today.

(For more comments on parole, see the articles on Connecticut parole and on N.H. legislation in this issue.--ed.)

Role in the Revolution

Recently some ideas have been circulated that prisoners are or will be the vanguard in the struggle. While we reject this, neither do we believe that the traditional positions of Marx on lumpens and prisoners are correct. (The question of who is the lumpen, according to whose definition--including that of Marx--is a subject of debate among prisoner revolutionary theoreticians. Marx seems to never have been very clear on a definition, but has described the lumpen as society's scum--pimps, gangsters, prisoners, etc. The lack of clear definition leads to confusion with definitions of other social strata, such as the chronically unemployed reserve army of labor. Also, many in the U.S. seem to have redefined the term lumpen to follow the lead of Frantz Fanon in *Wretched of the Earth*, in which the lumpen are the chronically un- or underemployed persons in the third world who migrate from the country-side to the shanty towns surrounding the cities.--Ed.)

The actions and lessons of Attica, Walpole, George Jackson and innumerable others as well as the changing nature of prisoners in general, clearly shows that serious revolutionary ideas, groups/individuals, and struggles are occurring behind the walls today. The reason for this are many: increasing national struggle, student/youth rebellions of a few years ago having created changes in young people in general and young people are the majority in Kamps today, the worsening economic situations making it necessary for larger numbers of people to seek extra-legal methods of survival, increasing number of people sent to jail for revolutionary acts or on trumped up charges, and many more reasons. Also, just the fact of living in the belly of the shark, with even the small pleasures that are allowed on the outside being taken away, and with the constant repression that is the reality of prison, makes it likely that captives will begin to ask real questions and learn crucial lessons about the nature of the system they live under--first prisons, then the system which needs these prisons, as well as the lessons of how to fight to survive and eliminate this injustice. Of course the large majority of prisoners know the reality of ghetto-poverty life, but on the streets little time is spent on reflection if the person is busy hustling legally or illegally, for a living.

In context of amerika in general, the struggles and existence of life in kamps can be termed as closest to conditions of war. People are broken, beaten, killed, forced to work as slaves with no pay or at best pennies a day, like in no other situation in this country today. The state and federal prison systems make tens of millions of dollars a year from the unpaid labor of captives. The naked injustice and terror of amerika is most obvious--with all the frills removed--behind the walls like nowhere else in this country. This reality while not turning every prisoner into a revolutionary, leaves its mark.

Besides being a source of free labor, prisons on state and federal levels are experimenting with various social control programs. There is a cause and effect reason for this. On the one hand,

cont'd. on p. 17



due to the fact that people are becoming more politically oriented and as a counter move, laws are becoming more oppressive and are designed to trap the potential revolutionist.

Outside the prison many organizations have been formed for the protection of prisoners' rights. Some of these are broad based, openly revolutionary groups who have forseen the need to have prisoners and ex-prisoners in their organizations. Others are reform groups interested in civil/legal rights and in a sense in proping up the current government in order to show that it "still works". Both are important to the struggle because prisons are so bad in this country that we can use all the help we can get. These groups operate by putting out prison oriented papers, forming legal lobbies, setting up defense committees, holding rallies and demonstrations, fighting court battles, and, an unfortunately too few, taking direct militant actions in response to atrocities committed by the state.

Yet even with all this happening it is not enough, because the state insists upon using gestapo like measures in dealing with prisoners. Legislatures keep testing the resolve of prisoners and their support groups by im-

Rural Community for Ex-Offenders

by Brian E. Pace

Many people, upon being released from prisons or jails, need alternatives to their old life-styles. The present rate of recidivism is between 50 and 75 per cent. This is due, I believe, to the fact that most of the men and women coming out of prisons return to their old neighborhoods, renew their old friendships, and take up their old ways of life; this being, most often, crime and related activities.

I feel these people should be given sensible and healthy alternatives to this way of life. They should be allowed to try a new life-style.

I believe that living on the land in a rural setting can be a positive environment for the rebirth of individuals just getting out of prisons. Such a rural environment would allow these people a chance to work with their hands and get back to the basics of life. It would give them the opportunity to re-establish values and goals, and help them to learn to live with others, loving them and being loved in return, without fear, but with trust.

As it stands, this type of rural community is not considered an acceptable parole residence. Most Parole Boards and other organs of authority will not allow ex-prisoners to get involved with communes or other so-called counter-culture groups, either in the city or the country. In fact, they prohibit the association of ex-prisoners in any way whatsoever, and this, of course, applies to communities intended precisely for these folks.

This needs to be changed. There are hundreds of "respectable" communes and other types of intentional communities across the land. The old image, mostly created by the media, of communes full of dope smokers, wild parties, sex orgies, etc., is a thing of the past. Most of the folks who have chosen to live together rurally, rather than in the uptight, rat-race cities, are intelligent individuals, well capable of making responsible decisions as to what they feel is their right place in this world. They have decided to give up the city life for the country life; it's as simple as that. They are serious about their chosen niche, and they plan to make the best of it, and hopefully become completely self-sufficient. There are as many types of communities as there are philosophies and life-styles: spiritual communes, work communes, political, farming, "behavior" communes, as well as Christian and Zen Buddhist communes, you name it. Why not a commune or community for the ex-prisoner?

I have been checking out the organizational structure and format of the present forms of half-way houses in this country, and I see that what makes them

so positive and for the most part successful is the fact that the members of these groups are all "in the same boat" and the group cohesion is strong. I have been personally to an alcoholic detoxification center at Santa Cruz, California, and I know from experience what makes a place like this so successful. The whole operation is run by ex-alcoholics! What this means is that when you have made the choice to "dry up" and get straight, and have begun living at the facility with the other folks, people who you don't even know, it makes a big difference that you are all together and you are all after the same thing. You can identify with each other, and you can help each other make it through the rough parts. There is *esprit de corps*, and no matter how hard things go for any one person, the rest of the folks there can help pull him or her through.

This type of "togetherness" is missing for the ex-prisoner, as he must return to straight society and is expected to move right back into the mainstream of daily social life and job seeking; he is expected to become well-adjusted and happy, successful in his efforts, after many years of being locked up much the same as an animal in a zoo. It's almost impossible (as evidenced by the rate of recidivism), for anyone coming out of prison to make it in society the way things are today.

So, I feel that present inmates should be informed as to what life-style alternatives are. They should be shown that they do have alternatives to living other than their previous life-styles; ones that evidently will bring them back to prison. I think that a communication network should be set up on a national level that would allow inmates from across the land to communicate and correspond with folks that are living in community now, as well as groups involved in social change, or anyone who can help them find which direction would be best for them to travel upon their release from prison. Inmates cannot presently correspond with other inmates, but I see nothing wrong with their communicating indirectly through a centralized location for information exchange.

I am looking for a group now that would be willing to handle this sort of project. I welcome any suggestions. Such a group could handle mail from inmates and coordinate the folks inside the prisons with folks on the outside who want to help their brothers and sisters behind bars, in finding their proper niche in this world. A program needs to be set up that will meet with the approval of members of the Parole Boards, as well as other authorities. Once this program has been worked out on paper, it would then have to be presented to the author-

ities for consideration, and either approval or rejection; if rejection, then we would have to work on it further until it met with approval.

What is needed at the moment is more interest from folks outside. If and when this interest is expressed, I am sure there will be increased enthusiasm and response from the inmates. It is very difficult to muster up any sustained hope, positive motivation, etc., in a place like this, so it all depends on how these ideas are received by the folks out there who are in a position to do something about it and help out in any way they can. We are very limited in here and it is very difficult to contact the right groups and people so that we can get things done smoothly and swiftly. We can only work through the mail, which, as everyone knows, is somewhat lacking in efficiency.

I'll let these ideas float for now, and wait to hear from interested folks, from people who care to add their energy to this project. I feel that it is worth the efforts of good-minded and positive people, and when we get the needed support of folks out there, then I know that the interest will grow in here, and the people who were so doubtful and unbelieving before will take heart and renew their hope; then perhaps we can get down to some real planning.

Peace in the Cause of Freedom,
de Maui (Brian E. Pace)
Register # 41115
Menard Correctional Center
Box 711,
Menard, Ill. 62259



Deceiving (Continued)

by the political structure of this state, why aren't you being told or exposed to a more substantial and factual explanation than that to which you have been exposed so far?

Consider the following. Are prisoners who have been locked up since December of 1974 able to smuggle these weapons in themselves, or do they have their visitors smuggle them in?

What procedures does the administration use towards visits and prisoners as far as making sure no metal objects get inside the walls?

Every person that comes to visit a prisoner has to go through a very complex and security oriented shakedown procedure before entering the visiting room or prison interior. Metal detectors are used to insure that no person can carry metal objects so small as a hair pin with out the guard knowing of it. Any metal (no matter how small) sets off a register needle to account for the size and amount of metal on any person. Many people are actually

skin shook before being let inside the prison. Their clothes are removed and they are examined by either a woman or male guard. Many are turned away because they do not have positive identification (picture license) or else because they have a prior criminal record. Once past the metal detector they have to go through three solid steel doors before getting to the visiting room or inside the prison walls. While in the visiting room they are carefully observed at all times.

The prisoners receiving the visits also have to go through a very tight security procedure before getting out to the visiting room. They have to pass through a metal detector upon leaving their cell blocks. Upon reaching the main corridor and control room (located out front of the door leading to the visiting room) they are skin shook then let out through two solid steel doors leading to the visiting room.

Each prisoner upon leaving the visiting room has to go through the same procedure as entering.

How then are all these weapons getting into the prison?

If the Walpole prisoner "is so dangerous" (supposedly) why then is it that with all these weapons no prisoner has used them against any one for any reason "ever"?

Prisoners have taken hostages with flimsy home made weapons while there were such lethal weapons just laying all over the place???????

There has never been a shot fired inside the walls of Walpole by any prisoner.

No guard has ever been assaulted or fired upon by a prisoner with a hand gun or rifle.

It is most positively time to ask the Department of Corrections (D. of C.) just where are these guns coming from and how are they getting into the prison?

Should others be suspected of smuggling these weapons into the prison? (other than the prisoners)

Should some one other than the prisoners and their families be punished and isolated because of something they have no control over?

To begin, Walpole is wrong for just being what it is. A Death House. A



not for women only

by Shelley Cooper Neill



With the increasing demand for more articles by and for women, NEPA NEWS has collectively endorsed this column as a permanent section of the paper. Articles will include those sent in to us from sisters behind the walls, shorts and feature articles, the latter of which will hopefully generate additional discussion and debate.

We ask for your support--in the form of poems, commentaries, topical articles and graphics of both your own experiences and your observations and opinions. Although the emphasis of this particular column will be aimed at and primarily written by women, we also encourage (as the title suggests) contributions from men.

In addition, anyone running across news items from other papers that they feel our readership would be interested in--send them along.

Tentative plans for next month's column include recent developments in the Edelin/abortion case, as well as an update on last month's position paper regarding the present status of Jane Alpert. (See Kitsi Burkhardt's response under Letters To The Editor.)



Black Women's Group

On Jan. 25, over 600 women met in Detroit to form a national Black women's organization, the Black Women's United Front (BWUF). The organization was founded on three principles: anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, and anti-racism; being against sexism was implicit in all three principles.

The conference, originally organized by CAP (Congress of Afrikan People) attracted people from 21 states and all segments of the Black communities. The task force co-ordinating the conference included, in addition to CAP, the All Afrikan Peoples Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), the Black Workers Congress (BWC), the Pan-African Students of America, the Youth Organization for Black Unity (YOBUN--now the Feb. 1st Movement), and the Ethiopian Students.

The BWUF intends to take on a broad range of projects including welfare, day care, women prisoners (strong solidarity with Joanne Little was a driving force here), sterilization, job discrimination and others. Particular emphasis will be given to organizing Black working class women. Representatives will return to their respective states to organize local chapters; these chapters will be given 60 days to elect representatives to the general assembly whose next meeting will be held May 3.

--Thanks to the Guardian

Deceiving

Jungle. A Cancer in the whole Mass. Penal system. A controversial stepping stone for some politicians and people inside the system looking for security and larger fiscal budgets.

The staff of Walpole should take the responsibility, pain and deprivation as well, not solely the prisoners.

All this money for shakedowns, overtime for guards, millions for supposed security, it is all a farce.

The public is being deceived, endangered, lied to and robbed by the very people who proclaim to have their safety and security first, last and always in their minds.

These guns are just another tool used to keep Walpole open and exposed



Joanne Little

The case of Joanne Little (see Dec. NEPA NEWS) will soon come to trial. She is charged with first degree murder and faces a mandatory death sentence. She defended herself against the sexual advances of a guard in her cell in the Beaufort County, N.C., Jail. The guard was found stabbed with his own ice pick, his shoes in the corridor, his pants down.

This case (like that of Inez Garcia, also in the Dec. NN) deserves your support because of the issues at stake here: a woman's right to defend herself, as well as the threat of sexual abuse, held over women doing time in state or county joints.

Joanne's case is being handled by Jerry Paul and Karen Galloway of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Julian Bond, President of the Center, is calling for your urgent support--in as many dollars as you have available to aid in Joanne's defense. The lawyers are free, the other court expenses are not. Send your contribution (tax deductible) to: Joanne Little Defense Fund, C/O Southern Poverty Law Center, 119 South McDonough St., Montgomery, Alabama 36101.

Nat'l. Study

An 18-month study, funded by the National Institute of Law Enforcement (NILE) for \$293,000, got under way at the beginning of this year. A wide range of objectives will be covered. Plans are to determine what programs presently exist nationally, what special problems exist for the female offender, and attempt to indicate current trends in community-based corrections. Thirteen states have been specifically cited for more intensive study, including Mass. in the New England area. A full time project staff based in Berkely, Ca., and the use of 'filed consultants' from each of the cited states, are also planned.

to the people. If Walpole were left unexposed it might be closed down without endangering or hurting anyone, that is any one except those profiting and living off of the misery and deaths of others.

Walpole is the real worry. Not that weapons have to be disregarded. They are a threat that will only exist as long as Walpole exists.

If Walpole is not torn down, people will continue to die, to be raped, robbed and beaten. Families will suffer and grieve for the sake of their loved ones inside. The working class people will continue to pay \$17,500 per man per year for every prisoner in this state, and untold millions for security that secures no one. Finally Mr. Hall will be a legend as is past Commission-

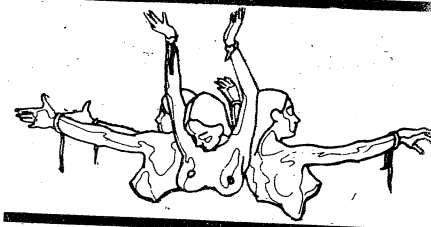
Persons who deem themselves worthy of consultant status, or who wish to make inquiries, contact Ruth Glick, 2054 University, Ave, Room 301, Berkeley, Ca. 94704.

It should be noted that the major goal of this undertaking is to provide a valid data base on female offenders in order to "develop some preliminary guidelines for effective programs and policies consistent with the recommendations of LEAA's Standards and Goals For Women in Major Institutions." (Italics mine-SCN).

The Weaker Sex?

Between 1968 and 1973, arrests of women for "serious" crimes, ranging from auto theft to murder, went up 52%, compared with 8% for men. While arrests of males still outnumber those of females by almost 6 to 1, the gap has narrowed significantly since 1960 when the difference was 8 to 1. Not only are more women being arrested for serious crimes, but more are convicted and going to prison. In federal prisons alone the number of women prisoners has gone up 81% in the last five years.

--Reprint from QUOTE



Resources

NEPA has, over the last year and a half, been deluged with requests from people for bibliographies, additional resource material, reading lists, etc.

Someone's finally done it for us, and we're passing the information along to you.

Two bibliographies, "Prisons and the Criminal Justice System, an Annotated Bibliography" and "Women Imprisoned, A Bibliography" have been compiled and are now available in print from the American Friends Service Committee, 48 Inman St., Cambridge, Ma. 02139.

The first bibliography includes chapters on Parole, Courts & Bail, Prisoner Rights, Juveniles, and Women. Cost is 25¢ each, lower for bulk orders.

Women Imprisoned is an excellent 'rough draft' and plans for a more complete version are in the works. Copies are available for 10¢.

Both are well worth reading in and of themselves. They are a storehouse of relevant information and commentary. Future columns will include excerpts from both of the above.

Hope to hear from you soon. In struggle, Shelley.

er Mr. Boone who also had the welfare of the people in mind.

If Mr. Hall is to replace the Vulture sitting atop the flag pole at Walpole with a Dove then he must be real and true with the Public, his Prisoners and his Staff. For their support is needed in order to influence the political structure of this state to rid the system of Walpole and all it stands for. This can only be done with total commitment from all involved.

With Walpole existing there is only a waste of love, lives and money. It does not make any sense to sanction its survival.

You cannot give one prisoner a chance to prove himself in one prison and crush another because he is in a pit without a ladder to climb out of it.

A Peek into the Center

by Ron Sturup

In the centerfold of this issue is an extremely interesting article written by four prison inmates. Considering the seriousness of their allegations against the criminal justice system and society in general, and their rather extreme suggestions of possible remedies, I decided to investigate in order to determine if there were justification for their allegations and suggested remedies.

Less than an hour's research turned up the following information in a letter and news clippings sent by a prisoner in Lincoln, Nebraska:

--November 6, 1974: a prisoner placed in the Prison Adjustment Center (AC) at Lincoln was found dead the same day. Cause of death--strangulation by a rope fashioned from bed sheets.
--Nov. 13, 1974: Three prisoners slash wrists.
--Nov. 15, 1974: Two prisoners slash wrists.
--Nov. 19, 1974: Two prisoners slash wrists.
--Nov. 21, 1974: Attempted hanging by prisoner.
--Dec. 4, 1974: Prisoner swallows razor blades.
--Dec. 6, 1974: Prisoner attempts hanging, slashes wrists.
--Dec. 8, 1974: Prisoner slashes wrists.
--Dec. 10, 1974: Prisoner swallows wire.
--Dec. 21, 1974: Prisoner dies by fire in his cell (see last month's NEPA NEWS).
--Jan. 15, 1975: Suicide watch goes into effect during night. This consists of two guards patrolling the tier every 15 minutes.

--Jan 23, 1975: Prisoner, after flooding cell, was placed in strait-jacket, leg irons and chained to the door of his cell in a standing position. Later that evening upon being released he set fire to his cell, receiving first, second and third degree burns.

--Jan. 25, 1975: Prisoner placed in strait-jacket, reason unknown.

--Jan. 29, 1975: Prisoner beaten by six guards after requesting medical attention for kidney ailment.

--Feb. 14, 1975: Prisoner taken to hospital after cell fire for smoke inhalation.

Nebraska prison officials have commented on the above printed score card.

Mr. Thomas Mason, Administrative Assistant to the prison warden. On the hanging death: "He was a drug addict. We put him in the Adjustment Center to protect him from himself. That was his way of escaping reality." Concerning the fiery death: "He suffered from severe psychiatric problems." On the other entries on the score card: "We need more resources."

Richard Goos, Chief Deputy Public Defender commented on the-deaths:

H. Rap Brown

A surprise breakthrough occurred last month in the solid front of racist persecution that Black leader H. Rap Brown has met in the courts.

U.S. District Court Judge Fred Cassibry, in what must be a first in the history of the court system, refused to believe the statement of another judge, Lansing Mitchell. Mitchell denied he had ever said, referring to Brown, that he wanted to "get that nigger." On Jan. 24, in open court in New Orleans, La., Judge Cassibry rejected Mitchell's denial. He said: "I think Mr. Lake's version of what happened, happened. His version of what was said was probably said."

Arthur Lake is a white patent attorney from New Orleans who wrote to William Kunstler, Brown's attorney, informing him of Mitchell's remark. Lake swore on the witness stand that Mitchell boasted at a lawyers' conference in Biloxi, Miss., early in 1968 that he would "get" Brown. Mitchell went on to say, Lake testified, that he had drawn the assignment to preside at Brown's gun-charge trial and that he was going to take care of his health so that



"They probably got so despondent they couldn't take anymore." He didn't elaborate what it was they couldn't take any more of.

Murrell McNeil, State Ombudsman: "This is not a new problem." He went on to say in effect that the inmates were crazy. He didn't see the problem clearing up anytime soon.

Dr. Leonard Waytassels, Staff Psychiatrist: "10% of the prisoners entering the complex are acutely disturbed at the time they enter. Another 10% become severely mentally disturbed while serving their sentence. 50-65% need psychiatric treatment." Apparently no one asked him why psychotic people were put in prison in the first place.

Michael Jensen and Artis X. (Johnson), two inmates who occupied cells in the Adjustment Center, both witnessed the deaths and many of the attempted deaths. They were interviewed separately

he could "get that nigger."

Asked why he didn't report the incident at the time, Lake said that while he was shocked by Mitchell's statement he was afraid to make it public. It was only after reading of Brown's legal problems early last year that Lake decided to write to Kunstler.

Presiding at Brown's appeal in the New Orleans court last month, Judge Cassibry added that Kunstler had shown quite clearly that Mitchell's actions during Brown's earlier trial "cast a serious shadow on the case as to the appearance of justice." Cassibry's decision as to whether he will set aside the 1968 indictment of Brown or order a new trial will be made in about a month.

Brown was convicted in New Orleans in 1968 of carrying his registered rifle in interstate travel while under indictment in Maryland. But it is clear this charge was meant to be a frame-up, for Brown left New York to visit his family in Baton Rouge, La., on the same day the indictment was handed down. He could not have been aware of the indictment while he was traveling.

Nevertheless, Judge Mitchell refused to dismiss the gun-charge indictment and sentenced Brown to the maximum five years in jail and \$2000 fine.

At the time of the indictment, Brown

ly but provided essentially the same information:

One victim (hanging) had ulcers and repeatedly asked for medical attention. All requests were denied.

The fiery death victim also repeatedly asked for medical attention and was denied. The victim was reported to say, "I'll get the medical attention one way or the other."

Johnson and Jensen went on to say the fireburned in the cell for 43 minutes before officers arrived at the insistence of the other confined inmates. Lt. Clayton Hesser, according to Jensen and Artis X., took the guards in his office for a ten-minute conference before trying to rescue the burning prisoner. The two prisoners also state that the flaming inmate was dragged out of his cell and left unattended on the tier for 30 minutes. Finally, an inmate nurse arrived with an oxygen tank that was out of oxygen.

"I could hear him trying to get air when they dragged him out," Artis X. reported. Artis X. and Jensen also state that on November 19, the doctor and Deputy Warden David Watson issued a directive that only in life or death cases would medical attention be given. They added that the doctor ordered the strait-jackets, leg chains and handcuffs for anyone attempting suicide.

The officials, including Correction Commissioner Joseph Vitek, deny the Jensen and Artis X. version.

H. Rap Brown, of black revolutionary fame, was indicted for carrying a rifle across state lines. His case was assigned to Judge Lansing Mitchell. Before hearing the case, Judge Mitchell was overheard telling some Bar Association members, "I'm going to get that nigger." Upon conviction, Brown received the maximum, a five year sentence. For more details, see the Rap Brown article in this issue.

From Somers, Connecticut, prisoners Robert Graves, Donald Oberdorf and Melvin Taylor are suing Conn. prison officials in federal court. They declare that they were unduly punished for refusing to "voluntarily participate" in a behavior modification program at the state prison in Somers. For a description of the program in the article in this issue.

Melvin Taylor, one of the plaintiffs, declares he was denied parole because of his refusal. The plaintiffs, of course, deny this. However, some enlightening excerpts taken directly from the transcripts of Taylor's parole hearing are in this issue of NEPA NEWS.

Other examples of a similar nature are to be found in this issue, such as the articles on Eddie Sanchez, or the Attica Brothers.

In the light of my investigation, though cursory, I, for one, intend to view the information in the centerfold feature with the utmost gravity.

was chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), one of the most advanced, antiracist, anti-imperialist organizations of the time, giving leadership to the Black masses and earning the hatred of the ruling class. SNCC supported the struggle of the Palestinians against Zionism and was the first Black liberation organization to condemn U.S. aggression in Vietnam. It coined the slogan: "Hell No! -- We won't go!"

After the Jan. 24 hearing in New Orleans, where Brown was present but did not testify, Kunstler told the Guardian: "I did not have the faintest expectation when I entered the (court) that the presiding judge would refuse to accept the sworn denial of another judge that he had said he would 'get that nigger'."

Kunstler added that while he is acutely aware of the racism of judges, Cassibry's action may be the result of a change in the political climate since the Watergate revelations.

Lynn Brown, Rap Brown's wife, said of Mitchell's infamous remark: "It is typical. He reflected the attitude of racism that permeates the entire government apparatus. Mitchell's intention to 'get that nigger' prevailed during all the pretrial and trial proceedings. Other judges may not openly say what Mitchell said, but they 'get the niggers' with their actions."

Sanchez

by Sandy Ruben

Eddie Sanchez is twenty-five years old. For the past twenty-two years he has been in state and federal institutions. The only crime that Eddie committed up to his twentieth birthday was to have been born Chicano in a white racist society.

At the age of three, both of Eddie's parents were sent to prison; one for armed robbery, the other for selling heroin. Eddie was placed in foster homes, from which he continually ran away. For this offense against adult authorities, he was placed in juvenile prison at the age of ten. Eddie spent his teenage years under the guidance of California Correctional Officials. At the age of 16, Eddie was ruled "incorrigible" and was sent to Soledad State prison as a sophisticated youth, still having committed no crime.

While in prison, Eddie was given anectine, a drug which paralyzes all the involuntary functions for two minutes, and causes suffocation. Victims of anectine say there is nothing closer to death. Eddie received this treatment eight times to "make him a more docile prisoner."

At nineteen, Eddie learned that California had scheduled him for a lobotomy (removal of the frontal lobe of the brain, effectively turning the patient into a vegetable). To remove himself from the California State system and into federal control, Eddie wrote a threatening letter to President Nixon. For this he received a five year sentence...this is his first sentence, after spending ten years in prison.

When Eddie was twenty-one he was attacked by an inmate with a knife, with the result that the man was killed. Since there is no justifiable homicide in prison, Eddie was given another ten years for manslaughter. At his trial, doctors totally drugged Eddie so that he was completely unaware of what was happening.

Later on, Eddie was placed in the infamous START program. There he was subjected to tortures such as the one that Albert Gagne, another START prisoner, describes here: "They took us down one at a time downstairs, handcuffed our hands behind our backs, and forced us to lie on our stomachs; then they shackled our feet to the bed which has special hooks for this purpose."

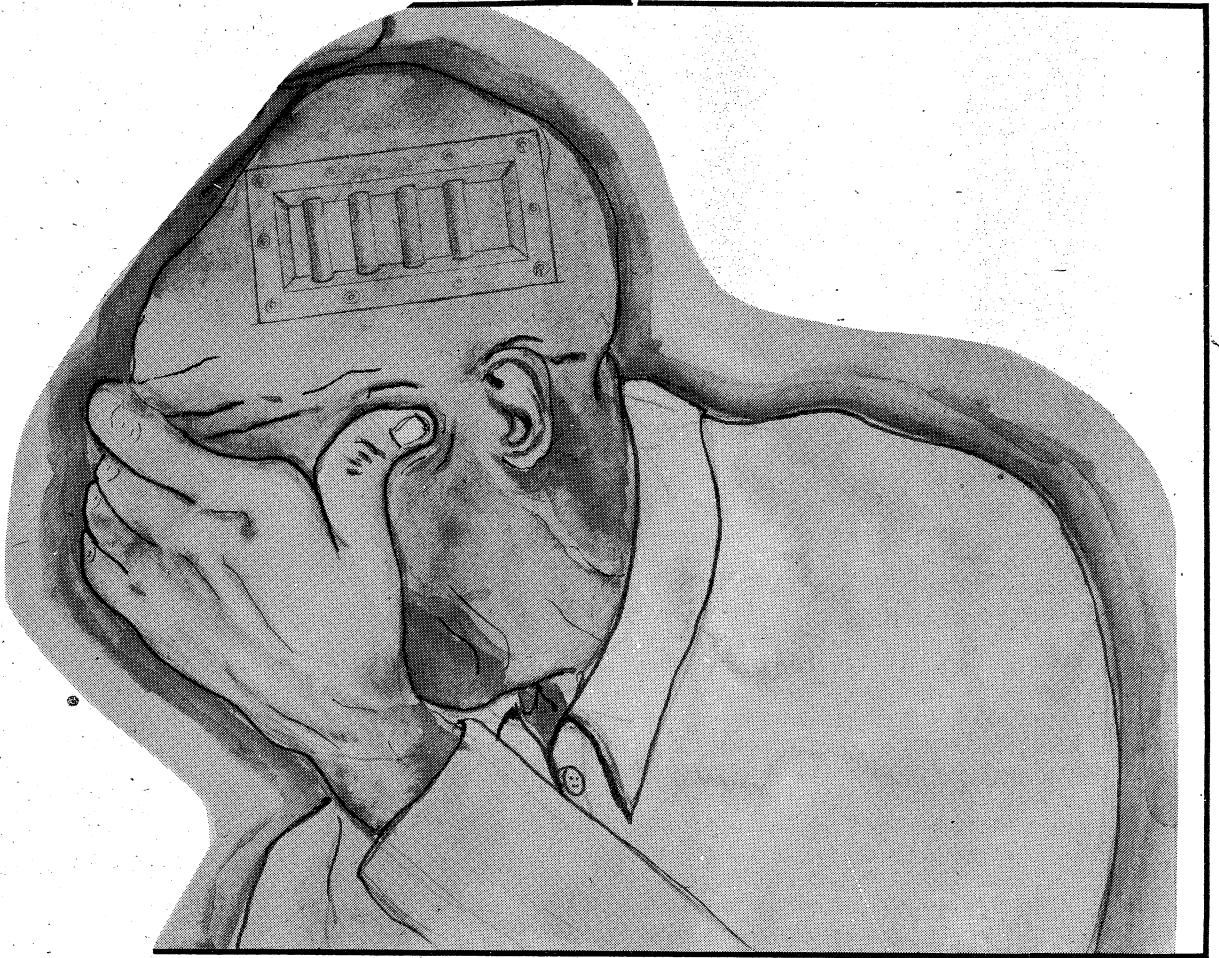
Revolution Continued

The old methods of naked terror, coupled with gangs of inmates running prisons, has by and large broken down with the emergence of revolutionary groups and coalitions seeking to fight for survival of all captives. The old ways don't work, so brainwashing, drugs, and various other behavior modification schemes are being used. The other, and perhaps more dangerous reason for these programs, is that whatever works for prisoners will and to some degree has already been implemented for use outside. Most of these behavior mod games are funded by federal agencies like the LEAA, or state equivalents, and the results are reported back and passed on to other agencies, like schools, armed forces, etc.

At considerable human cost, prisoners have resisted and recently successfully fought many of these schemes--the START program of the federal system, the maximum hospital camp in N.Y. state, the tri-state northern New England special offenders prison, just to name a few. The lessons learned in these struggles, as well as the ever emerging picture of what American fascism will look like should be understood, studied and put into context by all progressive people. In this area prisoners, out of necessity are in the vanguard role.

In order to combat these attacks, as well as survive in a high intensity struggle situation, prisoners throughout the land have had to learn and put into practice many principles that, while expressed outside, are sadly not practiced enough. Most important is the combating of racism, and with this the forging

"They came to the cells where we were chained and started to torment us, telling us to suffer, spitting on us, throwing buckets of cold water on us. During the two days that we were chained we had nothing to eat or drink, because they refused to free our hands. They told us that we would have to eat doggy style. In reply to this we spit on them. We remained chained to those beds for two days, and it was pure agony."



The cuffs and shackles were on so tight that all the blood to our hands and feet was shut off, and I never experienced such pain in my life."

Eddie repeatedly protested against these injustices by continually writing to Senators and Congress people; submitting articles to newspapers and magazines; and filing numerous court suits against START. He was also busy organizing food and work strikes.

In late 1973 Eddie was finally transferred from START into another behavior modification program, CARE, in Marion, Ill. There Eddie began another legal

of real unity and solidarity. Unfortunately, there still exists many racist flare-ups, some gang warfare, and a certain tendency to try lumpen/individualist solutions. The last is probably more true in camps because of the experiences that many prisoners came from on the outside. Still we have seen many cases where a struggle was successful or simply made possible because of real unity--Attica, Attmore/Holman, McAllister, Bedford Hills, etc. As for the vindictive and sectarian polemics that are presently, and it seems historically, raging in the left, these are just not reproduced in camps. This does not mean that they are not considered important (some of them at least), or that all, even revolutionary prisoners have one unified line, but it has been learned through struggle that to spend more time fighting each other only plays into the hands of the enemy. In a sense we cannot afford the luxury of long word games, the oppressor is too close to our necks. Principled unity--fighting unity, is necessary in all areas of the struggle.

Prisoners more and more are understanding that this system (imperial America), is built on power/terror. Behind the candy bar lies the gun. It was no accident that the SLA had ex-prisoners involved, nor should it be surprising that almost all prisoners responses to their actions were at least critically supporting.

Besides the struggles that captives are engaged in behind the walls, prisoners and especially the recently released sisters and brothers will certainly want to, and many will become involved in the

challenge, calling for his release from solitary confinement after three years. The court surprisingly granted his request and Eddie was transferred to Leavenworth (Kansas). At Leavenworth, Eddie helped organize two mass food boycotts in support of the Leavenworth brothers. Once again Eddie was termed a trouble maker for his resistance to the demands of prison authorities.

Eddie now faces up to four life sen-

tences plus twenty years for frame-up charges in Kansas. Besides this, he faces another fifty years in Illinois. The administrators are determined either to keep Eddie imprisoned for the remainder of his life, or to kill him, the latest attempt being in October.

As Eddie says, "If I die it won't be a suicide, it will be murder."

A committee has been formed to help Eddie. We need money, even a few dollars and people to distribute leaflets. Or at least letters of support. Get in touch with us at: Free Eddie Sanchez Committee, P.O. Box 124, West Somerville, MA 02144.

most militant aspects of the struggle.

It has been rightly pointed out that a danger lies in the fact that people coming out from the camps, and of course, those still inside might have an unreal

picture of conditions outside, and certainly concrete evaluations of concrete situations should be the rule. But there is the other side of this, namely that we have seen the reality of America with all the frosting removed and we've understood that only force will bring down the oppressor. This understanding and determination should not be cast aside and it is especially the responsibility of those groups that have experience in militant and armed activity, to share what can be shared in terms of practice and ideas. Self defense and armed propaganda are the least that is already needed, and in our opinion even stronger actions are called for in many areas of struggle today.

Thus, while prisoners and ex-prisoners are not the vanguard, our experience leading to captivity and our many battles with the enemy while in prison, place us in a leading position in certain areas. Basically we are the workers which American capitalism can not use--therefore, has to repress. Economic conditions alone will increase our ranks and the struggles of prisoners and the experience of ex-prisoners has made us a determined and militant cutting edge of the whole Peoples Struggle.

VENCEREMOS

2/11/75

Menominee: Victory, but more Struggle

The struggle of the Menominee Indians continues after a major victory. The Menominee Warrior Society had occupied the Alexian Brothers abbey in Wisconsin since early January. As we reported last month, the abbey was on land that had been stolen from the Menominee in the first place. After the situation had been brought to the brink of open warfare, the Alexian Brothers capitulated, and turned over the unused abbey to the Menominee for one dollar.

Meanwhile, racist vigilantes had called for a 1000 person demonstration against the Menominee. Only 25 persons showed. This, and the gaining of the abbey, led the Menominee to sum up the occupation as a complete success.

However, the racist forces were not finished. After the Alexian Brothers gave up the abbey, the Warriors surrendered to the National Guard, who took them all to the county jail to face

charges of trespass. Then five of the Warriors were arrested on a series of felony counts, including armed robbery.

During a pre-trial hearing, violence broke out in the courtroom. The guards manhandled some women members of the five defendant's families. The five and other supporters rushed the cops. Judge Fredrick Fowle, not even in the courtroom, ordered the court cleared.

In the resulting melee, cops deliberately maced and clubbed Menominee supporters, including children. Dozens of Menominee were injured.

The judge then began the hearing with the defendants bound and gagged. The Warriors in jail say they have had their medicine bags stolen, have not been able to see a doctor, have not been given tooth brushes, and so forth. Said one Warrior, "We are being treated as prisoners of war, as animals." John Doe warrants are still outstanding, waiting to be filled in by the cops. The defense is seeking a change of venue.

As noted in the *Guardian*, "The state of Wisconsin is out for revenge...While the Alexian Brothers was the only party in the conflict to lose anything tangible...the state has suffered an ideological defeat. Gov. Patrick Lucey was unable to preserve the sacred right of private property."

Houston 12 Win

The Houston 12, whose trial we have been covering in our shorts for many months, have won a significant victory.

The Houston 12 are 12 men arrested at a demonstration in Houston, Texas in October of 1973. Protesting the mid-East war, 28 persons were attacked by nearly 100 police, armed with dogs, clubs and mace. Five of the 12 were charged with assault with intent to murder a police officer, which carries a maximum of a life sentence. All 12 were charged with simple assault.

Twice the indictments against the five were thrown out. As the state prepared for trial on the third round. Judge Andrew Jefferson, the only Black in the Dallas Criminal Court, dismissed indictments against two of the five. In the course of the two-week trial, Jefferson dismissed a third.

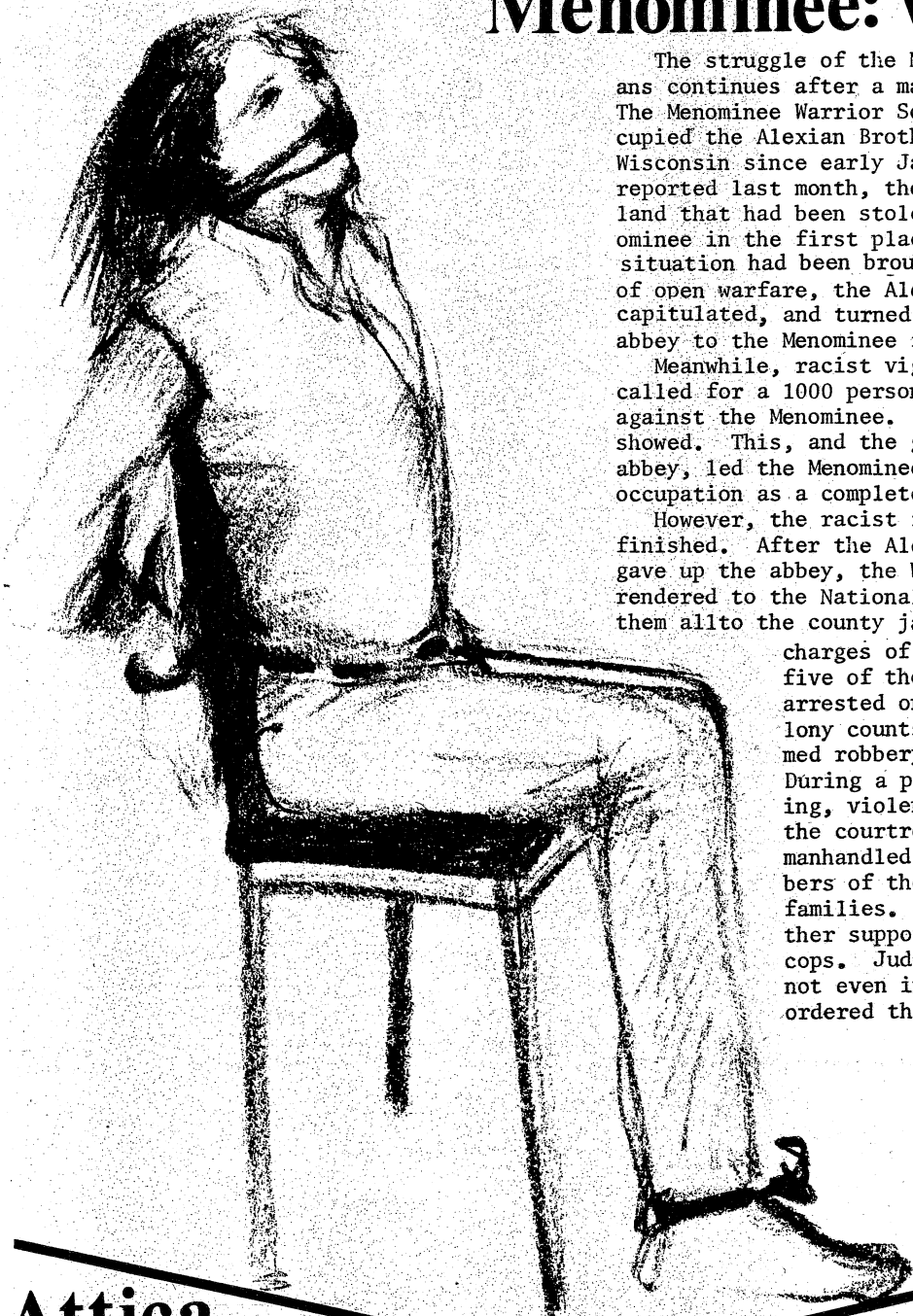
Finally, a jury of 10 whites, one Black and one Chicano refused to convict the remaining two on the felony charge. But exercising an option under Texas law, the two were convicted on misdemeanor assault charges. Exercising another option, the jury ordered that punishment be one and two years probation, respectively.

Much testimony at the trial, both by the defendants and other witnesses, detailed the police assault and police beatings once the 12 were arrested. Such testimony convinced the jury that the police instigated the assault, not the defendants.

Pre-trial motions on the simple assault charges are scheduled to begin soon, but Houston 12 supporters believe the state may drop the charges. The state has already suffered much exposure in the courts and doesn't want more.

While this was a clear victory in one respect, that the five largely got off, it was a hollow victory in another respect. Many overtly political, highly publicized trials have been held in this country in the last five years as the government has attempted to repress a growing leftist movement. As with the Houston 12, many of the trials have ended with the vindication of the defendants.

Yet, in the process, the left has had to spend enormous amounts of energy and money to defend itself from charges that should never have been brought. While the course of such trials frequently causes the government to expose its oppressive nature, we cannot believe that justice is done by acquittal. If justice prevailed, there would have been no trial in the first place. But in America, justice does not prevail. A partial justice is gained with every acquittal; but countless persons are tried on equally trumped-up charges, charges that arise from no overt political action. These persons have no hot-shot lawyers and national defense committees. They are all too often convicted and locked up. There is no justice for them. And we can expect no justice for them so long as we have a government which insists on repressing its people.



Attica

More Disclosures

February 1, 1975--Attica prosecutors revealed evidence this week that a prisoner who is now dead committed two murders for which five surviving Attica Brothers are about to be brought to trial.

The prosecutors admitted that they had kept the information secret for almost three years while continuing to prosecute the surviving Brothers.

Outraged at the disclosure, the defense team charged that the state had deliberately withheld evidence and manipulated evidence in order to get indictments against the defendants by any and all means.

Jomo Joko Omowale, Shango Bahati Kakawana, Big Black, Champ and Herbert X. Blyden are charged with murder and kidnap of two other prisoners who were found stabbed to death after the uprising. All five defendants are viewed by the state as having been "leaders".

It has now come to light that in the months following the uprising, at least two prisoners told police investigators that someone else, not a defendant, had claimed personal responsibility during the uprising for the two killings.

One of these witnesses, William Booker, did not testify for the defense because he feared his parole would be revoked, and he might even be charged. A grand jury is still sitting on the Attica rebellion, ready to indict any prisoner who might testify for the defense. This threat has harmed the Defense effort.

However, more and more witnesses who previously either remained silent or gave evidence to the prosecution, are now coming forward for the defense, and often claiming they had aided the prosecution under duress.

Dacajeweah & Pernasalice

More new witnesses speaking the truth, the revelation of more frame-

ups, is sure to come out of the trial of Dacajeweah (John Hill) and Charley Joe Pernasalice. Both Native Americans, they will be tried by a jury composed of 10 whites, 8 males, most all middle or upper class. Working class persons have had to dismiss themselves as they cannot support a family on the \$12 per day jury pay. The defense as argued that they should get a higher pay, but the judge said no.

The defense also contended that the jury regulations pertaining to women were unconstitutional. Women were permitted to excuse themselves without coming to court, a practice the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional during the jury selection. Judge King let the practice stand.

Despite a 1974 court ruling (by the same Judge King) that the Erie County jury pool (in which Attica is located) was unconstitutional because of its racial, sexual and age makeup, the jury is now mostly white, male, middle-aged. King had thrown out some 95% of the jury pool in his original ruling, but in this trial he seems no longer to care.

King, over the objections of the defense, prohibited Dacajeweah and Charley Joe from speaking on their own behalf. Meanwhile, the prosecution dismissed 8 of 10 prospective Black jurors for no apparent reason (except racism).

The judge frequently prohibited the defense from asking questions about the prospective jurors' attitudes toward Native Americans and other minorities.

One Black juror who was dismissed, Wavey Coleman, said, "I don't believe they want justice for these two...what they're trying to do is trying to get someone there (on the jury) that don't really understand what it's all about."

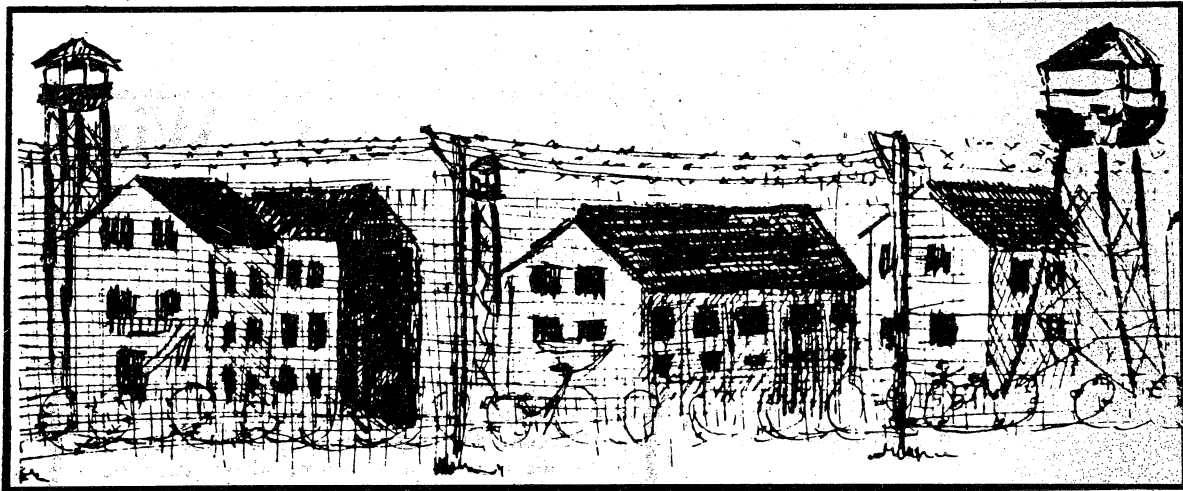
However much the state has rigged the case, they face a severe obstacle: the defense will bring out the truth. As the Brothers say, "Their is nothing the judge and the prosecutor can do to change the fact that their case is a frame-up, and when the truth comes out, it's going to be clear who the real chumps are in Judge King's courtroom."

January 28, 1975

Dear NEPA:

I am writing to you in hopes that you can help us get some support. I am one of the 26 men who was put into 8# block, at Walpole. First of all let me give you a first hand account of what is happening to us here. We are locked up 24 hours a day in a cell with no ventilation, toilets, or sinks. We get a shower on the average of every 4 days. We are fed measley meals that are crammed into a 4 oz. styrofoam bowl, that is not fit for human consumption. We are pissing and shitting outside our cells as they won't even give us buckets. There is very little medical attention, and what there is, is done by an inexperienced medic. There are no visits. Most of our personal stuff has disappeared.

We are utterly being dehumanized. And for no reason other than we are men who Fred Butterworth and Walter Waker-vitch feel threatened by. If you don't know, they are Deputy Superintendents. As of now that is the only reason I can come up with to try and explain to you why we are being treated like this, as



we still haven't been informed by the Administration what we did to merit this abuse.

We were all living down minimum, the majority of us in A-1. We were forcibly moved by screws donned in helmets, clubs, shields and shotguns. There was quite a few men who were clubbed and beaten, and still haven't seen a Doctor. We didn't receive any Due Process at all. Unless you call getting clubbed, beaten and dragged away handcuffed behind your back Due Process. We've all received Discipline Reports since we've been in 8# block. Most of them have been referred to the D.A. The majority of them for ripping down a cage that was blocking a tier. We all have refused to see the Discipline Board as we don't recognize it as such.

Tonight while I was writing this letter we received a memo about visiting privileges. It said, in order to receive a visit, you have to send a visiting form to the people you want to come up. And then, they have to fill it out and send it back to this place. And then, wait for this place to o.k. them and send them a visit-

ing pass back telling them which day and what hour they can come up. And only 2 people can visit at once - a child counts as an adult. The visit is only an hour long, and just twice a week. And before this lock up you could have 5 visits a week, 3 hours long, as many visitors you wanted and anyone you wanted to see. So, what it comes down to is that they are trying to keep us away from our loved ones by making visiting here impossible. We are not accepting it! We refuse to fill these forms out, and are being dehumanized enough. Now, they are trying to dehumanize our people. So, the men in 8# block will go without visits until we can get some support out there on the streets to change these conditions.

While all this is going on in the "residents" down Minimum are out all day, eating in the kitchen and getting regular visits like before and acting like we don't exist. But, that's because 99% of them are weasels because if they weren't they wouldn't be going along with the Administration. The majority of the men down-Minimum are new guys and P.C.'s. Most of the men that were

down Minimum are down the Maximum and in various blocks. And are living in bad conditions also. But, I can't shed much light on their situation as I've been locked up in 8# block. But, I do know that they are not much better off than we are. And they will soon find out if they don't start doing something. The only unity I've seen so far is the 26 men in 8# block and half the men in 9# and 10# blocks.

We, the men who are in 8# block are ready to die to change these conditions. But if we do die then we lose everything we fought for. So before it comes to that, can you people out there on the streets get together and support us before it's another Mass Murder? Also all you people in jail and at Walpole get together. Cause in reality by your supporting us your helping yourselves. Cause if they get away with what they're doing to us then they're going to try it on you!

In the Struggle,

Raymond LeBeau

Letters

Dear Mr. Crane

I received your letter today. Unfortunately, I cannot talk with you when you come to the correctional center about the large number of disturbances that have been occurring. I was committed to the Vermont State Hospital on February 6 on a non-emergency, involuntary basis. I probably will not be returning to the Woodstock Correctional Center.

There have been a lot of disturbances in the past few weeks at the correctional center and I have tried to give some kind of direction to all this rioting. We need a meeting with Mrs. Chase to discuss our grievances. Mrs. Chase has got to improve her administration of the correctional center or these disturbances are going to start making headlines. Some of the grievances center around the heater that was completely inoperative in the back of the cellblock for days at a time and was not reported, the poor medical attention we have received, the near death of Sherry Powers, the sloppy method of prescribing medication and the excessive and frivolous disciplinary reports. If Mrs. Chase wants these disturbances controlled, she should talk over these grievances with the inmates personally and make some kind of agreement not to retaliate as she has been doing. The inmates at the correctional center know their power and they know Mrs. Chase is afraid of our unified strength. If Mrs. Chase proves to be such a poor, incommunicative administrator, I feel she deserves all the broken windows, smashed cell-doors, over-flowing toilets, noise, singing of protest songs at night and she should be reported to Commissioner Stoneman for failing in her duty to listen to the inmates grievances. By her excessive disciplinary reports, she is aggravating the problem, she is asking the inmates to dismantle the correctional center board by board and window by window. The expense to state property has already been great enough but there are still more windows to smash, more doors to break down and while the state is paying and repairing, the inmates can break them again anonymously and no one will inform because of the united effort. This is power Mrs. Chase cannot ignore just as our lives, our health cannot be ignored and will not be ignored.

I hope you will talk to the inmates on your next visit, offer suggestions and explain their legal rights to them. This will help them and keep them from getting bogged down with disciplinary reports.

Sincerely,
Tracy Knapp

Dear NEPA:

I just received January 1975 NEPA NEWS, and I am appalled at the City Star endorsement of a statement on Jane Alpert. I find it despicable whenever any group indicts and convicts an individual on the basis of flimsy or non-existent evidence and then bans and blacklists them--in the process effectively censoring anyone who refuses to join the stampede.

Although no one apparently takes credit for the original statement (it is only "endorsed" with encouragement to circulate it and get signatures), it seems that City Star, a group that should be above this sort of thing, has deemed itself judge and jury on Jane Alpert, and without evidence, found her guilty of informing and sentenced her to censure and exclusion.

On the basis of May 1973 letter she wrote and a quote in a New York Times news article that said Ms. Alpert was "cooperating fully with FBI investigators in providing details of her years as a fugitive", the collective and anonymous voice is "forced to believe" she has divulged harmful information about

her friends and other political people. Because of this belief, no further evidence is needed. Many people have been falsely convicted in such a manner without having an opportunity to speak in their own defense.

If the New York Times is going to be the basis for this belief, why not also take into consideration another article that said Ms. Alpert was providing details of her years as a fugitive, but was refusing to name other people, provide geographic locations or dates of the meetings she had with other radicals during her years underground.

It is very sad that people who themselves have been victimized so readily can self-righteously become victimizers. In this case, representatives of the women's movement are utilizing the very tactics they abhor when used against them. This kind of repression and sloppiness is no different than the repression used against individuals who have disagreed with, say, Nixon or McCarthy or the FBI. City Star may believe the repressive tactics are justified because its objectives are more

laudatory than those of others who have done the same thing, but of course that is always the justification.

There are all kinds of revolutionaries, but anyone who really believes in humane change, in the growth of a society which really cares about the needs of people, the quality of life and the right to equal justice must act responsibly and with an unyielding commitment to truth.

Any group of people who think they are "right" ganging up on one lone, and probably lonely individual who they "believe" has done something wrong is no way to create positive change. It is a bully tactic that should be looked at as exactly that: dishonest and cowardly.

The statement says "All human beings must make agonizing decisions during their lifetimes about the limits beyond which they cannot go in the name of self-preservation." I believe we would do well to make those agonizing decisions ourselves before continuing with this witchhunt or starting the next one.

Sincerely,
Kathryn W. Burkhart

News from New England

Malcolm X

February 25 marks the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. Malcolm X. was a hustler/gangster type known as "Detroit Red". In prison, he became a disciple of the Nation of Islam (referred to often as the Black Muslims) of Elijah Muhammed. Upon his release from prison, he organized for the Nation of Islam for a number of years. Then, after a trip to the mid-East, he split with Elijah, maintaining the problem was not white people but imperialism. In the last period of his life he spent organizing for a Black revolutionary organization and attempting to bring the case of Afro-Americans to the U.N. He sought to have the U.N. recognize that Blacks in the U.S. are a colonized people. He was shot to death while giving a speech in Harlem on February 25, 1965.

Elijah Muhammed

On February 25, 1975, Elijah Muhammed, the founder of the Nation of Islam died. Among many other activities, the Nation played a key role in developing the struggles of prisoners in the 1960's. Many prisoners joined the Nation of Islam, and furthered the struggle for democratic rights and human rights in prisons.

Legal Marijuana

A 26-year-old N.H. State Rep., Gerry Parker, has introduced a bill in the N.H. legislature to legalize the use of marijuana, set up state-operated packaging plants and sell it in the state liquor store.

"All marijuana," said Parker, must be home-grown in New Hampshire. No foreign corporation out of New York will be allowed to raise marijuana for sale in this state."

Parker said the state budget is in trouble, and the bill would raise \$30-50 million, more than a 3% sales tax or income tax. N.H. already largely subsists on "sin taxes" such as liquor, cigarettes, a lottery and betting revenues.

"For the first time in American history," said Parker, "the means of production will be people-oriented, not agri-business oriented."

P.S.: Parker resigned from the General Court when he was laid off his job. When this was announced on the floor, legislators applauded.

Ku Klux Klan

University of North Carolina students chased KKK leader David Duke off campus. The student union had paid \$800 to Duke, but those coming to hear Duke could only hear the speeches (from the audience) of protesting students. The 200 Black and 50 White students stated: "We serve notice to Duke: Your cause will no longer be legitimized by the privilege of speaking on University campuses." Algernon Marbley, chairman of the campus Black Student Organization, added that Black people must actively fight an organization which advocates, and sometimes practices, murder of Blacks.

Cut 'em Loose

Black New York City Judge Bruce M. Wright, known with respect by poor and third world defendants as "Cut 'em Loose Bruce" for his policy of low bail, has been transferred from the criminal to the civil bench. Maintaining he was transferred due to political pressure, Bruce has brought suit to be re-instated as a criminal judge. The suit lists 13 organizations, including the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and three D.A.'s, as having pressured the court's administrators into the transfer. Several organizations, including the National Conference of Black Lawyers, have joined Bruce's suit as co-plaintiffs.

Escape OK

A California appeals court agreed that in some cases prisons were so bad that inmates have "a human right to escape." Two Black women had escaped from a drug rehab. center, were caught and convicted, and appealed. They stated that they had sought every avenue of relief, short of escape, to no avail. When the appeals court refused to uphold the women's escape conviction, the local D.A. claimed the decision set "dangerous precedent" and said he would appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Georgia Suit

The ACLU has filed suit for the family of Andrew Griffen, a Reidsville, Ga. Prison inmate, seeking to force prison authorities to disclose the facts around Griffen's shooting death December 4. As reported in the December NEPA News, the shooting occurred during a work stoppage. Atlanta ACLU director Gene Guevero charged that "prison officials provoked the shooting by authorizing guards to use whatever force they felt necessary to compel prisoners to work punishment details." Four other cons were wounded when the guards opened fire.

Hurricane Carter

A demonstration in support of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis was held outside the N.J. State Prison at Trenton on February 1. 150 persons marched in response to a call put out by the New Jersey Workers Committee Against Police Repression, the Revolutionary Union and the Revolutionary Students Brigade. As they marched around the prison, men came to the windows of one side and could hear shouts of "Free Rubin Carter!" and "Free John Artis!"

While demonstrators supported Carter and Artis, the two lost another round in court. Going before Judge Samuel Lerner, who presided over their conviction, for the second time in the attempt to gain a re-trial, Carter and Artis lost. The appeal is based on recantation by the only two witnesses against them as well as evidence of prosecutorial misconduct. Lerner said the recantations "lack the ring of truth." Lawyers for Artis and Carter said they will appeal to the N.J. Supreme Court and are confident they will win.



Ruchell Magee

After four and one-half years of struggle, Ruchell Magee has been sentenced to life imprisonment for kidnapping. The sentence stems from the 1970 Marin County Courthouse shootout, in which Jonathan Jackson, a judge and two other San Quentin prisoners were killed. Angela Davis was charged, tried and acquitted in connection with the shootout.

After two years of pressure, Magee entered a guilty plea on kidnapping charges. He immediately appealed to the state Supreme Court to remove the plea, claiming it was entered under duress. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal, and Magee was sentenced. He was already serving a 5-to-life on a \$20 hold-up.

Wounded Knee

On February 5 the government dismissed charges against three leaders of the 1973 Wounded Knee occupation. To avoid another total defeat, such as the prosecution suffered in the trial of Wounded Knee leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means, Judge Nichols threw out the 11-count indictment.

McAlester

Believe it or not, the Federal government has filed civil rights charges against 10 prison guards at the Oklahoma State Prison in connection with the murder of Black prisoner Robert Forsythe in May of 1974. As reported in last month's NEPA News, cons burned down McAlester's maximum segregation unit after Forsythe's death. Ten cons have been indicted for burning "The Rock," as it was termed.

Correction

Last month, in the article "Should We Abolish Parole?", page 15, we made an error. Boxed at the lower right is information on publications available from the N.Y. Citizens Inquiry on Parole and Criminal Justice, Inc.

The 50 page handbook, About Parole, deals only with New York's parole, and is available free only to New York prisoners, ex-cons and parolees. For anyone else, the cost is \$2.00.

The Inquiry says, in correcting us, that they are sorry but just don't have the money to offer the handbook free to others.

and Around

Martin Sostre

Martin Sostre, a Black political prisoner in jail since 1967 on a frame-up drug bust, has begun trial on assault charges, in Plattsburg, N.Y. Sostre was charged with assault when he refused to submit to a "rectal search" at Clinton Prison. Sostre has been beaten 3 times for refusal to submit to the "search" and, of course, was charged with assault. Jury selection led to the empaneling of an all-white jury.

As we go to press we heard that Martin Sostre was convicted on three counts of assault. A riot broke out in the courtroom when the verdict was read.



"What's the matter... you want to stay free, don't you?"

On our cover we have the fourth of Ken Westhaver's Rikers Island series, Easter Parade at Rikers Island. This is the last of the series by Ken, who teaches art at Franconia College. Thanks.

L.A. Cops

The Los Angeles Police Department has begun training cops to control possible food riots. Said Commander Frank Bittrell, "But the potential (of riots), because of the economy, the inflation and the recession, is such that the department has got to be prepared." 500 supervisors have been through the program, and all 7200 officers will be trained. Bittrell is the former head of L.A.P.D.'s SWAT force, now being glorified on T.V.

Puerto Rico

An estimated 30-35% of all women in Puerto Rico aged 20-49 have been sterilized without their knowledge or consent. A secret report compiled by PR government officials indicates that this is being done to cut down unemployment. The fact that the jobs are being reduced by high-technology industry brought in from the mainland U.S. and by forced reduction of the island's agriculture, has not been viewed as a problem by the authorities. The Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization feels that sterilization is tacitly approved by Washington.

Also in Puerto Rico, National Guardsmen have surrounded the homes of union activists and leaders, police have stolen the papers of independence leaders, police have fought with striking workers of the Waterworks and Sewers Authority, and the Puerto Rican governor has claimed that recent acts of sabotage are linked to the independence movement.

This recent turmoil began when the workers, members of the Authentic Independent Union, went out on strike. After a court injunction, the union leaders were arrested, then freed after mass protest and the threat of a general strike. Numerous acts of sabotage, including bombing of American corporations, have occurred, always late at night so no one is hurt. In retaliation, right-wingers bombed a cafe frequented by members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) just hours before a massive PSP demonstration and killed two persons.

Veterans

Nearly 1/3 of all state, Federal and local prisoners are Vietnam era Veterans. Now a report commissioned by Congressman Charles B. Rangel and issued by the Governmental Accounting Office charges that many of those imprisoned veterans have not been told of their rights to benefits. Even though the Veterans Administration is supposed to seek out veterans and inform them of possible benefits, more than half of a group of prisoners and parolees interviewed for the study "erroneously believed" they had lost their rights to benefits because they had been imprisoned--WIN

Repeat: Vets are eligible for veterans' benefits, even if they are now in prison. Contact your nearest VA office for information about available programs. If you feel you are being hassled, contact the Vietnam Veterans Against the War--Winter Soldier Organization, New England Regional Office, 15 Cymer, Burlington, Vt. 05401, or the National Office, 827 West Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657. Try dealing with the VA first: they get paid to help you.

Atmore-Holman

The trial of the Atmore-Holman brothers has begun in Brewton, Alabama. The nine Black prison activists are charged with assault and murder, stemming from two incidents at Atmore and Holman prisons in Alabama. The prisons have been organized by a militant prisoner organization, Inmates for Action (IFA).

In January 1974 in Atmore, IFA members (allegedly) led a brief rebellion seizing two guards as hostages. Police attacked and shot a hostage. The cops beat several IFA leaders and murdered one. Then in March, at Holman, IFA member Tommy (Yakemma) Dutton was beaten to death while handcuffed; a guard died of a heart attack during the beating from over-exertion.

Among items to be used by the defense is a "death list" compiled by prison authorities listing IFA members. The 1200 person prison has been denounced by the Alabama Bar Association and by the U.S. District Court.

Refuses to Testify

Professor Theodore Keller, a San Francisco State University teacher, was sentenced to 15 days and a \$1500 fine after he refused to testify against a mugger he helped catch. Keller chased Michael J. Boyd through three campus buildings after Boyd shot and robbed Prof. Walter Hacker in front of the humanities building.

When D.A. Thomas Norman called Keller to the witness stand and asked him six questions, Keller refused to answer them, leading to the sentence.

Explained Keller, "We're all guilty. We have to change the social system. 85% of this kind of crime is done by minorities. Either you have to say its genetic or a product of the social system. I believe it's the latter.

"We need a different social structure where everyone shares equally. Anything I say can only be used to put the blame on Boyd.

"We are all going to have to share in the violence."

Letter

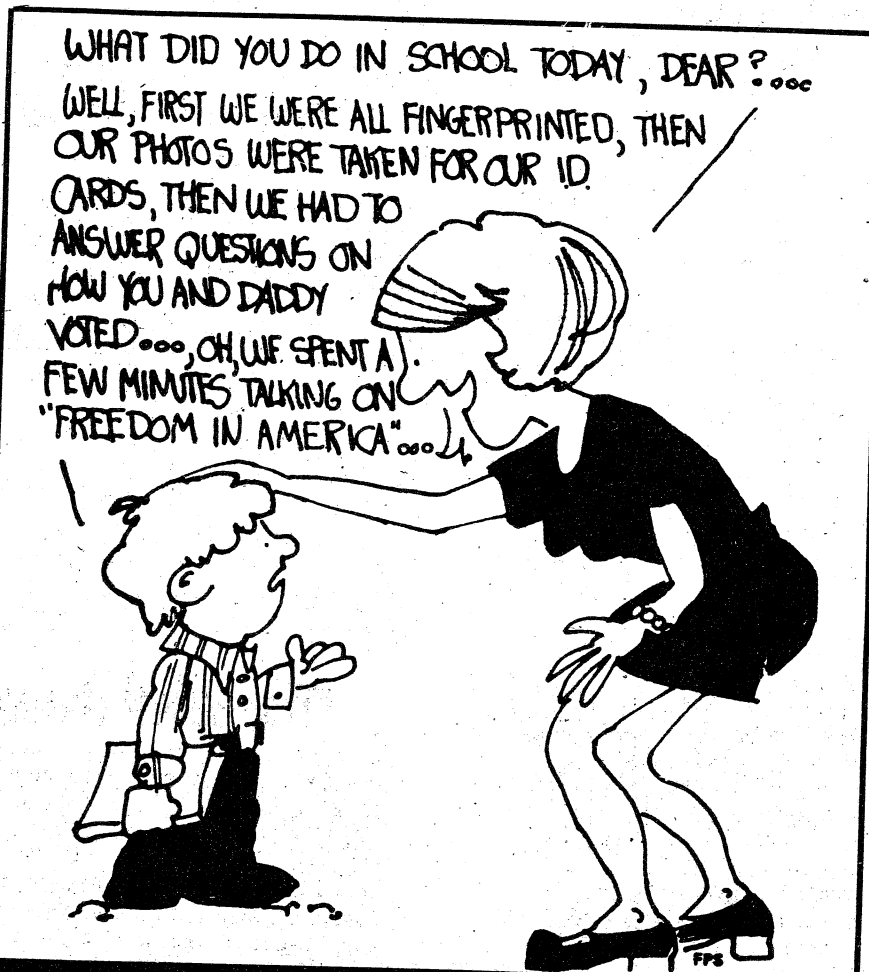
Dear NEPA,

I am a teacher in the East Hartford Alternative School, a white working class public alternative high school. Many students here would like to learn more about the prison system in this country and so I think the best way to learn is by reading your paper and other writings by those incarcerated.

I've been reading your paper since last May and feel that your paper is written by and for the people. We know how the straight media distorts, ignores or lies about the struggle and so to read your paper is like a fresh drink of water in the desert.

The NEPA will be read in the high school and any ideas, projects or thoughts that come out of our investigation on the prison system, we will send to you. Thank you.

In the struggle,
Deborah Britzman



Slave Labor in American Prisons

We reprinted the following article from the *Winter Soldier* as an introduction to what we feel is an area of extreme importance. While not exhaustive, the article touches upon several key areas: work in prisons, wages for prisoners, the relation between prisoners and outside workers, to name some. We would appreciate comments or further contributions to the subjects discussed here.

When 43 inmates at McAlester Prison in Oklahoma burned down the "Rock" on October 19th (the "Rock" was the isolation unit, described by one prisoner as a "medieval chamber of horrors"), the State officials had a "solution" besides their normal brutality and repression. According to the Board of Corrections chairman, "until we have work incentives to give an inmate a chance to prove himself worthy of being released into society, they are going to continue to pull stuff like this. Idleness breeds mischievousness... This means even if we have to bring in a mobile industry to put these hands to work."

Acting Warden Roy Sprinkle immediately began advertising for bids on a new garment factory to make uniforms for guards and prisoners, and to rebuild the laundry and dry-cleaning factory along with the traditional license tag production.

Have prison officials decided to go all out for job-training and rehabilitation? Have they given up on their usual prehistoric methods of trying to beat prisoners into submission? Not at all. It's just that today, profits are talking!

A time-tested technique of the factory owner has been to pick up his factory and move it, especially when faced by militant workers, and where wages are lower. More recently, the shop has run away overseas to places like Hong Kong or Taiwan or South Korea where workers can be paid almost nothing in comparison. The reason for this is simple: every penny less paid to the workers means one more penny for the owner to stick in his bulging profit pocket.

But, with growing liberation struggles overseas making foreign exploita-

tion more difficult, the industrialists and corporate businessmen are also beginning to find that the U.S. prison system is another target to exploit. While they can't yet move large factories into the prisons, they are more and more using slave labor which exists in prisons around the country. For the factory owner, the best possible situation is one where workers are supervised and controlled as tightly as possible on and off the job, where workers cannot strike, and where they are paid as little as possible--and prisons are perfect. Prison wages vary: at Attica they remain a straight 25¢ a day. In the state prison in Kentucky, a recent memorandum noted that the pay scales of \$3, \$5, \$7, and \$10 per month "will be a broken down scale of 15¢, 25¢, 35¢, and 50¢ per day". There are reports of wages as high as 47¢ per hour in some prisons!

Prisons--federal, state, and local--provide a workforce large enough to be worth the time and energy to exploit: all told, there are some 600,000 men and women prisoners (according to government figures). Around \$165 million worth of goods are produced yearly by prison labor. Federal Prison Industries (with George Meany as one of the directors) admits to profits of between 11% and 17% per year. At the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, 900 prisoners produced \$18 million worth of products, with a clear profit of \$4 million. Needless to say, none of this profit goes to the prisoner/workers.

These figures are just a small part of the actual value of work done by prisoners. Thousands of labor hours are spent in jobs which pay nothing at all--services to prison officials (cleaning, gardening, cooking, waiting tables, etc.) Also farmwork, highway construction and forestry projects. As *Winter Soldier* was told by one prisoner in Louisiana who was transferred to a "work facility", "Now this institution isn't a prison that I was in, merely a boarding station for the State Police Division. Actually, it is the State Police Headquarters, and they set up a barracks there to keep inmates that help to maintain the equipment. By doing this, the State can get away without paying high bills and fees to free people to work these jobs--instead they just send to the State Penitentiary and get a few inmates and give them the job at a fee of 2¢ per hour".

Prison administrators, as in the case of McAlester, see work programs as a vital part of their program: not only do they have the convenient cover of "rehabilitation", and pick up on all the free services forced out of prisoners, but in many states they can lease out prisoners to private contractors for a fee--which goes directly to the administrator, never to the prisoners who do the work. In addition to the blatant corruption involved, work programs can often be used as the carrot by which to "reward" an obedient prisoner: even though wages are pitiful, they are better than nothing. And, because there are sometimes extra privileges involved, jobs can be held out as a temptation to convicts who inform or who stick to the official program. Leaders of militant prison resistance or organizing are, in many cases, never even considered for these jobs.

Prison industry is profit and free services and pacification; one thing it is not is "rehabilitation." Ancient equipment, jobs like making license plates, personal services to guards or wardens, none of these provide the skills which lead to employment on the outside. What they do is take wages from workers who would be making the license plates or the clothes or whatever on the outside--why pay workers a minimum wage if prisoners can be forced to make it cheaper? And while prison industry does not now compete directly with outside industry (most prison products go to the state--military low quarters shoes, for instance, which are made at the Federal Prison at Leavenworth, Kansas), clearly the business world is looking more and more closely at the tempting profits to be squeezed from prison labor. Even now,

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Slave Labor

that labor is often used instead of the workers who can least afford it. Through-out the south, prisoners do farm work in place of the migrant farmworkers, already one of the most miserably paid segments of American society. Yet, even their low wages can't compete with prison wages, nor can their work be enforced with whips, guns, or gas, all common at prison farms.

But the prison administrators are caught in a bind; while many of them would like to just lock up prisoners 24 hours a day (that's the simplest way to deal with prisoners who might otherwise rebel,) that would mean no profits for the administrator or for the corporate financier of prison jobs. So the wardens put the prisoners to work. But work means that people are getting together, that they can talk with each other, that they can unite to fight their common oppression. It's no

coincidence that several recent prison rebellions have taken place in the industrial areas of the prison--the garment factory in Starke, Florida; or the shoe factory in Leavenworth. Getting together means unity, and unity means struggle against the enemy--and to prisoners around the country, that enemy is clearly the system which makes profits from prison labor, and which needs those prisons in order to continue to exist.

Winter Soilder is the paper of Vietnam Veterans Against The War/Winter Soilder Organization (VVAW/WSO). The organization is an anti-imperialist organization with its primary emphasis on GI's and veterans. VVAW/WSO is also very involved in prison work, and publishes "Inside/Out", a newsletter to prisoners. Both publications are free to prisoners, \$3 to GI's, \$6 to outsiders.

VVAW/WSO, 827 W. Newport Ave
Chicago, Ill.
60657

Support Wayne Raney

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On page 12 of the January NEPA News there is an article written by Wayne L. Raney. He is asking our support by petitioning the governor of Ohio, asking that he be released from isolation. The reason that I write you is, that I wanted to remind you to write the Gov. of Ohio, in case you haven't yet.

Wayne killed a prison guard while serving time in Lucasville Ohio State Prison. He has been given a life sentence by the court for his wrongdoing and has been in isolation with no means of exercise, fresh air, or any privileges, for a year now. The Department of ("Rehabilitation and Correction") has informed Wayne that they will never let him out of isolation! I was under the impression that when a man is sentenced by the court to prison, that it is to "Rehabilitate" him. Yes Wayne has killed a prison guard while in prison. But does that mean he should be cast aside and treated as nothing and be denied the right to Rehabilitation? I should say not. If anything, he should be back in population and helped on the road to bettering himself. Isolation only tends to embitter a person and make that person feel that there is no hope and that no one gives a dam. Well I give a dam and I am sure all of you do to. So please, if you haven't written to Governor John Gilligan, State House, Columbus, Ohio 43215. then do so NOW and give Wayne your support that he seeks and needs.

Unity
Henry J. Routhier
N.H. State 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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PRINTER: North Country Printers, Bradford, Vt.

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

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

- I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.
 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.
 \$10 Institutional Subscription

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.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Mail to NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580

ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have moved or are moving, please put your old address below, your new address above.

OLD ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP CODE

Second New England Prisoner Conference

Pre-registration

If you plan on coming to the conference, please cut out and fill in the pre-registration form for the conference. In no way does this bind you to come, or to attend the workshops you check off. Its purpose is to enable us to see that everyone receives housing, gets to and from the conference, and that workshops are scheduled in the most appropriate rooms.

In addition, we will be preparing information for each workshop, background material, differing ideas, etc. We hope to be able to send the packets for the conference out before the conference so that the participants will have time to look

over the material before they come. So that is another reason to send in the pre-registration.

And then the question of money. There is no set fee for the conference. We do ask that anyone who can do so, please donate what you can. We would like to print excerpts of the conference proceedings; we would like to distribute videotapes of the conference for public viewing; we have a great deal of material to type and print already; and we do not have much money (like most everyone else). So a small contribution from each participant will go a long way.

I am coming; here is \$ _____ to help defray the cost of the conference.

I plan to stay at a motel/hotel.

Please arrange housing for me, no cost, in the Franconia area.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I plan to arrive Thursday night; Friday morn.

Please check off your first two preferences for each series of workshops (Friday, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon). This does not commit you to the workshop, but will enable us to schedule the location of the workshops by placing those that look the largest in the largest available rooms.

Please check this box if you will need local transportation while you are here.

Meals will be available in the Franconia College dining room for about \$1.25 each.

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.

Schedule

We somehow missed putting down two of the workshops in where the rest of them are.

Community Corrections in Vermont. Vermont will soon be the only U.S. State to have no maximum security prison. Most of Vermont's prisoners are kept in Community Correctional Centers. How did this come about, what are the CCC's really like (community oriented or just mini-prisons), what can other states learn from Vermont? --Friday.

Education and Work Release Programs. Discussion of the uses, merits and potential expansion of such programs. It has been argued that releasing a con to a campus can be beneficial to the movement in that such persons can rapidly develop student support for the prisoner movement, and therefore help strengthen the movement.--Saturday afternoon.

Other Workshops

Registration: Thursday Night and Friday Morning.
FRIDAY: 9am-12noon, introductory session, debate and discussion on the value of alternatives.

1:30-3:30, Workshops

4:00-5:00, Summary of the workshops, general meet.

Night, party, place to be announced

SATURDAY: 9:00-9:45 am, General presentation

10:30-12:30 Workshops

1:30-3:30 Workshops

4:00-5:30, Summary of the day's workshops

Night, films in the auditorium

SUNDAY: 9:00-11:00 am 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.



April 25, 26, 27

Franconia, N. H.