

NEPA NEWS

the voice of new england prisoners' association



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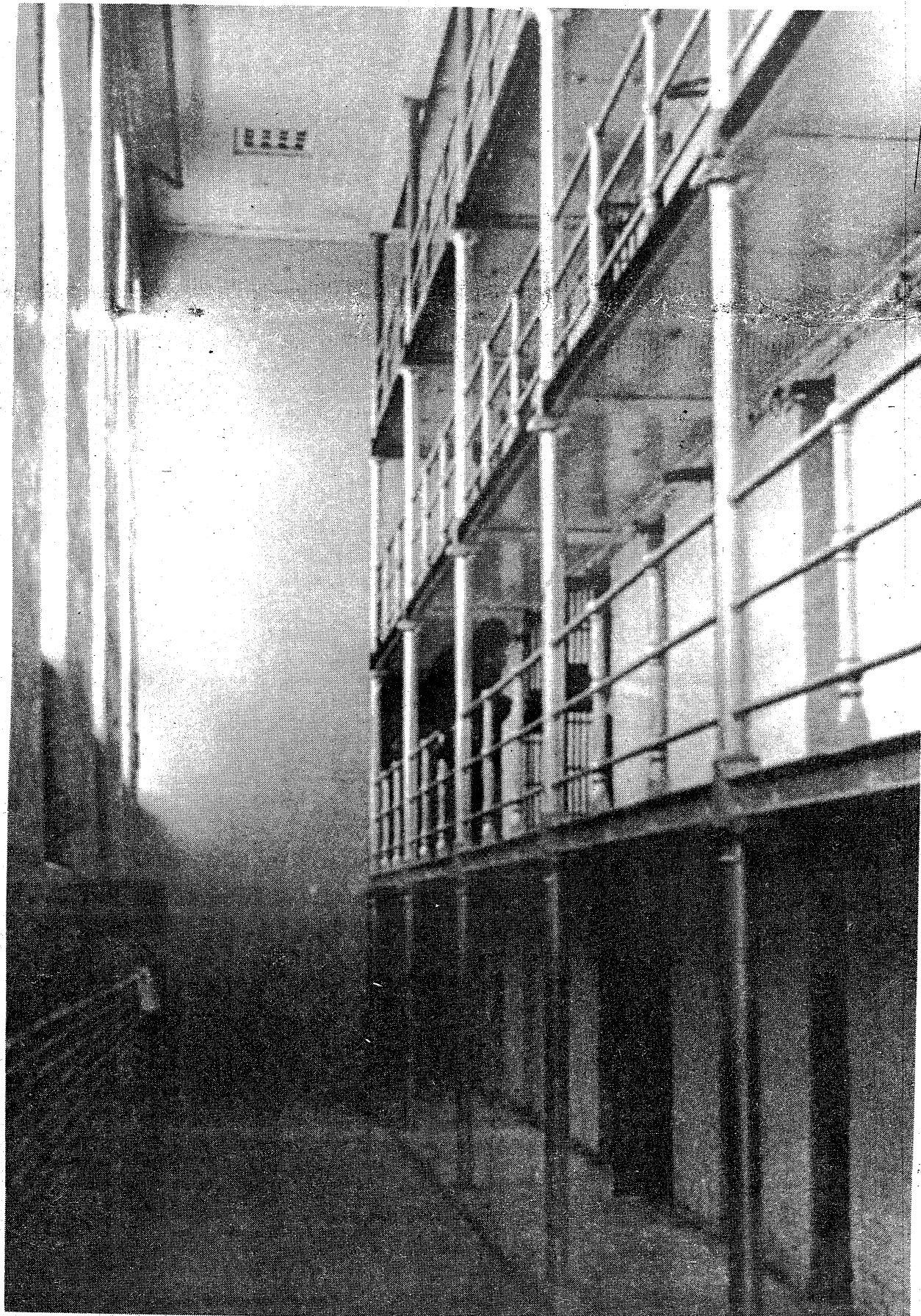
"we refuse to crawl"

by Dave Teuteberg

After a week-long strike at The Vermont Correctional Department's prison in Windsor, and the revelation that a tape exists documenting the presence of a narcotic ring among the guards, Windsor Prison is in turmoil. The affair is complex, marked on the one hand by a succession of moves by Warden Julius Moeykens to cover up the tapes and to stop the formation of a prisoners union by the men at Windsor, and, marked on the other hand, with attempts by the prisoners to struggle collectively to establish basic human rights in the fortress at Windsor, built in 1809. The prisoners of C Block have formed The Vermont Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, (VPSC).

On October, 10, 1973 the administration of Windsor ordered a lock-up of the entire prison population under the premise of an escape attempt by two men. Concerning this escape attempt one sourced expressed, "mixed belief" in its' verity and another source elaborated the fact that, "Windsor Prison has security procedure for attempts of this nature and, since no man did succeed in an escape, the security worked, and a lock-up was not necessary." The escape attempt served as an excuse for a contraband shake-down in the prison.

According to a VPSC press release, Oct. 12, 1973, "They have seized legal documents, that are the personal belongings of C Block residents, in an attempt to cover-up what could bloom into a massive departmental scandal. These documents, along with tape recordings, clearly expose a narcotics ring operated by officers...". The members of B Block, the so-called "honor Block" at Windsor, were released from the lock-up on Thursday, Oct.



(cont. p.6)

Windsor Prison

photo: Fishman-Rosenstock

Letter

Here is a section of a letter from a brother working, among other things, on prisons. The letter reflects the struggles he has faced in his work.

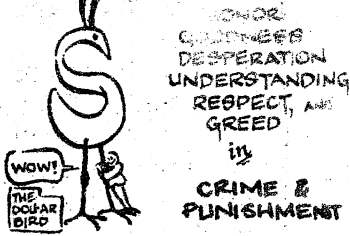
"...Things that we have found: it is necessary to combat tendency toward ultra-leftism which dominates prisoner ideology and combat the narrow view (between bars!) that many prisoners have of the working class and conditions generally. Also it is necessary to point out that prison organizing is intended to accomplish what is supposedly the goal of prisons: to "rehabilitate" prisoners and make them responsible members of society (i.e., revolutionaries!). To the "public" it must be pointed out that despite propaganda to the contrary, prisons intentionally serve to perpetuate the existing social conditions (including crime) and any attempts on the part of prisoners to change that is met by brutality, repression, murder, etc. Workers and poor people, hardest hit by crime are justifiably outraged by being ripped off, since it makes their survival more difficult. It is necessary to point out who the biggest thieves and murderers are (Rockefeller, etc.).

Well, I've got to get ready to go to work. Hope you are all doing well.

Love/Struggle,
Michael
New Orleans, La.

LAW FOR ALL

BOSS OF THE CO.



HONOR
BUSINESS
DESPERATION
UNDERSTANDING
RESPECT, AND
GREED
IN
CRIME &
PUNISHMENT



from
the
Boston
Phoenix

REMEMBER THE WAKEFIELD BANK THAT FOLDED LAST FALL? ITS OFFICERS HAVE JUST BEEN INDICTED FOR FRAUD!



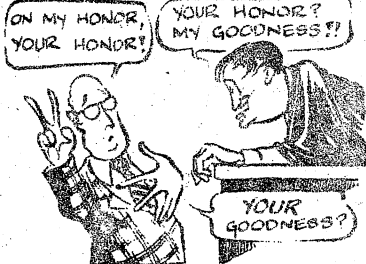
WHAT KIND OF TREATMENT CAN THEY EXPECT?



WELL, REMEMBER THE GENERAL ELECTRIC EXEC'S WHO GOT 30 DAYS FOR PRICE FIXING?



MORE RECENTLY, THE COURTS ORDERED JAMES ROOSEVELT INVOLVED IN A STOCK SWINDLE - TO PROMISE NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN!



A LECTURE ON CRIMES: THE UGH-COMMON CRIMINAL IS OFTEN MOTIVATED BY SHEER DESPERATION! I ASK YOU, IS THAT ANY REASON TO ROB? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!



BUT THE "WHITE-COLLAR" CRIMINAL GETS A DIFFERENT TREATMENT WHICH I CAN UNDERSTAND, AND EVEN RESPECT



CORRECTION

In our last issue we incorrectly spelled the name of the woman who took the photograph of Erika Huggins on our centerspread. We apologize. Her name is EMIKO TONOOKA. The photo originally appeared in the book *Women in Prison* by Kathryn Burkhart.

NAMELY, NAKED
GREED



YES, KIDS, STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT, WHILE "WHITE-COLLAR" CRIMES ACCOUNT FOR THREE TIMES THE LOSSES DUE TO ORDINARY BURGLARY AND THEFT, THE WHITE-COLLAR THIEF GETS OFF EASIER! FOR INSTANCE, IN CALIFORNIA IN 1969, OUT OF 502 TAX FRAUD CONVICTIONS, ONLY 95 ACTUALLY SERVED TIME - AND THE SENTENCES AVERAGED SEVEN MONTHS. BUT 60% OF THE CONVICTED BURGLARS WENT TO JAIL, WITH SENTENCES AVERAGING THREE YEARS!

THE MORAL IS THIS: THE NEXT TIME YOU CONSIDER ROBBERY, USE YOUR BRAIN! SO GET AN EDUCATION! AND KEEP YOUR COLLAR CLEAN!

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Reform Or Regression

As I walked into the administration building of the Youth Development Center in Manchester, N.H., I at once felt institutionalized: bars on the secretary's windows, a stale stench everywhere. We met the Superintendent, Dr. Morello, who told us he was busy, so Mr. Walter Foster, the Director of Clinical Services, led us into his office.

After calling around to get us a guide, Mr. Foster explained that just yesterday a conference on penal institutions had been held which, he thought, went very well. At that point our guide, an inmate named Bill (not his real name) entered. Foster carefully explained that everything Bill told us was confidential and that Bill did not have to answer any questions he didn't want to answer. We were on our way.

"This is my second round," explained Bill. "The first time I was here just to wait for a court hearing and to see if the school could do anything for me. Well, here I am again, and I've been here for two months and I have three more to go."

"What are you in for?" I asked.

"Both times for B&E (breaking and entering)." "I needed the bread for my habit. . . Smack." He said he would smoke grass again, but never "hit up" (inject intravenously) because "it's too much of a hassle."

As we walked past the cottages that make up most of the institution, Bill explained that each cottage was for a different type of juvenile.

"Why the bars only on this cottage?" I asked.

This is for kids who go AWOL or are really fucked in the head."

I wondered to myself, why put a run-away behind bars with someone who might be dangerously disturbed? On top of that, why just lock up and let rot a mentally disturbed kid, one who needs help?

We reached a fenced-in yard where about 40 young men and women were playing volleyball, watched by five "house supervisors". I approached one, an elderly man, and asked, "Why did you choose to work with these young people?"



"Well," he replied, "I was a salesman making good money, putting my kids through school and living good. Then the Doc tells me I can't travel any more because of my age. Since I was living in Manchester and was always good with kids, I applied for the job and got it."

"You have to be like a salesman in this trade. If a kid wants to punch out with you, you talk to him, see why he's mad. If you can't settle it then, the next day you start fresh, as if nothing went on between you." I wondered whether ignoring a problem, acting as though something didn't happen, would make the cause of the problem disappear.

The best part of the program seems to be in the Riverview Cottage. Here they have group encounters, work-study programs, that enable some of the prisoners to go out of the Center, and an attempt to form a sense of community. However, the impression I got from the prisoners was that the rest of the school is so archaic that any prisoner who reaches Riverview house has been so messed-over by the school that he (it's only for men) can't deal with even the little freedom allowed. Most of the prisoners go from the oppression and the irrelevance that makes up the bulk of the school right back on the street. The rate of recidivism approaches 70%.

When I asked him about the academic part of the school, Bill replied in a monotone, "I think it's alright. I learn stuff even though the teachers aren't that good. It's OK." But I later discovered that a lot of the prisoners thought the school was a waste.

As we continued toward Bill's cottage I asked him what the prisoners were in for.

"Some kids are here because they cut school. A lot of others are here for robbery, stealing cars and dope. It's really fucked-up, kids being in here for cutting school. This place just messes them up more, then they come back for the same thing."

I asked another prisoner if he thought the Center was any good, and he replied, "I'm trying to be responsible and to learn trust and friendship, but I'll probably do another B&E when I get out. Just to see if I can get away with it."

Note: We invite the NHYDC to reply—both prisoners and administrators.

Grady Reinstated

by Monty Griffith-Mair

An unusual six hour New Hampshire State Prison (NHSP) Board of Trustees meeting was held October 18. At this meeting the Board deliberated the resignation of Paul Grady, the Executive Director of the state's first non-drug-related Halfway House. Grady had refused to take any more "hassles" from NHSP Warden Joseph Vitek and the Prison's Director of Treatment, David Clarke. Grady was delighted to bring the circumstances of his resignation to public attention. In attendance at the meeting were four New Hampshire newsmen, observers from NEPA, the N.H. Civil Liberties Union, the N.H. Commission on Civil Rights, House Majority Leader George Roberts and Don Gorman of the Governor's Executive Council.

The circumstances leading to Grady's resignation tells a story of how Vitek and Clarke operate the NH SP against the prisoner's welfare, against any "liberalization" of prevailing authoritarian attitudes, and against men like Paul Grady who think and act with some independence.

The tone of the discussion was set by Morris Silver, Chairman of the Board: "We are going to get the facts about this." He demanded Vitek and Grady "put hands and feet on the table so nothing is hidden."

Grady outlined the "hassles" he had with Vitek since he was hired last December to be Executive Direc-

tor of the as yet inoperative Halfway house.

--He spent seven months in the prison doing Vitek's bureaucratic work.

--He was told he was no longer Executive Director, just director, and was to take "all orders" from Vitek and Clarke.

--He was ordered to make no contacts with community leaders, speak to no newsmen, meet with no officials from the University of New Hampshire and have no "members of the N.H. Prisoners Association" on the staff of the Halfway House.

--He was told that no phones could be installed in the House.

--He was informed that the budget to make the necessary renovations of the House would be \$1000, not the estimated need of \$15,000.

Grady concluded his presentation to the Board by saying that he was prepared to withdraw his resignation, but only if he were allowed to continue progressive programs for the prisoners.

When Vitek spoke in his own defense he claimed that Grady had told a staff meeting that "he was resigning against Vitek" and "That was wrong of him." At that point Col. Domina, the new training officer for the guards at NHSP stated, "Mr. Grady said he would withdraw his resignation if Warden Vitek would meet with him."

Vitek then claimed he was "legally" the boss of the Halfway House,

as he was the Warden of the prison.

Grady replied that was another hassle because, "The prison is essentially a custodial and security operation. The warden wants to run the Halfway House like the prison."

The essence of Vitek's argument was that Grady had caused a "personality clash" so "I had to tie his hands first, then I was forced to tie his feet, and then tie him up completely."

After almost six hours of debate, Board Chairman Silver handed a sealed letter to Grady. Though conditions were attached, the letter confirmed that the trustees wanted Paul Grady to run the Halfway House.

The Road To Freedom

From Midnight Special

The situation here at Walpole, even in the midst of negotiations, mediated by representatives of the American Arbitration Association, is fluid and potentially explosive. We, the prisoners' insist on being human beings, with all the human rights to which people are entitled, no matter where they are; our oppressors' running dogs, refuse to recognize the change manifested in our awakening. They are still playing games with human lives, even their own.

Circumstances seem to bear out the validity of a proposition, we advance, before proceeding. This profit oriented system, which depends for its survival on waste of surplus resources, human and material, cannot stir itself to make a meaningful, prosperous life, for its backbone, the petit-bourgeoisie and the worker; therefore it certainly will not make the slightest effort to allow the most oppressed, the prisoner, to live a life free of apprehension, harrassment, and de-humanization. It cannot afford to.

Being black and a prisoner, thus being among the first to go, I cannot look at things in other than a revolutionary context. In order to survive, we must change the system, and those who enjoy the fruits of this horror, will not stand by passively, and allow us to wrest power from them without a bitter fight. They won't be in the front lines, but, they will set their wolves and running dogs on us, again and again. If we don't resist, we'll be eaten up, and if we don't carry the fight, we will continue to be the miserable sheep, awaiting the slaughter. The prime question is how do we fight?

There has been and is still, a struggle going on here, in Walpole, one that has gone on for a couple of years. What can we, and our brothers and sisters elsewhere, learn from our successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses, the strengths and weakness of our enemy, etc.?

About a year and a half ago, when prisoners here started awakening politically, the governor decided to throw the convicts a bone. He appointed, John O. Boone, the "Miracle Man" of Lorton, as Commissioner of Corrections. Boone tried valiantly and vainly to shore up the rotting structure, by introducing sweeping reforms. However, he was stymied in his attempts, by those under him, who had been with the previous Corrections administrations. Nevertheless, Boone did bring us a great gift. In the Fall of 1972, at his suggestion a chapter of the N.P.R.A. (National Prison Reform Association), was formed. This organization, transcending racial considerations, uniting Black, white, Spanish Speaking, reactionary and revolutionary, prisoners all, is just what we needed. Organization is strength, and strength leads to power.

There have always been killings in Walpole, among the Prisoners. During Boone's tenure, there were more than usual. This was accomplished, mainly because of the efforts of Boones staff and the Prison administration, to undermine him and sabotage his efforts. We had several disturbances, up to December

29, 1972, due to the resultant unrest and confusion, all caused by the administration's fostering or tacit approval of anything that might unseat Boone. On December 29, "Crazy" Ray Porelle, a former subordinate of Boone, came to straighten out the joint. What a mistake. This idiot instituted a reign of terror: Gassings (which made everyone high, and strengthened their will to resist), a 59-day lock-up and shake-down, in which property was destroyed, people were brutalized and starved. No one could purchase anything from the canteen; in other words there was universal suffering, which only served to unite the prisoners against repression.

During the lockup, different members of the Board of Directors of NPRA were taken out of their cells and offered all kinds of inducements from private visits to parole, to use their power of office to smooth things over, and try to relieve some of the pressure from outside; none of the Directors would even talk about it. After the lock up the same and more inducements were offered, but, they wouldn't even discuss it unless Porelle received his walking papers. The entire population was united, and were like raging tigers when let out of their cages. Porelle left, and fearful of reprisals, and in another effort to get rid of Boone, the guards left also; they left only those very few who hadn't been too rotten, to man the hospital, and a few untrained cadets and trainees. As a matter of fact, outside observers from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Prison Reform were locking cells, at night.

For eleven weeks, NPRA was left with the job of running the prison internally, and during that time, there was very little difficulty between convicts; there was an air of hope. Things were not perfect, (what human endeavour is?); there were a few that took advantage of the situation, but this was minimal. As far as I'm concerned, it was proven that convicts really run a penitentiary, and police are only needed to lock doors, and stay in the guntowers, if that. Those weeks were evidence that People are governed only with their consent (I don't mean repressed and controlled). Commissioner Boone said that since the guards were on strike they couldn't return until they had completed several weeks training.

On May 20, 1973, the guards returned, however, things went on much as they had before their return. They didn't enter the blocks, remained huddled together in the corridors, like the three monkeys; speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil. During all this, a new Acting Supt. had been appointed "Wacky" Walter Waitkevich, a vacillating high-siding weakling.

Shortly after the guards came back, a new agreement was signed by the NPRA Board and Waitkevich, counter-signed by Boone, in which it was agreed that no shakedown, no edicts would be handed down, nor any policy changes made, or anything which might be disturbing to the population would be instituted, without the administration's consulting with the appropriate members of NPRA first. It was also agreed that



Walpole photo: Richard Kahn

if there was a shakedown, men would still be allowed to shower, be out in the blocks, after shakedown, and to have visits. A few days later, on May 19, 1973, a memo signed by Waitkevich, came down, announcing a two day shakedown, during which time visits were to be cut off and men confined to their cells, deliberately abrogating the former agreement. Knowing the attitude and feeling of the cons, it can only be recognized as a deliberate provocation on the part of Waitkevich. A riot ensued in which damage was done to the institution, and prisoners were wounded by shotgun fire. The State Police were brought in, and we were locked in. A week later, on June 7, 1973, a new agreement was signed by Waitkevich, the hacks' union president, and countersigned by Boone, in which certain "security safeguards", asked for by the guards were set down. A few days later, Waitkevich reiterated his non-recognition of the NPRA. During these days, there was a burning and a stabbing death both due mainly to the negligence of guards. This was used as a pretext for the governor's firing of Boone, the returning of the State Police, and the installation of a State Police colonel as the acting Supt.

Since that time, we have been on a voluntary work stoppage, which is almost universal. Guards are scrubbing the dining hall, emptying garbage cans, etc., and we are locked up in the blocks, most of the time. The food, once among the nation's best is now, among the worst, and has been for some time.

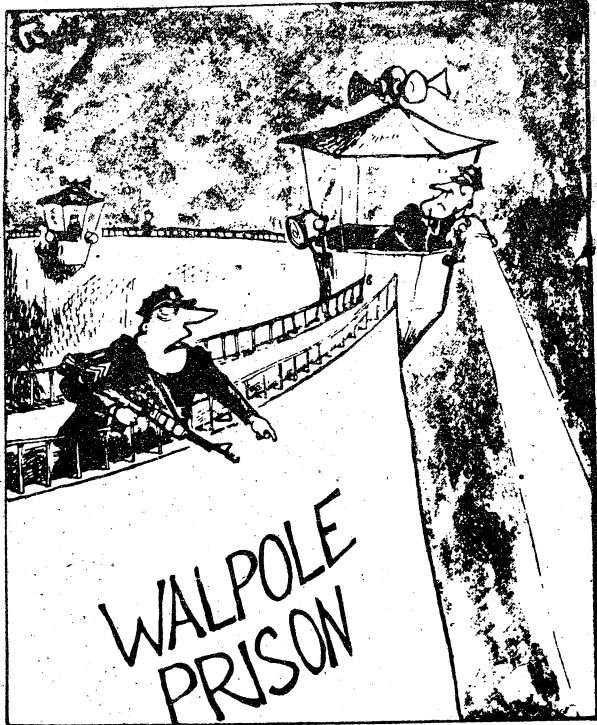
The administration has used every trick and ploy of oppression in their arsenal. They have even used the religious ideology of some of the brothers here, who believe in separation and non-participation in strikes, to induce them to work in the kitchen, the goal of this trick being to break the unity of the rest of the population, and pit black against white, and keep us all in "our places," No go so far.

Freedom (cont.)

There have been two stabbings here, since the arrival of the State Police. These weren't even mentioned in the papers.

We too, are plagued with troubles. Old convict attitudes still hang on, despite the awakening consciousness of many prisoners; the "do your own time", which the administration uses to divide us, and the "something for nothing", bourgeois thinking which permeates our whole society, is intensified in a prison atmosphere. There is still racism, covert and sometimes overt, which destroys our unity; and there is the manifest effect of racism, "mental ghettoism", a defense mechanism raised by blacks, which does us no good either. We are also very much isolated, communications are easily cut off, and those who are interested in us, are often unable or unwilling to help. At any rate, those who are interested in the oppressed, are either oppressed themselves or outside of the mainstream; either way they are without much power at present, so we must rely on ourselves.

One of our most important assets here at Walpole, is that the politicians do not want another Attica, if they can help it, and the guards are afraid of one. We also have an organization, NPRA, albeit not a revolutionary organization; it is nevertheless essential as a power base, for struggle. We have goals,



"Sound the alarm! The newsmen are trying to break in."

namely, the permanent recognition of our human rights and control over our own destinies. We also know that we cannot be governed without our consent. Therefore, whether we win, or are temporarily defeated, we won't be conquered, because some of us will not be broken. "Without the cold of Winter, there can be no Springtime. Calamity makes us hard as steel."

We must ask the question of ourselves, "What can we make of the current prison situation?" Perhaps, we can divide the answer into two parts, depending on whether or not

are schools and proving grounds for revolution." Either we suffer repression, sometimes even invite it, so that we have something against which to test our strength, or we try in every way, to make the joints easier to live in, and so contrive an atmosphere free of turmoil, in which we can better educate one another theoretically. If prisons are what we say they are, then, perhaps, timely application of both alternatives would be best. More than likely we would not have had a Marx from the midst of great external strife; but, by the same token, tranquil surroundings do not produce Maos, Hos, or George Jacksons.

In order to be a true revolutionary, one must be truly and thoroughly disillusioned with the existing order of things. To complain about the injustices and cruelty inherent in this vicious system, is to shout into a hurricane; but to help others point these things out to themselves, and to work with them to change things, by means necessary, is what it's all about.

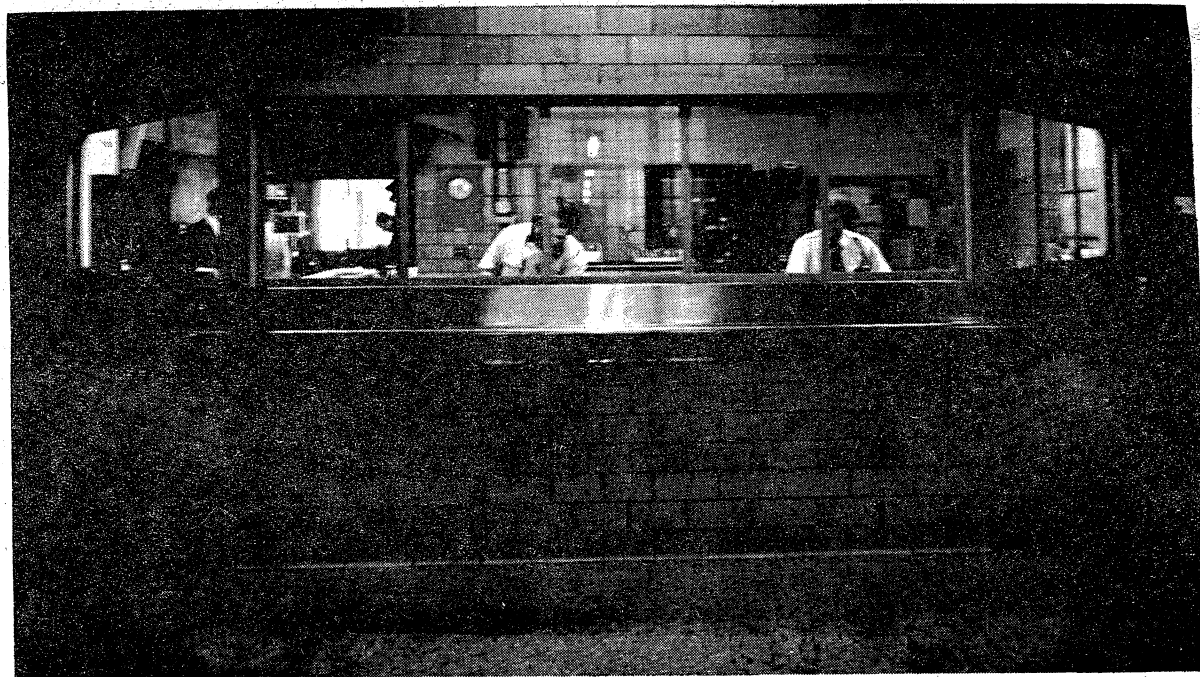
Hopefully, those who come after us, will have gained from the struggle and deaths of the brothers at Attica. When all is said and done, I hope that Walpole will teach us some of the things that we must learn.

Yours in Struggle,
Walpole

Walpole Update

The NPRA has proposed for serious consideration and adaptation of the set of Rules and Regulations on Prisoners' Rights and Responsibilities, reviewed on p. 18 of this issue. Its indexed contents cover practically every movement and penal program that could be covered by rules and regulations that have been certified by the courts as to their practicality, feasibility and legality. Prisoners can relate to rules and regulations. They cannot, however, extend themselves to the extra-legal punishment now in practice at Walpole, without betraying themselves; that allows segregation, loss of visiting privileges, mental and physical assets, and the degradation of human dignity, to become a form of community punishment.

Meanwhile discussions between the new Warden Douglas Vinzant and the NPRA are continuing. According to John Kerrigan, President of NPRA at Walpole, "A year from now we'll either have meaningful reform or more riots... We're not just interested in three meals a day and good time. We want real reform here." Priorities that Warden Vinzant hopes to resolve include giving attention to disciplinary procedures, establishing training programs and supportive services for officers and other staff, and beginning preliminary screening of prisoners for possible re-institution of the furlough program. When asked if the present negotiations were making progress,



Walpole

photo: Richard Kahn

several members of the NPRA and Walpole officials stated in substance, that they expected to be able to start the New Year of 1974 with a clean slate, because it believed that the NPRA creed of Unity was "catching on".

In August, 1973 the men at Walpole were forced to demonstrate again to the administration that the NPRA is their chosen bargaining agent. They held another election and 94% of the prisoners voted for the NPRA. While still in negotiations to have Walpole returned to its full compliment of normalcy, the NPRA retains the Observer Program on its agenda as one of the vitally important cogs of inside prison operational forces. Until the Observer Program is returned to Walpole the NPRA will not negotiate for such a program should not be "negotiable" when it is practically a mandatory necessity.

Norfolk Solidarity

Two weeks ago the Norfolk State Prison Administration attempted to transfer George McLaughlin, a prisoner at MCI Norfolk. The prisoners banded together in protest, not because of the personalities involved, but because of a flagrant abuse of due process. The prisoners pointed out to the administration that the administration's own regulations provide for hearings for any disciplinary action or any measures that will affect the immediate living situation of any particular prisoner. The prisoners gained a hearing for McLaughlin (through their solidarity), and view this action as a step toward ending the sense of impotency that has plagued prisoners in America for 200 years.

(cont.) 'we refuse to crawl'

ll but the residents of C Block remained in lock-up even though the shakedown was completed. As of Oct. 10, several guards had already offered their resignations to the Warden. At this point men of C Block began to unite.

On October, 15, 1973, a meeting was scheduled for members of the Liaison Committee and the Warden at Windsor Prison. This date also marks the commencement of the strike.

The Liaison Committee consisted of prisoners representing B and C Blocks, and the Warden. This committee originated as a result of the July 8, 1973 riot at Windsor. Members of this committee met with the warden periodically in a feeble attempt to have a role in policy decisions in this prison. B. Woodmansie, F. LeBlanc, D. Allen and J.W. Clothey Jr. sat on this committee as representatives of C Block. These men of C Block who have since formed the VPSC no longer recognize this committee as a means of communication, calling it "a rubber stamp committee for the publicly benign administration".

At this particular meeting the Warden flatly informed the representatives that, due to problems of staff shortage stemming from the recent rash of resignations, all privileges must be cut, effective immediately and without discussion. That is, "all visiting privileges will be cut in half, end to evening visits, no visits on Mondays, end of night recreation periods, only half day recreation on weekends and the entire population will not be allowed to eat their meals at the same time." To place this action in its proper perspective, one must realize that these privileges had been reduced as a result of the

July 8th riot. The representatives from C Block left the meeting and organized among residents of C Block for a passive resistance strike. Said the VPSC, "the residents of the State Correctional facility at Windsor began a work strike and a lock-in, in protest of the unwarranted decision of the administration... This strike is a peaceful means of expressing our outrage at what is an unreasonable move by Warden Julius Moeykens... Until such time as full privileges are restored we will remain in our cells in protest... The Warden refuses to treat us as men, in return we refuse to crawl for him..."

Starting the morning after this event, October, 16th, the Vermont State Police were on constant alert at Windsor State Prison. "From Tuesday until Friday of this strike week the majority of residents in C Block remained in this state of resistance.", reported a resident of C Block. According to another source at Windsor, "During the week of the strike there were fires set on the tiers of the block and water thrown on the guards," adding, "this is not unusual for any prison, under any circumstances." Apparently so, as the State Police were never called into action, though the prisoners felt the police presence to be a reminder of the riot in July.

Basically, the strike consisted of a fast from the prison food, general refusal of all work details and a self inflicted lock-up by the residents of C Block. A constitution was ratified by the members of the VPSC during this period, which clarified their grievances and their demands in respect to them. The constitution showed a dismay and outrage towards Windsor that went beyond the recently cut privileges. It also dealt with

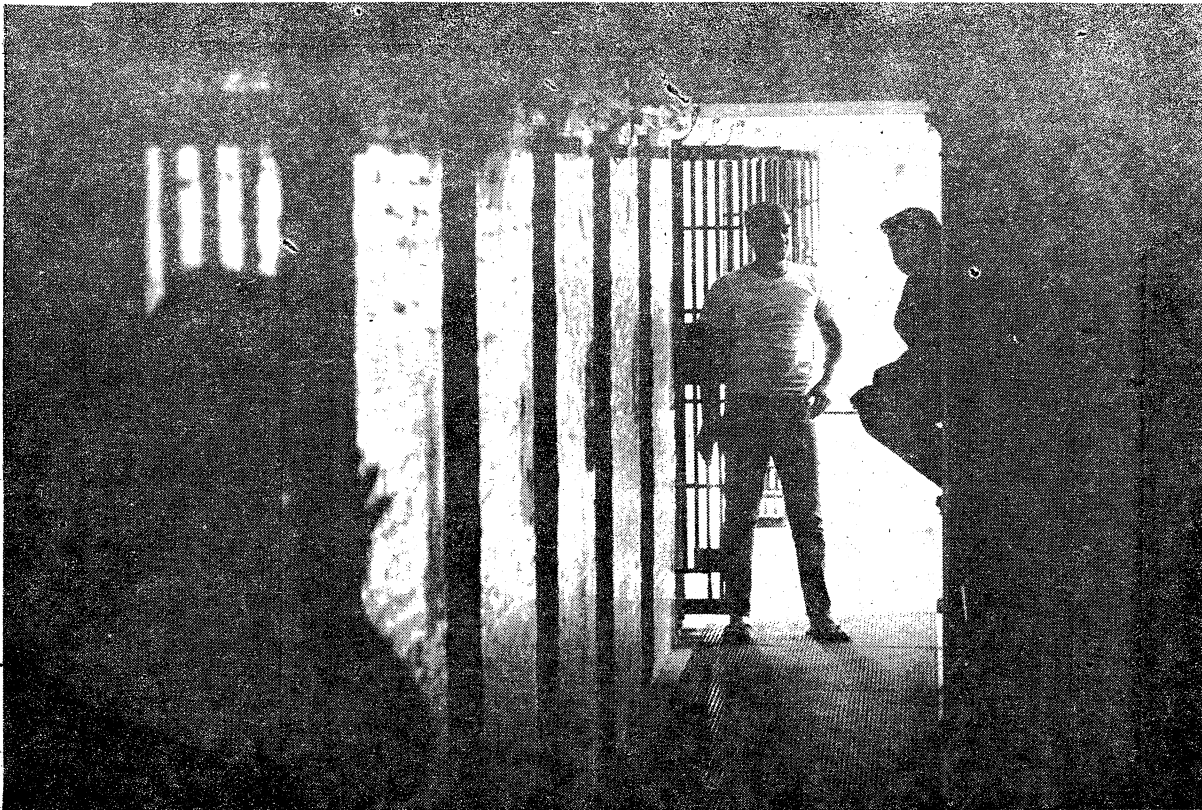
inhumane treatment, including brutality and extremely poor medical treatment, inflicted upon them by their incarcerators. This document, along with the taped conversations, is the most important single, lasting effect of this strike at Windsor Prison.

On Saturday, October, 20th, the Solidarity Committee sent a message to Governor Thomas Salmon of Vermont, requesting that a Citizens Investigating Panel enter the Windsor complex to review and investigate the grievances of the members of the VPSC concerning both Windsor and the Vermont Correctional Department. The people the committee chose to sit on the panel consisted of, "Upstanding, establishment people previously involved, to some degree, in prisons," according to a source at Windsor. The goal of this proposal was to attain an objective third party to investigate and rule on the controversy at hand. All that was missing was Governor Salmons' approval, which was never granted. At first, he rejected the proposal as a threat to his position and power, and later 'compromised' by stating that the Corrections Department would look into the affair, that is, investigate itself. The Governor then stated, after the strike had been effectively ended by the Warden, that it was, after all, a "responsible" strike by the VPSC. Despite the Governors' rebuff, the committee is still pressing for the outside panel.

The following day, Sunday, October, 21st, brought trouble to the strike and its leaders. Bernard Woodmansie, Frederick LeBlanc, Dennis Allen and James W. Clothey Jr. were hauled off to Windsor's 'Special Adjustment Unit' (SAU) as a reprimand for their effort. The prisoners call SAU "the hole". (See the article in this issue on the struggle of these four men.)

Due to the removal of these four men, the strike terminated prematurely. It became apparent that the administration was willing to stop this effort, at all costs. A valid speculation concerning this strike is that, the administration was willing to allow this resistance to continue, as long as it was kept within the walls. The act on Saturday, Oct. 20th, of requesting an outside investigatory panel to enter Windsor, may have caused the administration to take their hard line approach on Sunday, Oct. 21st.

As an aftermath to this strike and subsequent allegations made against the guards at Windsor Prison concerning a narcotics ring, an investigation by States' Attorney, Paul F. Hudson, is now under way. Mr. Hudson has reserved comment at this time concerning his investigation, but it is known that he is investigating Windsor's security problems to date. It was later confirmed, from a staff associate of the States' Attorney, that "Warden Moeykens did call for an investigation into the security at Windsor State Prison." One source has spec-



Windsor Prison

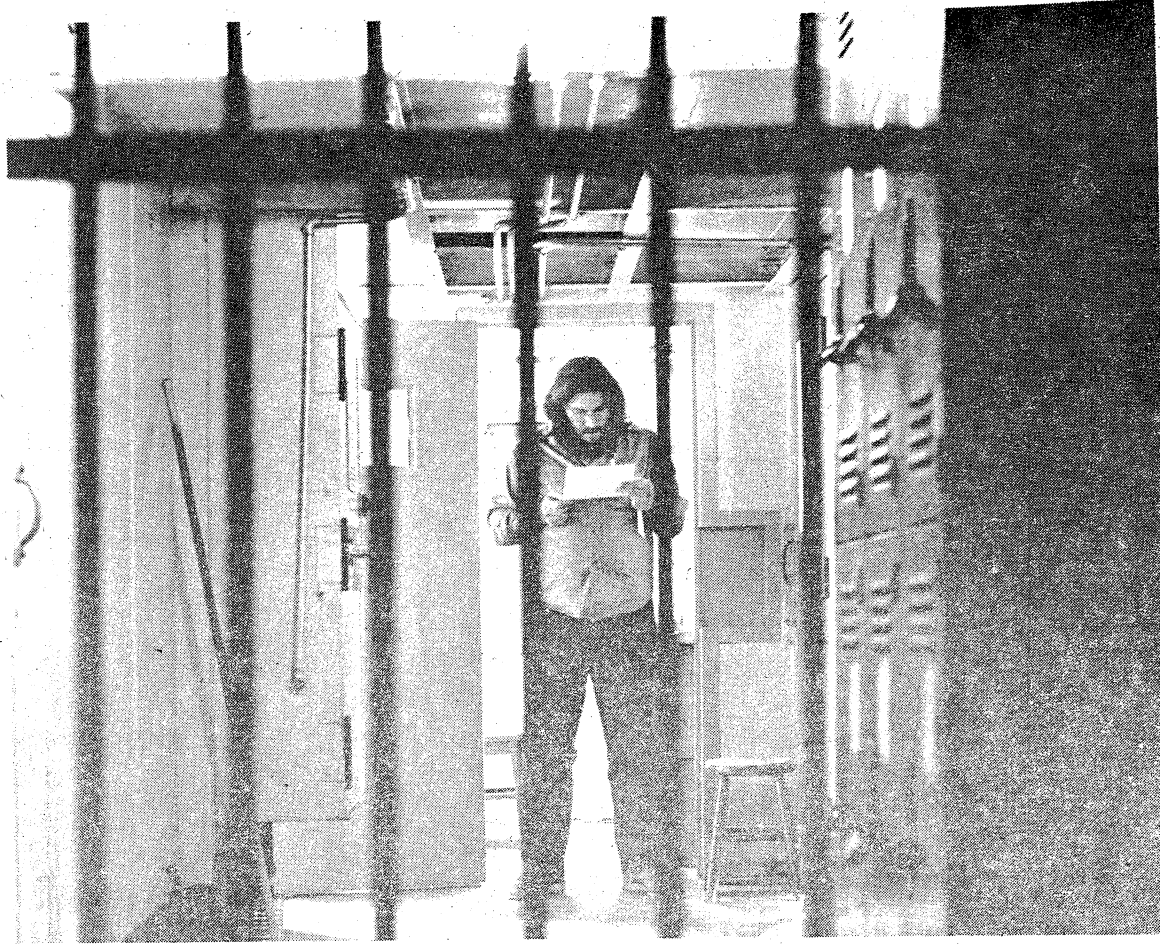
photo: Fishman Rosenstock

WE REFUSE (cont'd)

ulated that, "Other pertinent information, taped conversations, of narcotic deals may have been given to a third party by the inmates before the shakedown on October 10th," which makes it possible that Mr. Hudson is now in search of the still outstanding evidence. One must point out that these taped conversations can not be used as evidence, as such, in a court of law, but in an investigation of this manner they could be used as valuable sources of information. A resident of C Block speculated, "The Warden is covering-up at least four members of his staff that were involved in the narcotics ring, as they are still employed by Windsor Prison." If this is true, the remaining tapes will illustrate this to the public. One unusually well informed source speculated, "These tapes, if in existence, could be offered to Hudson, for information, if immunity was granted to all those involved, including the guards that initiated this ring." This suggestion is excellent, in the sense that no party involved (guards or prisoners) would be susceptible to prosecution, but this informative data, if existent, could then be used to give the States' Attorney the understanding needed in investigating Windsor Prison. More importantly, it would then be beyond doubt that many reforms are desperately needed at this maximum security joint in Windsor, Vt and, with this as a starting point, proceedings in this direction would, at long last, finally commence.

In a broad sense, Windsor Prison represents many such institutions across this country in their struggles of late. Prisons are merely warehouses for the neglected, troubled and unwanted men and women of our society. The objective of the inmates, in taping these conversations, was not to instill hatred among their incarcerators, but to hopefully generate publicity at Windsor so that the citizens can become aware of the massive amount of errors being made by the Vermont Corrections Department. Rehabilitation at Windsor is a myth created by the administrators. The educational facilities are feeble, making it virtually impossible for the inmate, upon release, to be an asset to his society. Medical treatment, including therapy, psychiatric care and the like, is largely ignored by the bureaucrats operating the prison.

A system for rehabilitation can not be solely operated by bureaucrats. The task is far beyond the scope of their understanding. Nor, as can be seen by the guards controlling a narcotics ring, can the guards run a prison. As a start towards an answer to the question of who, then, should run a prison (which does not answer the question of who, if anyone, should be in prison), I suggest people see the NEPA Film 3000 Years And Life, which shows how very well the prisoners at Walpole, Mass. ran Walpole in the absence of guards and administrators. The Solidarity developed at Windsor could be a step in this direction.



Windsor Prison

photo: Fishman-Rosenstock

Strike Leaders in Hole

On Sunday, October 21, 1973, the four officers of the Vermont Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, (VPSC) residents of C Block-Windsor State Prison, were segregated from the existing passive strike and thrown into the Special Adjustment Unit (SAU) or "hole" by order of Warden Julius Moeykens. Initially, the men were charged with being predatory towards other inmates and being disruptive. Bernard J. Woodmansie, Frederick LeBlanc, Dennis Allen and James W. Clothey Jr. were seized.

Throwing these men into the hole is an example of how Warden Julius Moeykens blatantly used his power in an attempt to terminate the dissent being expressed by the residents of C Block. According to a ruling of Judge Holden, "Unless an emergency occurs, a hearing is necessary before a resident of Windsor Prison can be placed in the SAU." An emergency situation did not prevail at Windsor: there was no riot, but rather a strike of passive resistance by the members of the VPSC in C Block.

Having been placed in the hole on Sunday, October 21st, these men had their hearings on Wednesday, Oct 24th. The charges against them were twofold: "A persistent agitator of group rebellion or violence," and "A resident who presents a persistent individual rebelliousness." Each man was heard individually by Robert Smith, former warden of Windsor Prison and currently an employee of the Vermont Corrections Department. "There was little attempt to prove the original charges of being predatory, agitators and rebels. Ninety per-cent of the evidence concerned the VPSC," stated Dennis Allen, Minister of Affairs, VPSC, in a letter sent to NEPA, dated October 26, 1973. Mr. Smith

heard each prisoner respectively and gave his evidence to the Classification Committee for final judgement. The Classification Committee at Windsor Prison consists of members of the prison staff and is currently chaired by Mr. Thomas M. Coxon, "Director of Treatment" at Windsor Prison.

All four men were found guilty of their charges and sentenced to 90 days in SAU at Windsor. They have appealed their case to Commissioner Stoneman, Vermont Corrections Department. Judge Holdens' ruling calls for an "impartial tribunal" to hear the cases of those facing SAU. Their grounds for appeal are, "No impartial fairness in hearings, charges constitutionally insufficient, vague generalizations and overbroad," in their nature and "even if the charges are sufficient, evidence to prove so is lacking for a guilty verdict." If this appeal is unsuccessful they probably will contest this hearing in the Federal District Court.

Under the veil of agitation, rebelliousness and the like, these inmates are being punished for unionization at Windsor Prison. The Greenfield Ruling for the Second District Court upheld the right of all prisoners to unionize and receive legal counsel in respect to their effort. Moeykens has too much to hide and very little to gain from a union of this nature. The action taken by the Warden of Windsor on this issue has only served to further anger the incarcerated men at Windsor Prison.

"...We refuse to crawl for him. (The Warden)" is the philosophy of the officers and men of the Vermont Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, stated October 16th, 1973. Their behavior attests to this fact.

SCAR Legislation

S.C.A.R. submitted eight bills to the last Maine Legislature. None of them passed. They, and others, will be re-submitted to the next legislature. What follows is a brief summary of the reason for submitting the different bills.

First, the basics, which many of you probably already know. When you extract an individual from society, not allowing continued personal contact, family support, the reality of decision-making, etc., chances are one of two things will happen, or both. (1) The breakdown of the family will occur; quite probably the financial foundation, if any, will disintegrate, or, (2) the prisoner, contrary to the proposed ideal, will become de-bilitated, embittered, institutionalized, disillusioned, and generally, "anti-social."

It is for these reasons that we felt that a Minimum wage bill and furlough bill were necessary.

Some other bills dealt with equal opportunity or application of certain programs or functions. We found that many times the small percentage of people who are getting into the "illustrious" programs that we hear so much about are not necessarily the people who need the skills but are more often the people who are least likely to return after release and would therefore produce the best statistics as to the "success" of the program. Runners up to that type of individual are those who can lay down the best rap or present the most sincere face. This also applies in many cases to the granting of furloughs or parole.

A good example of this can be found in what happened to Alan Caron, S.C.A.R. president. Although before his imprisonment Alan had worked as

a computer operator, skilled carpenter and musician, and was obviously not in need of any training the state could have offered, he was able to talk his way into the building trades shop although the maximum student load was only six (6). It should be noted that the particular shop was comparable to any of the better high school shops, most of which handle at least 40 people a week. The shop was complete with an industrial blower system and no fewer than 12 power table tools, including 4 table saws although never more than 2 people were authorized to use them. The title is "Building Trades" shop; in 5 months Al never even handled a medium size nail. We did however have a "display" building which, if you ever had toured Windham at the time, we probably had "just built".

One of the most critical areas is the parole function. All sides pretty much admitted that the parole board and the prisoner need some sort of criteria or guidelines on which to rely. In setting the criteria we have to take into account that submissiveness to regimentation, on which a great deal of reliance is now placed in making the parole decision, is not in any way relevant. In fact, our experience and our living example has proved to us that it was those who resisted regimentation, dependency, and degradation, and involve themselves in an active struggle for justice that were the best bets for a successful parole. (Note: of the 14-15 "activists" who helped to organize the original inmates council at Windham in 1972, 1 has returned. S.C.A.R.'s recidivist rate is approximately 2%)

To view a person's record of behavior within a sterile, isolated environment, wherein there is little or

no ability for decision-making, and use that as anticipated behavior within the society is ridiculous. This is especially true after a number of years, when the decision to parole is made more or less on instinct/hunch and guesswork.

The chairman of the parole board admitted last year under questioning from the chairman of the judiciary committee that the parole board could not make a valid judgement on a person who had served as much time as 5 years. Our feeling is that the principle holds and the parole board couldn't make such a decision after 5 days. We must begin to seek realistic alternatives.

Another of the real problem areas, and one in which we focused, is post-release. The greatest problems are the "paternalistic/Marine Corp/Animal trainer" attitudes of parole officers.

Take authority out of their hands. Provide, (once again), criteria and guidelines, apply them equally. Remove the Puritan Work Ethic as the foundation for "expected behavior" of an ex-prisoner. End travel surveillance. If a person wants to commit a crime he'll do it; no-one deny that, not even if we throw our entire Gross National Product into Police/Probation/Parole Surveillance. Stop asking how much money ex-prisoners have in the bank or how many days they went to church.

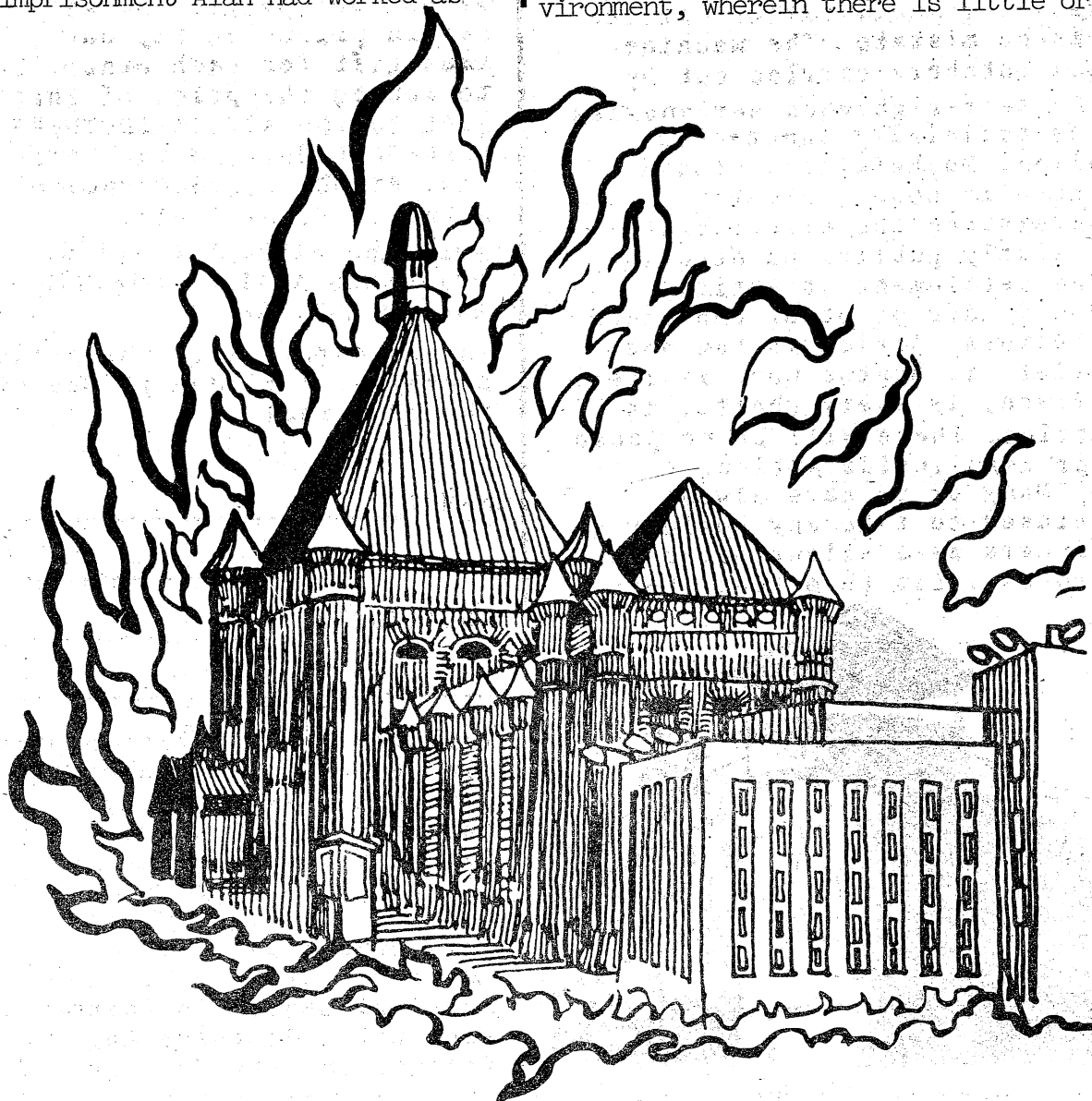
Finally, and most importantly, place the division of parole under the direction of S.C.A.R., independent of the Department of Corrections. Let us give those jobs to brothers and sisters on the streets who know what it's all about. Then we'll see results.

Another of the problems facing an ex-prisoner, as if parole wasn't enough, is his record and the resultant job discrimination. Consequently we presented in the 106th two bills related to these problems, they are; (1) Nullification of records; (2) Amendment to Human Rights Act to prevent invidious discrimination against Ex-offenders. Our answers are by no means thought to be final answers but they do represent, at least to us, the only real attempt to deal with the real problems before us, in Maine.

Prisoners Rights

by Donna Parker

After prolonged discussion, the Prisoners' Rights Project has found that it can no longer represent Walpole inmates at disciplinary hearings. In a letter to John Kerrigan, President of NPRA, Walpole, Richard Shapiro, acting executive director of the Prisoners' Rights Project stated, "We recognize that this is a drastic step, but the present disciplinary process at Walpole has become a charade for assured guilt and the imposition of harsh penalties. Moreover, the reported conduct of certain officials has continually served as a source of interference with the effective relationship between us and the inmates we are attempting to represent." Instead, the Project will concentrate on litigation before the courts until such time as the internal Walpole situation is straightened out.



SCAR Programs

S.C.A.R. Program - by S.C.A.R.

"A coalition of people in the community has been formed to investigate complaints about the police. We need your help in gathering information about incidents with the police, including but not limited to police brutality, harassment and verbal abuse. This information may be used for an educational program.

This is the introduction to a two page questionnaire S.C.A.R. is distributing. The questions include such things as "where did it happen?", "what were you doing at the time?", "what were the policeman's badge numbers?", "what, if anything, did you say to the police?", and "describe your injuries". S.C.A.R. had this to say about the formation of the program.

"About 30 kids asked us for help. They were being harassed and beaten by cops. We met with them and agreed to hold another meeting. We printed out leaflets saying, 'End Police Brutality and Harassment'. We sat down with the kids and a Portland Ward map, divided the town up, and off they marched, distributing the things all over town. It was a real sight."

"At the meeting three days later we got about 60 people, including two attorneys (one for the city) and at least one reporter. After discussion we decided to set up a 12 person steering committee (2 S.C.A.R., 1 attorney, 9 kids) to do this questionnaire all over town and see what we get."

"Tentative plans are for a city-wide hearing with the mayor present, or perhaps a direct action to oust one particular cop. The immediate result is that the kids aren't being harassed as much."

We are teaching High School Equivalency in four County Jails. Also we have a new office in Bangor where we are working to get together a statewide poll on attitudes toward prisoners, which should help guide us in our work. Both these activities could result in the formation of a separate(?) student organization called R.I.P. (Research Institute on Prisons).

We launched a New England wide appeal for books to send to prison libraries. We have already received 4000 books. We are going to distribute them in County Jails.

Ray Levasseur has been working hard in Portland with some church folks to get together a bail fund. The churches have tentatively committed \$20,000 which will be controlled by a community board made up of one or two S.C.A.R. members and community leaders from the "depressed" areas of town. Priorities agreed to by the church folks are, (1) S.C.A.R. members; and (2) Community Activists. The outstanding feature is that the "church liberals" understand that the money is to defend us against attacks and that control should be in the hands of the people effected. Brother Ray cannot be commended enough.

S.C.A.R., 374 Fore St.
Portland, Maine 04111
207-772-2303

Christmas Boycott

We call on all prisoners to join in a nationwide prisoners boycott of the traditional Christmas dinner.

We prisoners are expected to pause at xmas-time with Middle America: to eat and be merry and feel thankful. But all across America, hidden behind the myths and the dollar signs and fancy tinsel, there is hunger of body and spirit. The system-enforcers are everywhere; repressing people, violating the Bill of Rights, protecting and enforcing the priorities and life styles of the profit-makers. 40 million people live in poverty. Millions more can barely make ends meet. There is massive inflation, unemployment, broken-down neighborhoods, outrageous price-tags on everything from the basic necessities of life to civil rights. And for the millions of Third World and poor white people; the injustices of poverty, institutionalized racism, inequality of opportunity, exploitation and oppression, is what life is all about. These injustices are what prison is all about.

Attica is to the prison system what the American police-court-prison business is to capitalism. Attica is the reverse side of the American dollar. Attica is poverty, is inequality, is injustice, is racism. Attica is My Lai, is ITT, is Watergate, is abuse of power, is Behavior Modification. Attica was no mistake. The machine-gun butchery carried out by the self-righteous mercenaries was officially sanctioned. Nixon, Rockefeller, Oswald, those in power, clearly understood the effect that a widely publicized negotiated settlement at Attica would have on other contained ghettos. Attica is Law and Order, is Status Quo, is every prison, is every ghetto, is Attica. There will be no pause for xmas inside Attica.

Many of us have always refused to take any holiday dinners as a silent personal protest. Let them keep their



'Nixon sure brought them together!'



The Attica Invasion

turkeys and stuffing.

We now call on all prisoners to join in a boycott of xmas dinner. We are protesting everything Attica represents. We will not mourn the dead nor sing praises to the survivors. Too many of us are still dying, thousands of us are buried alive. We refuse to take the xmas meal as a gesture of solidarity with the 60 Attica Brothers who are taking the weight.

And so we call on people everywhere to join in solidarity with the Attica Brothers. We ask our people who are not in prison to buy one less xmas gift for each other: and to donate the price of that gift to the ATTICA BROTHERS DEFENSE FUND, c/o the NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, 23 Cornelia Street, NY, NY 10014.

From the WALPOLE CHAPTER, PRISONERS AGAINST POVERTY, RACISM AND WAR.

In Solidarity with the Attica Brothers, I pledge to Boycott the XMAS meal.

NAME: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

Brothers and Sisters in prison, please send all pledges to:
National Lawyers Guild,
Massachusetts Chapter
595 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

This appeal is also being supported by the Prisoner Survival Center in Boston, the Attica Brothers Legal Defense and the New England Prisoners Association.

"Meaningful" Work?

by Ted Siegel

On Friday, October 26, in Providence, Rhode Island, Challenge House, a half-way house for ex-prisoners, Ben Washington, Director, sponsored a "Jobs for Ex-Offenders Conference." The purpose of the conference was to discuss the problems of finding employment for ex-prisoners and to explore what current channels exist for them to find jobs upon release from prison. The conference was attended by representatives from the following Providence-area halfway houses: Challenge House, Carita House, the only drug rehabilitation program in Rhode Island for adolescent women, House of Hope, Talbott House for problems of alcoholism, and the Mainstream program at the R.I. State Prison. Also attending were interested community groups: the Opportunities Industrialization Center, The Urban League and the Department of Employment Security; and three members of the local business community, Jim Hagan of Tupperware Co., Alston Clarke of Tap Pierce Manufacturers, and Phil Morgan from Cieba-Giegy Co.

The problems that ex-prisoners have when seeking employment (see NEPA News, Oct. 73, "Ex-Con Employment" by Arnie Coles) point to the contradictions of the concept of rehabilitation. To survive on the outside an ex-prisoner must have a job. Unfortunately, a brother or sister released from prison is not readily accepted by the business community for the following reasons:

1) Upon release from prison, ex-prisoners cannot find a job which offers some satisfaction. This is due to the lack of proper education and vocational training in prison. Then again, the scarcity of jobs that provide satisfaction extends not only to ex-prisoners but also to the work population as a whole, as reflected in the high absenteeism, sabotage and other forms of worker resistance common in America today. The ex-prisoner has the poorest of a choice of poor jobs.

2) Legal restrictions on ex-prisoners seeking employment currently make work a very hard thing to come by (on top of the already existing

Jim Hagan photo: Kora Berger



high unemployment rate). These restrictions stem from arrest-and-conviction-record questions on job applications, or the difficulty of expunging arrest and conviction records. Long and costly court cases limit the number of people that will finally win expungement-of-record court cases. Parole conditions also restrict ex-prisoners from finding employment.

3) Many employers are fearful of hiring ex-prisoners. Jim Hagan pointed out that many prisoners "are becoming more militant" and "this militancy is detrimental to the rehabilitation process." It seems that Mr. Hagan and other employers are fearful of the conflict this militancy could bring to their companies.

The above problems and attitudes create a system that makes crime a more realistic means of livelihood than the jobs that penal administrators and the public encourage prisoners to seek.

I think a crucial factor that ex-prisoners face is the current work relationships in America. The ex-prisoner seeking a straight job has few options. In the factory he or she has no control over the process of production. The militancy that Mr. Hagan mentioned is not only a result of the oppressive and exploitative prison system, but also is directed toward the exploitative system ex-prisoners face on release.

The issue, then, is two-fold: Because of existing relationships in the capitalist society a prisoner must work to survive upon release from prison but most employers will not hire them. Secondly, ex-prisoners and other workers are right in not wanting to work at meaningless jobs, devoid of creativity or a sense of accomplishment. Work will not be "meaningful" until there is a change in who controls production.

Mark Hayes from the National Prison Reform Association, speaking at the conference, pointed out that the recidivism rate at the state prison at Cranston, R.I. is currently 75-85%. Clearly, many of these men can either not find jobs or do not want the kind of jobs they can get on the outside. Groups such as those attending the conference must deal with the problems of finding meaningful employment for ex-prisoners. They are now doing this by offering job counseling, counseling people with drug and alcohol problems, and running job referral services. They are dealing extensively with the prisoner's problems in the work system and not at all with the problems of the work system itself.

Those of us in the prisoners' struggle must seriously consider new alternatives to dealing with the problems of finding jobs for ex-prisoners. We must begin to realize the depth of the contradictions of this problem, to understand why the current solutions are not working as effectively as they should. All those concerned should consider the following:

1: The abolition of all questions on applications for employment asking



Ben Washington photo: Kora Berger for arrest and conviction records.

2: The abolition of all legal restrictions on ex-prisoners (including parole).

3: Referral of ex-prisoners to employers should be re-channelled to referral services rather than parole or probation officers doing the referring. This would enable the ex-prisoner to lose that title. Information of arrest and convictions could be given voluntarily by the prospective employee.

4: Ex-prisoners should form study groups among themselves and their fellow employees to deal concretely with the problem of alienating work.

5: The acquisition of vocational skills must be changed, so as to offer prisoners a greater determination in choosing "meaningful" work, upon their release. Industries, of the prisoners choosing, should be allowed to enter the prisons and employ prisoners. The prison administrators, the internal prisoners' organizations, in conjunction with unions on the outside, should work to bring in union vocational training programs (apprenticeship type training). These programs could provide union instruction, union membership, and union pay scales upon completion of the training course.

6: The prison, in using prisoners labor should be made to conform with state and federal minimum wage laws and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

7: If industries are unwilling to enter prisons to hire prisoners or can not hire all who wish to work, the unemployed prisoner should receive unemployment compensation.

8: We all must begin to work towards changing the current work relationships that exist in America. Relationships in which the majority of Americans depend on a small group for their survival. Only then will prisoners have a greater determination in controlling their own lives.

NPRA R.I. Report

from NPRA Report, 1973, edited by Ted Siegel.

The National Prisoners' Reform Association (NPRA) in Rhode Island (RI) is working on programs directed toward an "organization striving to produce, not reduce, the human aspects of prisoner's lives." NPRA and the Afro-American society have initiated a number of programs which will give prisoners more self-determination both within prison and on release.

The Afro-American Society, an organization representing the black prison population, can receive credit as the major reason for the strong sense of solidarity among many of the brothers at the Adult Correctional Institute (ACI) at Cranston, R.I.

These two organizations have begun working in conjunction with an educational program called University Without Walls, which gives college credits and two degrees on a "learn at your own pace course." It is accepting applicants at ACI. Representatives from all departments at ACI, such as Don Ventetuolo, Director for Correctional Education, and Terry Warburton, Supervisor for ACI education, have been cooperating with NPRA on suggestions and recommendations for the benefit of the prisoners. Don Ventetuolo is trying to get ACI approved as a testing center for college board exams of Princeton, N.J.

Another educational program is the Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA) program which gives courses in Graphic Arts, Machine Operator, Cooking and Carpentry. Two teachers hold classes in elementary grade school, and another will teach on the high school level. Two of the MDTA programs are sponsored by the state using MDTA personnel for the courses in carpentry and printing.

NPRA is working in conjunction with the R.I. Department of Corrections on legislative proposals for the 1974 legislature. Legislative forums are held at ACI and are attended by representatives from the House and Senate. This coming year legislative proposals will be sub-

mitted with the full approval of the ACI Administration and the Dept. of Corrections. Such corrections, it is felt, will aid bills that otherwise might not pass and encourage more bills to be filed.

Some of the bills to be filed for 1974 are the furlough bill and a bill to allow good-time credits to be deducted from the now minimum 1/3 of sentence parole schedule, so that prisoners may apply for an earlier parole date. Under this proposal ex-prisoners would receive credit for all good time earned while on parole, hence reducing the length of the parole.

NPRA is also working toward initiating a civil action suit which would repeal the regulation that prohibits ex-prisoners who are working for prisoner's organizations from entering the prison. Warden James Mullen and Dept. of Corrections Attorney J. Landy agreed that they would prefer the court to make a decision on the legal aspects of this issue.

J. Roney, an attorney from R.I. Legal Services, is researching laws governing prison holding of prisoners' funds. Joe Barnes of the Citizens Bank of Providence is lending his assistance to the NPRA's proposal for prisoner's credit unions to be established in Rhode Island. The system currently used by the state is to invest prisoners' funds and then collect the interest. This amounts to thousands of dollars a year, money that could be used for the welfare and benefit of prisoners needing credit. Through this program, prisoners needing a loan could get one without going through all the "red tape" of credit ratings.

The Mainstream program, NPRA's newly sponsored on-the-job training for prisoners who are either being paroled or released from prison, are paid a salary by Mainstream for six months with the employer having the option to hire upon completion of the training program. Mainstream is active at the present time in state institutions and various non-profit state-operated programs. Main-

stream will hopefully expand into private industry and take a more active part in the employment of ex-prisoners.

Other programs that the NPRA has undertaken include the "runner system", which enables prisoners to exchange literature during the evening, resulting in a greater circulation of literature among prisoners and will no longer place responsibility for this task on generally unwilling prison guards.

The prison canteen has expanded to sell canned goods, organics, vitamins, etc. A grill will provide hot snacks. All proceeds will be used to provide benefits for the prisoners, all prison help in the canteen will receive State minimum wages.

Through these programs, the NPRA and its leadership, Ron Sweet, Pres., James Barnes, V.P., Barry Leavitt and others; together with the Afro-American Society and its Leaders, Steve Jeffries, Pres., Clyde Holmes, V.P., Larry Mitchell, Secretary, Paul Cline, Treasurer, and others, realize the importance of the daily struggle on small and large-scale questions of self-determination and rights for prisoners.

Public Notice

From N.P.R.A. News

N.P.R.A. (National Prisoners' Reform Association, National Hdq. in Rhode Island) sincerely regrets we were unable to fulfill our obligations for over a period of several months.

All communication and organizational activities with the general public was prohibited by the authorities of Rhode Island's Department of Corrections. Prison disturbances and subsequent events led to the prison being declared to be under a state of emergency and the Governor placing the prison under martial law.

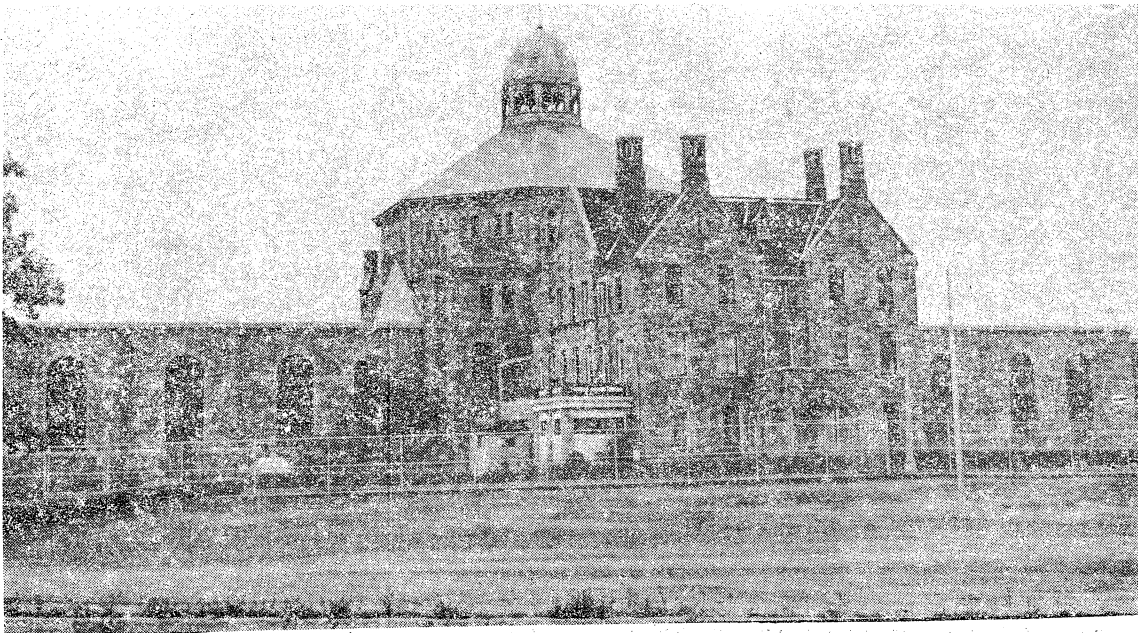
N.P.R.A. is happy to announce we are the representatives of the prison population and shall continue to operate and conduct business as advocates of prison reform and we extend an invitation to everyone to join us.

To our many subscribers of our publication N.P.R.A. NEWS we regret we will be unable to publish an edition for a few months or to print any material until our printing plant is restored and is operational. We anticipate our printing service to be back in service in a couple of weeks.

We are sincerely appreciative of the many sincere, dedicated persons interested in prison reform, from all walks of life, who freely gave us their assistance and their support during our ordeal and suspension. It is indeed gratifying to see so many people coming to our support and the enthusiasm shown us. This confirms our conviction that a majority of concerned citizens are sincerely interested in prison reforms and our motto sums up our sentiments: NPRA's "An organization striving to produce, not reduce, the human aspects of prisoners lives."

Sincerely,

NATIONAL PRISONERS' REFORM ASSOCIATION
Ray Blais, Editor & Manager
N.P.R.A. NEWS



ACI, Cranston photo: Kora Berger

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RUMORS OF TRUTH

NEPA News

Wayne L. Carlson
Windsor

There is a deadly rumor, which completely lacks in humor
That J.V. Moeykens is a nervous wreck.
The cause of this disorder, isn't just a tape-recorder
But it put the latest wrinkle in his neck.

For the "Windsor-Gate Recordings" and the evidence we're hoarding
Could bring this administration crashing down.
The Solidarity Committee, hasn't time for pity
And they say "We'll run these damn fools in the ground."

The hunger strike eruption, has spewed forth so much corruption
That it's causing even Stoneman's hands to shake;
And it will not be much longer, for our stand is getting longer
That the whole Department's back begins to break.

But back to Moeykens (J), who states "I'll have my way"
And inmates know just what that way will be.
He'll feed us his excrement, and afford us special treatment
As we exercise our right of speaking free.

You attempt to teach us carving, while our bodies they are starving
Please tell us; where does the money go?
You sit home eatin' chicken, and throw us the bones for pickin'
Well, we are sick to death of eating crow.

"Now just you listen here, we pay sixteen thou a year
Just to keep an inmate in his cell."
Now that sounds well and good, as we all know it should
But aren't expenses high this year in hell?

This Committee's telling you, that those facts in fact aren't true
It does not cost no sixteen thou a year.
And if there is no wheeling-dealing, and some kickbacks and some stealing
Than Texas cannot boast a single steer.

Your security was raped, when your drug-ring was taped
And we know it soon will be in the news.
And that is not the end, no, far from it my friend
For we've only just begun to air our views.

(to be con't)

Norman Porter
Norfolk

for Mr. Gossens

Whether you believe in marxism or not
whether you believe in democracy or not
there is no need to shoot
a man
who feeds the poor, the rotos
and more
there is no need to shoot
the poor he fed.

For bananas and copper
we trade a bullet
that shot the man
who fed the poor

then we gave a capitalistic discount rate
for all the needed bullets
to shoot the poor.

Summer Night on the Windsor Roof

Did you ever watch a spotlight
a firehose - and know there was
Just three man and a tent. They
anywhere. They just wanted to fe
the stars and a mountain.

The - Sunday morning the fire ho
across the street from the church



Cold Walled Tomb - Richard Hall, San

Irregular patches of plaster peep from beneath
Cells resemble those in a zoo
Solitary light bulb burns blurred shadows
Pipes gurgle
Tin-trayed supper of
Watery stew and soggy mashed potatoes
Running into each other
Air polluted with stench
Locks gleam reflector bright
Obscurity of submarginal existence
Locked in an iron brace
Cannot sink down
Cannot rise up
Wizened embryo in protective husk
Darkness curls itself against me

- Marlene Finn

on the stream of
fire?
in't want to go
the breeze and see

s were drying

QUE HAS HECHO DE MI

Daniel M. Rosa
Norfolk

Tu, qu e has despertádo mi pasion, con tu presencia
 voluptuosa. Adoro tus besos, tus cabellos y perfume.
 Sobre todo, la tersura de tu piel.
 Tus labios, manantiales de placeres, in-agotables
 mesumieron sensualidad y enbriaguez.
 Tu; como una droga, sin remedio me has dejado,
 dominado, en el fuego de tu amor.
 Que has hecho, de mí que has hecho de mí, me has arras-
 trado, a eterna-condenacion.
 Que has hecho, mi amor que has hecho de mi; oh amor mio,
 que has hecho de mi.

(Strong Dramatic.....)(Que pretendes de mi, porque no me dejas
)(vivir en paz, insensata...oh no, que
)(has hecho, que has hecho de mi.



Weeds in the head

Norman Porter
Norfolk

A dandelion grows
 among the weeds
 that stretch for miles
 inside my head;
 a tiny yellow goblette
 of sunshine bright sanity
 - a balance to the dark shadows
 that wild growing weeds
 splash over my efforts
 to send my life
 through tomorrow's time
 and lay me down to death
 with a small smile
 to share my coffin's lid
 gently, closes me in comfort
 with that dandelion
 to share my coffin's lid
 gently, closes me in comfort
 with that dandelion
 to press a golden touch
 of having lived
 to my now stilled lips
 that once whispered love.

The

Walls

Don't

Have

To

Stand

But-

I

Know

They

Exist

entin
th sick-yellow paint.
to the floor

Thursday 22
February 73

J.P. Bradley
Norfolk Prisoner

Outmates

D. Colt Denfeld, Executive Director

Outmates, Inc. this month is one year and 2 months old. Prior to incorporation in September 1972 the group functioned on an informal basis seeking to find employment for soon to be released inmates at the Brooklyn Connecticut Correctional Center.

Looking back over the year suggests that we are beginning to get our thing together but have a long way to go. Our accomplishments this past year include:

distribution of over 15,000 books to prison libraries (we established 3 prison libraries) and individual inmates

operation pen pal, located outmates to communicate with inmates on a one to one basis

prepared for the medical profession a report on medical care in prisons

provided referral services, and direct support

supervised and provided 10,000 hours of volunteer services to correctional institutions

compilation and distribution of the Prisoners Yellow Pages, a national directory of prisoner support groups

published and distributed a bi-monthly newsletter publicizing the realities of prison life and so-called prison reform

provided speakers to local civic groups

We have not done as much as we might have because of financial difficulties, opposition of some institutions for example the federal prison rule of not allowing federal prisons to receive books except directly from the publishers. We are presently appealing this rule and preparing litigation.

This coming year we hope to better our efforts. Our major project will be the purchase of a business that will be run by folks after their release. It will provide short term employment, on the job training and hopefully capital for other projects.

The New Prison: Changes From Inside, our book describing how inmates are working to change institutions should be out sometime this year.

NEED YOUR HELP.

Our folks can do much to aid us in this program - contributions are needed and would be greatly appreciated. For example, our postage bill alone exceeds \$200.00 per month. Any supplies which you would like to donate will be useful - especially books and other reading material, popular records, and arts and crafts materials.

From inmates we may need additional materials for the New Prison, descriptions of self-help groups, awareness groups, articles by jailhouse lawyers, and histories of prisoner protest actions.

Box 174
Storrs, Ct. 06268



Busing to Somers

Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (C.B.C.I.) of New Haven Connecticut sponsors a free busing program which provides transportation for the families and friends of men inside of Somers prison. The bus goes to and from the prison on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Unfortunately, the bus services only those riders in the New Haven vicinity. C.B.C.I. hopes to see its service extended in the future to pick up at other points in Connecticut and to inspire similar programs to be undertaken at various institutions throughout the state.

- The present pick-up points in New Haven are as follows:
- 10:45: Christian Union Office
334 Shelton Ave.
 - 11:00: Black Panther Headquarters
259 Dixwell Ave.
 - 11:15: Fair Haven Parents Ministry
407 Grand Ave.
 - 11:30: Christian Community Action
168 Davenport Ave.

There is no charge to ride on the bus. However, voluntary donations are encouraged. For more information, contact: Steve Frazzini, 750 Longhill Rd., Guilford, Ct. 06437 (203) 453-6096.



Petition

TO: Thomas Meskill; Governor, State of Connecticut
John Manson; Commissioner of Corrections, State of Connecticut
Carl Robinson; Warden, Somers State Prison
Judges of the Superior Court for the State of Connecticut

We, the undersigned, do hereby wish to make known our outrage of the fact that prisoners confined within Connecticut Correctional Institutions are paid only \$.40 per day for their work. In these days of high inflation to pay prisoners only \$.40 and to expect them to purchase items at institutional Commissaries at inflated prices (an example - paper on which to write letters costs \$.08) evidences a callous disregard for the dignity of the prisoners and a pre-conceived plan to exploit their labor to show profits for Prison "Industries." All prisoners are entitled to receive a just and equitable wage in return for their labor.

We also wish to register our outrage at the fact that in order to earn extra "goodtime," a prisoner must work 7 days a week but there are not enough 7 day a week jobs to go around. Consequently, only a few prisoners can earn this while the rest cannot. This is unequitable.

The Somers Prisoners' Union has been organized to alleviate these conditions. The men who have been active in the Union have been punished for attempting to better their working conditions. Prisoners have the right to organize among themselves and we therefore urge you to take immediate steps to affirmatively act on the following issues which the Somers Prisoners' Union has raised:

1. A Prisoners' Union which would be elected by the prisoners, and would possess sole power as their representative and collective bargaining agent; for higher wages, better working conditions, and comprehensive educational and modern training programs.

2. Automatic "goodtime" for all prisoners - without regard to prison classification status or enough jobs to allow everyone to earn extra "goodtime" and consequently an early release to their families.

3. An end to institutional harassment and repression of the prisoners for legally exercising their right to seek redress of their grievances and participating in this democratic process.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

WARDEN JAILED AS HOLDUP MAN
by Reuter

Montevideo, Uruguay

Prison warden Salustiano Vergara was caught staging a holdup on his day off and went to jail as an inmate in Montevideo recently. Police found a cache of stolen goods at his home.

Nixon's Repressive Legislation

Nixon's Most Repressive Legislative Proposal in 25 years

The "Criminal Code Reform Act of 1973" S. 1400 - H.R. 6046

"I take great pleasure on behalf of myself and the distinguished senior Senator from Arkansas, John L. McClellan, S. 1400, the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1973...The bill which I introduce today is recognized as a monumental effort by the Administration, including the Department of Justice...Particular accolades should go to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell..."

Senator Roman L. Hruska:
Congressional Record-Senate-March 27, 1973

14 Features of Nixon's Latest Legislative Scheme

Death Penalty -Nullifies 1972 Supreme Court decisions but making executions mandatory for certain crimes in certain conditions, without appellate review. (See Chpt. 24)

Smith Act -Revives McCarthy era witch hunt law which Supreme Court

held unconstitutional. Provides 15 yrs. -\$100,000 fine for mere advocacy or membership in an organization that allegedly calls for revolutionary change "as speedily as circumstances permit...at some future time." (See Sec. 1103)

"Leading" a Riot -Redrafts 1968 law. Provides 3 yrs. -\$25,000 fine for the "movement" of a person across a state line (as at Wounded Knee), or for the use of the mail or telephone "in the course of the planning, promotion" of a "riot." A "riot" is defined as "an assemblage of five" which "creates a grave danger to "property."

Wiretapping -Reaffirms 1968 law permitting Nixon to wiretap domestic activities which he thinks are "danger to the structure" of the government. Expands Attorney General's authority to wiretap alleged offenses related to First Amendment protected actions. -Permits 48hr. "emergency" taps without court approval. -Forces telephone company workers & landlords to cooperate "forthwith" and unobtrusively with government wire-tappers. (See Chpt. 206)

Secrecy -Provides 3 yrs. -\$25,000 fine for a federal employee who "communicates...classified [embarrassing?] information" to an unauthorized recipient even if the data was "improperly classified at the time." [Ellsberg & Russo]. (See Sec. 1124) -Provides 7 yrs. -\$50,000 fine for a person who receives "National Defense Information" and "fails to deliver it promptly" back. [NY Times, Unitarian-Universalist press, Jack Anderson]. (See Sec. 1123)

Demonstrations -Virtually every kind of civil rights, peace & other protest action would be threatened with severe penalties under a series of vaguely drafted infringements on the right of assembly. (See Secs. 1111, 1115-7, 1302, 1328, 1335, etc.)

Contemp -Penalty for refusal to cooperate with Congressional Committees like HUAC/HLSC & Eastland Committee is increased to 3 yrs. -\$25,000 fine. (See Sec. 1333)

Entrapment -Puts burden on defendant to prove that he was "unlawfully entrapped," even though undercover agent provocateur employed "deception," provided "a facility or an opportunity," and used "active inducement" in the commission of a crime. (See Sec. 531)

Obscenity -Makes criminals of all persons who in any way disseminate any material describing sexual intercourse or depicting nudity. Add legislative sanctions to recent Nixon court decisions in this area, and offers easy vehicle for political censorship as well. (See Sec. 1851)

Insanity -Returns law to century-old primitive state. Would steer unequivocally sick people to jail rather than mental hospitals. (See Sec. 1851)

Hand Guns -Rejects effective national control of such weapons.

Marijuana -Provides 1 yr. - \$10,000 fine for possession of minor amount for personal use; 3 yrs. - \$25,000, if arriving or departing from a trip out of country (See. Sec. 1822)

Civil Rights -Fails to punish economic retaliation against the exercise of civil rights. (See Sec. 1501)

Police Force -Allows any officer to use deadly force to prevent escape of a person arrested for any crime, however petty, and without regard to the danger to the life of others. (See Sec. 521)

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write your U.S. Representative and Senators!

1. Ask them to send you a copy of Nixon's Bill: S. 1400 (senate)-H.R. 6046 (House)

2. Ask them what they are going to do about some part of the bill which you find particularly disturbing.

Address them:

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Prison Conference

Connecticut Conference on the Prison Problem

New Haven Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

Citizens For Better Correctional Institutions

in co-operation with our host The Criminal Justice Division, University of New Haven

Place: The Student Center,
University of New Haven
300 Orange Avenue (Route 1)
West Haven, Ct.

Agenda: **Friday 7:30 pm: John Boone** formerly Commissioner of Corrections, Massachusetts, talks on THE PROBLEM AND THE RESPONSE OF CITIZENS GENERAL PUBLIC CORDIALLY INVITED.

Sat. 9am - Noon: Workshops
2pm - 5pm: Workshops

Women in Prison: Among participants will be Family Services of New Haven; New England Prisoners' Association

Rights of Inmates: Civil Liberties Union; Prisoners' Union

Legislation: Connecticut Civil Liberties Union; others
Abolition: Includes Prisoner Visitation and Support Committee; Criminal Justice Division, University of New Haven

Pre-trial Intervention: Pre-Trial Services Council; others
Medical and Mental Health: Medical Committee on Human Rights

Community Corrections: Among resources will be representatives from Windsor Prison Community Center, Windsor, Vt.

Community Services: CBCI Busing Committee; Prison Ltd.; Conn. Prison Association

Public Education: Use of Media, simulation games, etc.

Sat. 6pm: Dinner, Films, Party

Sun. 10am - 1pm: Task Force Formation

Cost:

\$2.50 (Includes Registration Saturday evening dinner; Refreshments; Saturday daycare)

Other meals will be the responsibility of each individual. UNH Student Center cafeteria will be available Saturday noon.

Limited amount of free housing provided by CBCI members on a first come - first served basis.

Those interested should so indicate on the enclosed registration blank and return to CBCI by **November 23**. Also bring sleeping bag.

REGISTER NOW! For more information, contact: Mr. Merold Westphal, 674 Elm St., New Haven 06511 865-4219

Please return this form to CBCI at 425 College Street, New Haven Connecticut 06510 by November 15th if you need accommodations.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

No. of people attending _____ Need place to stay? Free

Please note any others you may know who would be interested in receiving information and mailings on the conference:

NEPA's First Six Months

by Gene Mason

NEPA is going through a number of fundamental changes. To understand them it is useful to see how NEPA developed from its founding at the New England Prisoners' Conference at Franconia, New Hampshire in April, 1973. This conference made it clear to all in attendance that there is a need for prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their supporters in New England to have a continuing way of communicating with one another, a way for everyone to see how others are developing, the problems they face, their victories and their failures.

People at the conference were also concerned that the disagreements among us about how to attack prisons and the criminal justice system should not prevent us from getting off the ground. Hence, we thought it important to form a coalition so the independence of each affiliate organization would be maintained. Then we could come together to share our work, and to develop specific programs.

We all knew that we wanted to move toward a National organization, but we felt that a strong regional organization was a necessary interim step.

Our first six months have been a period of difficult internal struggle. Yet we have some impressive achievements.

- 1) A coalition of prisoner-service organizations from the six New England States has been formed.
- 2) We have developed a set of common goals.
- 3) We prepared and distributed a pamphlet last spring, The New Hampshire State Prison Lock-Up and Shake-Down.

- 4) We organized a demonstration at the State capital in Concord, N.H. on 5 May, 1973, with the help of affiliate organizations in Vermont (Coalition on Prison Reform), Massachusetts (NPRA), and Maine (SCAR), to demand citizen observers in the prison and to protest the unjustified lock-up.

- 5) We brought a law suit to void the peace bond the city of Concord tried to impose on us before our march, and won it.

- 6) With the active assistance of NPRA, SCAR and the prisoners in Vermont State Prison, we coordinated a series of one-day strikes in other New England prisons to protest not only the New Hampshire lock-up, but a similar lock-up at the same time at A.C.I. in Cranston, Rhode Island.

- 7) We participated in Hoitt v. Vitek (see NEPA NEWS, October, 1973) the successful federal suit that ended the lock-up.

- 8) By absorbing one of our affiliate organizations, ExCon Help Organization (ECHO), we achieved non-profit, corporate status.

- 9) Working with a team of filmmakers we produced and are now distributing the film "3000 YEARS AND LIFE", documenting the struggle of the NPRA in Walpole State Prison.

- 10) We have developed the basis for a Job Development Program for ex-prisoners in New England by acquiring a \$250,000 in-kind service grant. This program, for which we are currently seeking staff funding, will be executed with Self Development Group (SDG)

of Boston, and is scheduled to begin January 4, 1974. This grant from the Greater Boston Advertising Club will be used to promote on all public media the idea of hiring ex-prisoners.

- 11) We have been involved in an extensive public education program, speaking to anybody who'll listen on the problems posed by prisons.

- 12) One of our affiliate organizations, SCAR, devoted two of their newspaper issues (SCAR TIMES) to NEPA. Since then, with the Community Service Center at Franconia College, we've published two issues of NEPA NEWS (5,000 of each) and can see the way clear for at least ten more issues.

While we were engaged in these programs the problems of all Movement organizations plagued us. We worked to expand the organizational affiliates of NEPA, but found the problem of travelling from all over New England to Boston for bi-weekly meetings posed serious difficulties for people on the Steering Committee who were already involved full-time in the problems of their own areas or states. NEPA people could not serve their own people in the county jails and prisons in their own states and bring their resources to counter crisis situations in out-of-state prisons. We were divided between the tasks of responding on an ad hoc basis to day-to-day crises throughout New England and the necessary of building a lasting, permanent organization. The tasks seemed to pull in opposite directions. Hence, we found it necessary to re-evaluate our priorities and direction.

NEPA's Past Six Days

By Peter Linebaugh

The world premiere of "3000 Years and Life" illustrated the strengths and weaknesses of NEPA. In the future we will look back on that night as a turning point in the organization.

It is a dynamite film. Morse Auditorium at Boston University was packed for the first public showing on November 1st. The box office take and the newspaper sales surprised us all (and will help defray our debts). Yet in some ways the evening was a failure. Why?

For one thing when people asked us during the question period what they could do to help the prisoner movement we were caught flat on our feet. For another, we never stated exactly what NEPA stands for and how we planned to get what we wanted. Most seriously, when it became clear that many in the audience had done time or were relatives of prisoners we made little effort to learn from them or to ask them to join our organization and work for it.

These are serious errors for an organization seeking to ally prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their supporters into a fighting association. They are also serious errors to be made at an educational meeting because it implies that we are there to teach and they to

learn when actually it may happen the other way around.

On 3 - 4 November, NEPA held a meeting in Boston, the first in a long time that brought lots of people together willing to speak their minds frankly. We met for six to eight hours in a long session of criticism and self-criticism, a process which though painful must result in a stronger, tougher organization. People found (at best) a serious lack of communication in the previous period of NEPA. At worst people felt that our energies had actually been misplaced.

What differentiates NEPA from the policies and practices of other prison reform organizations? Should we engage in regional or local struggles? How are we building support inside the New England prisons? Is it possible to survive without a paid staff? How can we raise money? How should we raise money? What is the purpose of public educational meetings? From what parts of the community do we seek support? Should not NEPA cease to be an organization of groups and become an organization of people (prisoners, ex-prisoners, and supporters?) In other words, shouldn't we stop being an umbrella coalition and become an independent association?



These questions (and others) were debated, discussed, this way and that, with rage and restraint, for the better part of an afternoon and evening. While some business was transacted, everybody felt that the general discussion was long overdue. It cleared the air. We've made a beginning to rectify our mistakes. Criticism and self-criticism, will be an on-going part of our work. The next step is transformation. Write us at the newspaper about our views and yours. NEPA moves forward, and we need your help.

3000 Years and Life

by Monty Neill

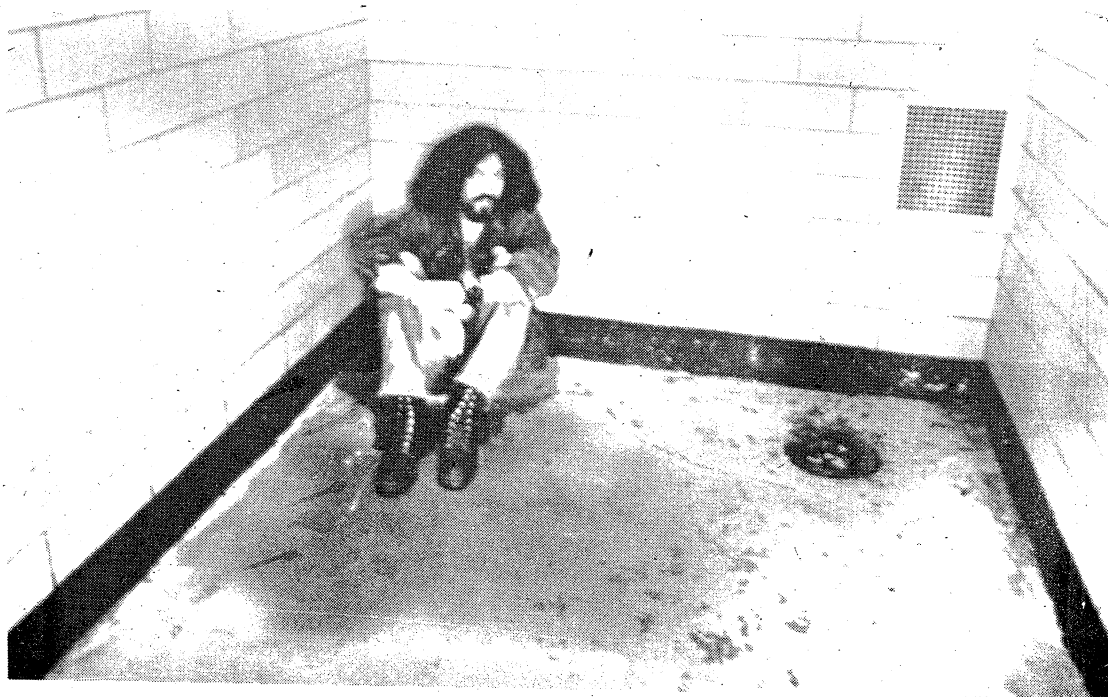
The premiere showing of 3000 Years and Life, held Nov. 1, 8:00 PM at Boston University's Morse Hall, was considered by the participants to be a great success. About 670 ex-cons, relatives and supporters attended the NEPA sponsored meeting, which included not only the film but also a panel discussion.

Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki directed the filming, which centers on the several months last spring when the men held captive at Walpole Prison, Massachusetts ran the prison while the guards were on strike. The film explored how the prisoners governed themselves.

The work areas seen in greatest detail were the print shop and the kitchen. We see the prisoners engaged in useful work, the printers developing a skill useful on the outside, the kitchen workers preparing palatable food instead of the usual slop. Both cases highlight the inevitable corruption, rake-offs and kickbacks rampant among the guards at Walpole.

We see scenes of how wrong-doing is corrected. Jerry Sousa, a member of the Board of Directors of the NPRA, the captives elected governing board, explained how wrong-doers are corrected by persuasion and embarrassment in front of peers. He said that if one con steals from another, the men tell him, "You're a pig. Just like the system." The brother gets embarrassed. Then the men say, "It's no big deal, we know it won't happen again." They pat him on the back, give him a cigarette, and it's over. Sousa is now in the hole at Walpole.

We see a scene of the NPRA board talking strategy and tactics, not just of running the prison, but also defending the right of prisoners to run the prison in the face of attacks from the administration and the guards union. Bobby Dellelo, former NPRA president, is in this scene and others. Each time he came on the audience cheered and applauded. De-



Jerry Sousa in "Blue Room", block 9, Walpole photo: Richard Kahn

llelo has since escaped from Walpole and is still free.

John Kerrigan, the current president of NPRA, is shown at work writing 4000 letters a week to people on the outside. His letters concentrated particularly on the plight of the lifers.

Following the movie, NEPA presented a panel discussion. Gene Mason, who chaired the meeting, opened with a brief chronology of the struggle in Walpole since the major lock-up of Dec. 29, 1972, a lock-up which created solidarity among the men.

The first panelist was John McGrath, Board member of NPRA and an organizer for the National Coalition for Correctional Change (NCCC), whose director is John Boone. McGrath read a lengthy statement from the absent Boone which praised the film and also praised the NPRA for maintaining the high level of unity that had been developed at Walpole during the strike.

McGrath also spoke in his capacity as NPRA board member. Arnie Coles, also a board member of NPRA,

had been scheduled to speak but was unable to attend.

In his speech, Russ Carmichael, a director of NEPA, said that the reason Bobby Dellelo escaped from Walpole was to save his life.

Eleanor Mulalley, also a director of NEPA and formerly the Director of Education at the New Hampshire State Prison, explained how education in prisons is a sham, pointing out that her superior at NH SP had told her, "Prisoners can't think."

The final panelist, Bobby Scollard, a director of NEPA, had his speech interrupted frequently by cheers and applause. Scollard emphasized the significance of the question of responsibility. The administration doesn't want the prisoners to exercise responsibility, but when the prisoners had the responsibility of running the prison thrown in their laps, the prisoners virtually ended violence at Walpole, and generally ran the prison better than it had ever been run before.

Said Bobby, "If you were plucked out of here and put down in Detroit tomorrow and told you had to run Ford, what would you do? That's the situation that faced the NPRA at Walpole."

A lively series of questions and answers followed the panel. About six ex-cons came to microphone and rapped about their experiences in America's prisons, and suggested ways in which the audience could help in the struggle.

While the meeting was a success as an educational event, we in NEPA are re-thinking the structure of NEPA so as to provide concrete ways in which persons who wish to work with NEPA will be able to do so. See the accompanying articles on the history of NEPA.

Channel 7 in Boston filmed about a minute of the meeting and showed it on the 11 PM and early morning news. NEPA News staff sold \$85 worth of newspapers. The meeting ended at 10:00 PM. If you would like to see 3000 Years and Life and/or hear a speaker from NEPA, see our ad elsewhere in this issue.

We wish, first of all, to thank the many people who sent us subscriptions and donations. The money we received enabled us to expand to 24 pages without dipping into our meager savings. However, unless we continue to receive subscriptions and donations we will rapidly run into financial difficulty. To print 5000 copies a month of a 24 page paper and mail it out will cost us about \$5000 for a year. No one on the paper staff receives any money; it all goes to unavoidable costs such as layout, printing, mailing, etc. We also remind you that if you received a free copy in the mail we will only continue to send it free if you are a prisoner. We receive mailing lists and send two issues free in the hope that you will like the paper and send us a subscription. So please send what you can.

NEPA NEWS
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580
603/823-5266

Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted.
(Please Print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

- \$2.50, regular one year sub
- \$5.00, one year for you and one con
- \$7.50, one year for you and two cons
- \$10.00, one year for you and three cons
- \$25.00, one year as a sustaining member of NEPA NEWS
- I am a prisoner. Please send me free copies.

Prison in Shanghai

by Geoffrey Collins

Shanghai, the largest city in the world, with a population of some 10 million, has only a single prison. It is located in the north-west section on a residential street, not far from the Wampoa River. An unobtrusive building from the street, inside it has all the marks of a western prison. The walls are high. Watchtowers are placed appropriately. The top edge of the walls are embedded with broken glass. An enormous steel cylinder with protruding steel blades sits on the top of an inside wall.

The prison, an architectural tribute to imperialism, was built in 1906 after the British invaded China. During subsequent regimes - under the British, the Kuomintang and the Japanese - reactionaries and foreigners incarcerated the Chinese people, including members of the Communist Party. When Shanghai was liberated in 1949 the Chinese put into practice one of Chairman Mao's sayings: They turned the apparatus of the reactionary rulers into the apparatus of the Proletarian Dictatorship.

I was fortunate enough to join a group of young Americans who were living and working in a Shanghai textile factory. We worked in the morning at the factory. Our afternoons were spent visiting other factories, colleges and, on one Wednesday, the prison.

There are 3400 prisoners of which about 220 are women. The majority of the prisoners are short termers although there are a few with life sentences and a couple with the death penalty. Those with the death penalty are given a two year probationary period in which they can reform themselves and have their sentences reduced. A similar release-time system is in effect for other prisoners. The principle behind the work done at the prison is to combine reformation with

production. Reformation first and production second. The transformation of the prisoners ideology is the aim and it is through production that this transformation takes place.

Chinese society is quite different from ours, as is their history and culture. Today in China it is not every person for himself as it once was, but rather a spirit of all for one and one for all. It has taken time and a great deal of education to attain this ideology and for the Chinese people to come to understand its stability and security. There are, however, still some who do not agree with this ideology and wish only to find ways to make their own lives more comfortable. These people are class enemies. They care nothing for their Chinese brothers and sisters. They think only about their own individuality and the bourgeois way of life. These are the class enemies that you find in prison.

A class enemy does not go immediately to jail once someone decides or thinks that he is a

class enemy. The Chinese people are a close people and an individual who is not working towards the best interests of his fellow man and his country will not be turned against, but rather will be helped, by those with whom he works and lives. They will attempt to show him where he is going wrong and why it is not beneficial for him to continue. Should this help on the part of his peers fail, and the offender does not and will not help himself, then he will go to trial and eventually to prison if convicted. There he will receive more help in the remodeling of his ideology until he can leave prison and go into the outside world as an asset to the society. Prison, then, is not the punitive institution as we know it here, but a self help center of the highest degree.

An example of one such reformed thief is Tsing Fang Liang, who was sentenced to seven years for his wrongdoings. He took his remodeling seriously, studied Chairman Mao and repudiated his old actions of loving luxury and hating work. He took part in the production of the prison and formed the habit of manual labor. His sentence was reduced and when he got out he became an asset to the society. In August of 1970 he found a purse on the ground. Rather than resort to his old habit of spending the money for himself, he looked up the owner of the purse and returned it.

There are two main workshops in the prison, a printshop and a sewing shop. There are also simple workshops inside the cells. It is these workshops where the prisoners learn to take part in production and also learn that the production is for the country and the betterment of the Chinese people rather than for the increased wealth of some individual capitalist. We had a chance to visit one of the simple workshops located in the cell blocks.

Stretched along the entire length of one of the tiers was a

long table behind which sat a line of prisoners. The prisoners were putting together toothpaste tubes and other various containers. Their tools were simple, including scissors, knives and scalpels of a sort. A single guard stood at the end of the table. He had no visible weapon and seemed unconcerned by our visit, or the fact that the prisoners were using sharp objects, or that they could freely exchange them. The prisoners looked healthy and were well clothed. Most had their heads bowed and didn't look too pleased to be there.

The prison also has a hospital fully equipped with two full-time doctors and a full-time staff. There are two operating rooms and the place looked as sanitary and as clean as any hospital I have seen in this country. The wards for the patients are also clean and the patients are free to mingle with each other and talk. I noticed the absence of guards for such a large group of people. It was also while I was staring out the window of one of the wards that I noticed a rather peculiar thing about the open grounds of the prison: again there were no guards and the watchtowers were empty, looking as though they hadn't had a visitor for many a year.

No form of physical punishment is allowed or done in the Chinese prisons. The comrades in charge of the prison with whom we spoke, did not radiate a feeling of hostility or look as though they thought they had some weird kind of power over the prisoners. They talked proudly of the reformation that they were doing, of their very, very low rate of returnees, and of Chairman Mao who says, with regard to prison reform, "If you do a good job in this field, the main exploiting class in China will be wiped out." From my brief visit to the prison in Shanghai I would have to say that the exploiting class in China will very soon have to plead nolo contendere.

Over the Wall

By: Marlene Finn

Between 1:00 and 1:15 A.M., Monday, November 5, two men, Richard Cronin and Wayne Carlson, escaped over the wall from Windsor Prison in Vermont. In escaping, Cronin broke his right heel and four toes on his left foot. He crawled through the woods for about a mile until he was found at 8:10 P.M., Tuesday, November 6, in an old barn. Carlson is still free.

Neither man had any winter clothes. This is another in a series of escapes from the 164 year-old dungeon called the Maximum Security Prison of Vermont at Windsor.

Friends of Rehabilitation (F.O.R.) will give a forum on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Church in Burlington, Vt. All are invited.



Boosting Poverty

by Ellen Wheeler

Large chain stores expect "shrinkage". Often they allow for a certain amount of "shrinkage" in their inventory, and only acknowledge theft to exist above that percentage.

I worked as a cashier in a medium size market in Connecticut for four years. As time went on and I became better acquainted with the business I discovered that there are several kinds of theft that occur, and that most people do it.

When my boss, Mr. Casey, who owns the store, takes his weekly groceries off the delivery truck and finds he is a case short, regardless of the cost of the case he's really missing he always tells the warehouse it was a costlier item, so he can make some money.

Our meat deliverer, Mike, purposely miscounts legs of beef going to one store, so they think he had left 20 legs of beef but he'd actually leave 19. Then he'd bring the extra one to Mr. Casey, sell it to him for a minimum price, like \$50, so they both would profit.

Mr. Casey told me, "The reason I buy stolen goods is, somebody's gonna buy them anyway, so why not me?" With the freeze prices and inflation small grocers are being choked right out of existence. Said Mr. Casey, "The government never cares about the small businessman, so we have to care about ourselves, legal or not legal."

The breadmen and milkmen did the same type of thing, but without Mr. Casey's knowledge. Hank, one of the breadmen, used to bring in 10 cases of bread, and if no one was looking he would put up eight, then take two out as stales, which the store paid him back for, and he pocketed the change.

This theft is similar to employee theft. The stock boy, Al, constantly took cartons of cigarettes, hid them in the trash before going

to the dump, then, once out of the store, he would remove them from the trash and make some extra money. He figured it was part of his salary and, after all, Mr. Casey was making money on stolen goods, so why not him. Al figured he was stealing from whoever "Case" was, not directly from Casey himself.

I felt the same way whenever I took money from the register, or when I wouldn't ring up all the groceries in a friends order.

One of our customers, Alice B., was on Social Security. She came in every Tuesday morning with a big purse to do her shopping. Sometimes I saw her put cans of tuna fish or frozen corn, even steak, in her bag. I never said anything to her.

As a rule I never confronted anyone who I thought was shoplifting. Once, though, a little six-year-old, Stevie Michaels, did a very poor job of stealing a candy bar. I knew he had never done it before, so I told him he shouldn't do it unless he knew he could get away with it, and unless he knew why he was doing it, because someday someone who caught him might turn him into the police, and he'd get in trouble.

During my four years, Mr. Casey invested in two-way mirrors, around the corner mirrors, a bell system for the cashier to ring if she saw someone shoplifting, and, near the end, hidden cameras.

One young man I spoke to, Rick, said, "I shoplift for a couple of reasons. First, no bread; and second, prices are so high I figure they make enough profit that my ripping them off doesn't really hurt."

A young woman with several small children answered in a way that covered so very many people I've seen shoplift, "Look, my husband's out of work and I have a family that gets hungrier than our unemployment pay allows them to get."



Prisoner Burns Himself

by The Vermont Prisoner Solidarity Committee

On the evening of October 30th, an inmate at the State Correctional Facility at Windsor lit fire to himself and suffered burns of the back, hands, face and head in the resulting blaze.

Richard Allen Smith was treated at the Mt. Ascutney Medical Center after what is being described as a "desperate attempt at self-immolation." At this writing there is no report as to his condition other than the suffering of extensive burns.

The self-inflicted fire comes on the heels of the recent work stoppage

and protest over conditions at the facility. Mr. Smith, who was one of the men who took part in the protest is reported to have taken these drastic measures to draw attention to the deteriorating situation at Windsor.

When Superintendent Moeykens transferred the Executive Officers of the V.P.S.C. to a segregation unit following the peaceful protest, he claimed that the move was to remove the organizing leadership from the C-Block housing area. It is quite apparent from this latest incident, that the removal of the leadership that had maintained a peaceful air within the facility was another in a growing list of misjudgements by

Self Education

by Richard Schofield
Brothers and Sisters-

Political consciousness should be priority in educating ourselves as well as our brothers and sisters. So study groups should be set up. I wish to take this time to evoke a few essentials relating to political consciousness.

First, why is political consciousness essential? As people under a capitalist system which does its utmost to keep people politically uneducated, we are kept entirely divided. Capitalism keeps people divided by means of economic strata, racial tactics, chauvinistic attitudes, etc. I could go on but I feel the point is across.

Once we realize what we're dealing with, it is up to us to liberate ourselves and, in turn, help bring forth a political understanding, both in our prisons and on our streets.

Therefore, systems of all kinds should be thoroughly analyzed, - cultures, countries, the role which capitalist-imperialist governments play and why they play it, and so forth. Learning to understand capitalism - imperialism as "The true enemy of man."

However, in order to attain direction, in order to eliminate capitalism - imperialism, hard, disciplined studies must take place, the analyzing of the internal and external contradictions of capitalism.

Those of us who are or who have been incarcerated know we can either work for the time or have the time work for us. I prefer the latter, and I'm sure, as brothers and sisters, you do also.

Perhaps you could discuss and decide what you are to seek - individual or the people's benefit. Many of you doing time have a short amount of time left. Therefore it is essential that you gather as much wisdom as you can, so you can apply yourselves collectively to the struggle when you are on the street, for your brothers and sisters behind the wall as well as those outside.

A good number to aim for in starting study groups is eight. Material, political and free, can be obtained through:

1. International Publishers
381 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10016

2. Monthly Review
116 West 14th St.
New York, N.Y. 10011

3. Outmates
Box 174
Storrs, Ct.
06268

4. The Red Book
91 River Street
Cambridge Massachusetts

the Superintendent. It is only by the grace of God that this misjudgement did not prove fatal to Richard Smith. With a leadership dedicated to non-violence now unable to render assistance to the population, will the next incident prove more tragic than this?

Women in Prison

By Kathryn Watterson Burkhart
Double Day & Co. @10.00
Reviewed by Sharon Krebs
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University Review

Kathryn Watterson Burkhart has never done time. Maybe a night or two, or a couple of days locked up as a special privilege at one of the more progressive institutions she visited in the course of writing *Women in Prisons*. But she has nursed an anger

towards the American penal system ever since she did a series on rape for the "Fort Lauderdale News" in 1969.

For that story she interviewed a convicted rapist in the Broward County jail and realized that, for him, she was the first stranger he could tell his story to. She found him honest, and open, and the victim of a racist frame-up.

She also found that "the lawyers of my defenses against knowing what really goes on as a matter of daily course in the criminal justice system and in jail were ripped off one by one".

Before she left Broward County Jail, she asked to be allowed to spend some time in the women's section as an inmate, but was granted only one day as a reporter.

"I chose the day—and that day was enough. I was led in through five locked doors to a small inner sanctum. I became less determined about my assignment and more and more terrified as the key turned in each lock behind me. I was even more shaken by the grim, hard faces of the black and white women I saw packed together in crusting crowded cells—some sixty women in two cell blocks seemingly not big enough for twenty.

It was only after I was put inside the cell block that the receptiveness of the individual women melted my fear. They were delighted to have an opportunity to talk about the conditions they lived in—and were amazed that I had gotten in.

They were like women I have known all my life. Just folks. They put me at ease and I became increasingly comfortable with familiar banter and old street talk....

When I walked out of the jail that evening I was numb. I was overwhelmed with seeing the sky, touching a palm tree, breathing fresh air. I sat down in the grass outside the courthouse, awed by the earth. It was only then I realized what a totally isolated and controlled world I had just been in—how there had been no windows, no trace of outside world inside those concrete walls. I was so overwhelmed that I never wrote an article about the experience. I was too confused, too angry to make sense out of it all."

She didn't begin researching and writing *Women in Prison* in earnest until a few years later, after she felt she had come to terms with herself as a woman and understood her inculcated attitude toward other women. And still she hesitated because she was not an expert—she had never done time. But women she met inside and often later when they

were outside prison walls urged her to write the book. One day they would write their book, they told her, but meanwhile she should write hers. As a reporter she could visit several prisons, and she had credentials; as a free person and an outsider she would be more credible, and could see things inmates were, already protectively blind to.

Kitsi Burkhart travelled from the California Institution for Women to the Ohio Reformatory, from Cook County Jail to Michigan and New York. She spoke with dozens of administrators, psychologists, and guards. And she had conversations with hundreds of women prisoners from prostitutes to political superstars. Her talks are reproduced verbatim in the book. The wardens are quoted; the women speak and write for themselves. Many of them opened up, showed her their soft insides, their needs, their fears. They viewed her as a glimmer of hope for change.

She found that, while prisons try to make men into animals by treating them like caged lions, they try to make women helpless children. They incapacitate and insult, humiliate and humiliate. The attitude of most of the prison administrators she interviewed toward the women in their charge is that they are wayward girls; they will not begin to take them seriously as they do men prisoners until they become a serious threat as the men.

Kitsi Burkhart was not militant when she began writing her book. She had been mugged and robbed, had agonized over friends murdered by strangers, and had been concerned, as much as any other citizen, about crime in the street.

But in the course of her investigation she began to question the definition of crime and came to understand that the essence of class, caste, and power is to be able to define criminality. She questioned the nature of a society that creates a false need for luxuries while denying the majority of its citizens the opportunity to obtain them legitimately. And her research led her to the conclusion that the criminal justice system is a class system that protects the white collar thief and the illegal activities of corporations but harshly punishes the powerless.

Kitsi Burkhart penetrates the life of women in prison. She exposes the humiliating "initiation rites" of public nudity, physical examinations, over-crowding, unreasonable rules and regulations, sudden searches and raids, punishment for infractions, and the contemptuous attitude of keepers.

She discovers the coping behavior peculiar to women prisoners: the masculine role played by a minority of women to re-create street love and street life, and the more important need of most prison women to create families of mothers, daughters, fathers, and brothers from among their prison sisters. She is constantly amazed by the strength and resiliency of women within a system designed to reinforce the traditional helplessness and dependency of females in a male-dominated society.

But this shouldn't surprise us. Women who have been imprisoned in the cage of hopeless marriages, under the tyranny of husbands who have laughed at us, denied our needs, rejected, abused and belittled us will understand *Women in Prison*. We will also understand that Marge Piercy's new novel

Small Changes which deals with this marital variety of confinement, could just have well been titled *Women in Prison*, while Kitsi Burkhart's book could just as accurately have been called *Small Changes*.

Kitsi Burkhart has written a superb book, a book that I think only a woman could have written. It is not theoretical or sociological, although it is packed with information. It is warm and personal, knowledgeable and concerned. It is a cry for understanding and for action.

What you learn from this book is what you should have known all along. If you were stirred to action in 1971 by the Attica massacre, then you should be able to understand why it happened and why it will happen again. Kitsi Burkhart makes that understanding real—as real as the clang of a metal door without a key—because her book is a taste of the experiences itself. If you have keys or cash in your bag, try walking around for a day without them. But don't walk too



far. Maybe six feet one way and six feet back. Then sit on your bed and try to concentrate on a book or a newspaper while your soul is expanding inside with the need to be free, and then let it out in the only way possible--in silent tears.

Not a primal scream and not an outcry because that will land you in the box and ultimately in the asylum indefinitely. Just hot, silent tears.

Cry for your mother and your baby and your wasted time and for the fact that you can't cry out loud. Then dry your eyes and carry on. Because you have no choice. You have to carry on.

I Am a Woman

I am a woman.

I know.

I know everytime I see, through the glass of this cage, a child, playing--laughing and my heart aches to see my own child.

I know everytime I force my chin up, smile,

and cry inside for home.

I know everytime the hunger for male companionship overwhelms me,

and I pull the covers over my head, hug my pillow,

try to sleep.

I know everytime I remember the sunrise

or the stars

and force myself to forget.

I know everytime my soft gentle

[spirit

comes up against the steel,

the barbed wire,

of living in this place.

and the tears flow from the pain from the frustration.

Yes, I am a woman,

I know.

Joanne "Friday" Fry
California Institute for Women.

Learn to cope. Learn to stop wanting that which you can't have, and which you should have, but which is nevertheless unobtainable. Emmesh yourself in the complex underworld of prison life. Develop a criminal mentality. Learn to hustle, to "take care of business," to thwart and subvert the myriad meaningless rules so that your incarceration will be as bearable as possible. Learn to talk without moving your lips, to send messages to women you are supposed to see, to procure items you are supposed to have, to survive in a system designed to destroy you. And learn to find joy in loving the sisters who you share your fate.

And then get sprung on a world full of the same problems you left behind, except now the problems are more complex, more demanding: prices are higher, the pace is faster, jobs are more scarce; it has tightened in on itself and you no longer know how to survive in it. Your family and friends have lived the last two, or four, or ten, or twenty years without you and it's hard to find that place where you used to be--because it's gone. And you're someone else. You're someone who has painfully learned how to live behind the walls. But now you're out and you're scared and angry and disoriented and terribly in need.

And you have a new problem. You're not just unskilled and unemployed you're also an ex-con!



And nobody trusts you. You might as well be wearing your number around your neck like a mug shot. You have to prove you're a person, an adult, a woman, and a fit mother over and over again. And right away. Like the minute you get out--without a place to live or the money to pay for it, or the job to get the money, or even welfare.

Fifty to seventy-five percent of all ex-cons return to prison. Eighty percent of all new felonies are committed by ex-cons. Do you wonder why? Do you wonder what society is doing to us all and to itself? Surely it is creating crime by its punishment.

I was talking to the cottage supervisor the other day about getting my own apartment and being out on parole and she said, "Shirley, just remember that if things get to hard to handle, you can always call up the institution and come back until you get a hold on what you want to do." I mean it was like a mother saying to her daughter, "Don't worry if things get to rough. You can always come home. This is your house." That's what she was saying. I thought maybe she was saying she didn't think I could make it out there and that really upset me. I can always come back here, but this isn't my home. It's not. It's a prison. I gotta keep telling myself that. I really want to make it. But I really don't know what making it's all about.

Shirley T., just before her release from Iowa Reformatory for Women.

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering it's prison," says Fyodor Dostoevsky in The House of The Dead. But perhaps you can assume the quality of the prisons from observing the nature of the society which they spring.

Kitsi Burkhart proposes that we do away with prisons completely. That no accused person is drawn away from crime by what happens to her in prison and that society does not gain a moment's breathing space by giving someone time. Agreed. But how do we abolish prisons without abolishing this form of society first?

Letter

Visiting men in Windsor Prison seems to many citizens an odd way to spend one's time. No reasons can as effectively persuade its rightness as can one visit with one man, nevertheless:

It costs thousands of dollars to keep one man who has stolen \$200 in Windsor for one year. Yet without community support and caring inside and later outside, the chances are 8 to 1 the man will be back in prison after release, a burden on the Vermont taxpayer rather than a productive member of society.

There are prison jobs for only 1 out of 5 of the men at Windsor. Much of this work, for instance the plate shop, does not retrain men for legitimate employment outside. After a "riot" or disturbance by some, even the rudimentary and limited training opportunities are cancelled indefinitely for all. The result is that most of the men are in enforced and unhealthy idleness for most of the time.

Few men are in Windsor for crimes of physical violence. Many suffer from alcoholism or drug dependency - problems stemming from poor social adjustment. Yet the artificial closed prison society nearly inevitably reinforces rather than rehabilitates.

To get out, to be a "good" prisoner, requires the assuming of complete passivity, contrary as this is to the competitive give and take of normal society. Even questions vital to the prisoner's mental health--the date of his classification hearing parole and transfer procedures -- and his physical health-- getting to see the doctor, threats to protective custody-- are shrugged off, obfuscated, or contradicted by prison

officers and councillors who often aggravatingly seem to know no more than the prisoner himself. Unanswered questions, the hostile and threatening environment, the apparent indeterminacy of monotonous days, numb even the clearest mind, unsuited it for the solution of its own problems, revolving it instead in anxiety, frustration, despair, and hopelessness.

Into this much abbreviated scene comes the visitor. To many men he is family, friend, society, all in one: the first voice-without-keys from outside in weeks or months. While there are many things which a visitor would like to do but cannot, much is humanly possible.

Men at Windsor Prison, most of them, do go on living after sentencing and being set aside. They survive and adapt to the frightening, the odd, then monotonous, then incomprehensible life that goes on and on and on in the prison. Little distinguishes one day from another; time is supremely important but indistinguishable. The men learn, adapt, survive. And then one day, they come out again.

To correct is one thing, but if society hates a man, and forgets him, and calls him hopeless, he will be hopeless, hate others, and forget society. We are society.

Jim Allen

High School Teacher

Springfield, Vt.

Censorship Regulations

Model Rules and Regulations on Prisoners' Rights and Responsibilities
West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn.
1973.

The book was compiled at a cost of \$750,000, courtesy of Massachusetts taxpayers, by the Boston University Center for Criminal Justice. Its preparation involved Sheldon Krantz, Director of the Center for Criminal Justice, Professors Robert Bell, Jonathan Brant and Michael Magruder, former Commissioner of Corrections John Boone, and his predecessor, John Fitzpatrick.

Reviewed by Fred Findling

In June 1973, the Walpole National Prisoners Rights Association's Legal Committee completed a thorough study of the rules and regulations and called a meeting of the Prison Administration, including Walter van Dinter of the Guards Union and the NPRA Board of Directors. The NPRA believes that these proposed rules would protect the rights of prisoners and put the Massachusetts Department of Corrections in the limelight as the model for a progressive prison system.

Deposed Commissioner John Boone said that the Model Rules and Regulations would be implemented in the very near future. It remains to be seen whether his successor, Frank Hall, will carry this through,

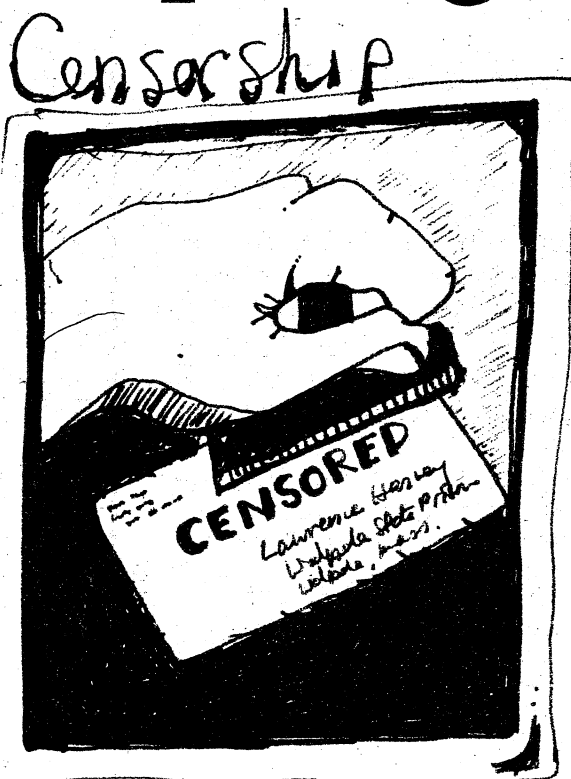
This article on correspondence regulations will be the first of a series of articles treating various sections of the Model Rules and Regulations.

Imprisonment means total banishment from society. Therefore, prisons curtail contact with society outside. Censorship of the mails is looked upon as a means of protecting prisoners from the corrupting influences of the outside world.

In general these decisions permit mail to enter and leave prison without censorship unless groups exist for believing that such mail threatens institutional security. Most prisons presently spot check letters. All mail to and from those in segregation and those deemed suspicious is opened. Some prisons only allow prisoners to write on special correspondence forms designed to limit the length of letters. Often, the contents are found to be unacceptable to the prison censor and the letter is rejected without the writer being informed. Incoming mail often receives the same treatment and is not returned to the sender. Censors have frustrated attempts at establishing contact by rejecting letters that make inquiry into rejected correspondence.

Nowhere has it been proven, that the absence of censorship constituted a threat to security. Censorship just adds to the enslavement of prisoners deprivation. Prison Officials have treated correspondence as a privilege rather than a right, to be lifted at any infraction that they may deem as appropriate.

The proposed regulations in this article follow the direction of recent decisions in which as much effort was made to preserve the constitutional rights of prisoners while keeping institutional security intact.



Under the proposed regulations, only the following would be deemed as contraband.

- A. Objects:
1. currency
 2. postage stamps
 3. illegal drugs
 4. plans for the manufacture of bombs, weapons, escapes, drugs, alcohol
 5. alcoholic beverages
 6. weapons
 7. perishable goods
 8. any other items other than reading matter, not listed on inmate possessions list

- B. Publications:
1. Materials which describe the manufacture of items listed under A-4
 2. Obscene material under new U.S. Supreme Court standards

Rule IC-1 Outgoing Letters

a. Inmates may send letters to any person, including inmates in other institutions. There shall be no restrictions on the number of outgoing letters that may be written, the length of any letter, or the language in which a letter may be written.

b. All outgoing letters shall be sealed by the inmate and deposited in locked mail boxes, which shall be positioned in central, available locations within each institution. All such mail shall be collected daily (except Sunday) by the postal officer, at a predetermined time, and delivered to the U.S. Post Office on the same day. No outgoing letters shall be opened by corrections personnel except on probable cause and after a warrant has been obtained from a court of law.

c. Each letter shall bear the writer's name and institutional address on the upper left-hand corner of the envelope. Although no letters will be logged, or names recorded,

each inmate should realize that he is subject to the same federal laws and regulations governing the use of the mails as are generally applicable to other persons using the U.S. mails. Any complaints from recipients of letters as to threats, obscenities, libels, or other illegalities shall be referred to postal authorities for appropriate action.

d. The institution will supply inmates whose institutional accounts are not sufficient with stationary and postage for three letters each week, which may be addressed to either foreign or domestic addresses. Stationary and stamps for other letters may be bought at the canteen.

Rule IC-2 Incoming Letters

a. There shall be no limit to the number of letters an inmate may receive. Letters shall not be restricted as to length or language. The writer's name and address shall appear on the envelope of each letter.

b. No incoming letters shall be read, even in cases where they may be opened, except upon showing of probable cause and obtaining of a warrant from a court of law.

c. Alternative 1:

All letters shall undergo visual and tactile external examination for contraband. No letters shall be opened unless there is probable cause that a particular letter threatens the order or security of the institution. The following circumstances shall constitute probable cause:

(1) A particular letter being too thick to determine whether contraband may be present, or containing material that feels suspicious.

(2) A letter bearing no return address.

(3) Recent discovery of contraband in possession of an inmate, which may have been obtained through letters, and which is otherwise unexplained.

Alternative 2:

All incoming letters shall be opened and inspected for contraband, but shall not be read.

d. Correspondence from attorneys, courts, state and federal officials, and corrections officials shall not be opened except in the presence of the inmate addressee.

Other mail, to include packages, shall be opened only in the presence of an inmate postal observer.

e. The inmate council shall appoint one inmate each day for whatever period is required to observe the actions of the postal officer in opening letters and packages. The inmate postal observer shall insure that no letters are read, and shall witness any discovery of contraband. He shall sign, as witness, a daily statement by the postal officer indicated all items of alleged contraband found in the mail, or that there is none if such is the case.

f. If contraband is discovered under Rule IC-2 the postal officer shall in the presence of the inmate postal observer, remove such contraband and send it to the superintendent or his designee. The postal officer shall at this time complete a notice form to the inmate, informing

Parole and Extradition

by Gus Heald

A very interesting article has recently come to my attention that should be of paramount concern to all inmates who are serving sentences in penal institutions, and especially those who are on parole or who are about to be released on parole. I first came across the article in "Inside-Outside" of October, 1972.

What impressed me most about the article was the fact that so many parolees are eventually returned to the institution for parole violation and there is no need for it. The article read as follows:

The U.S. Code, Annotated (USCA), section 5287, of the revised statutes of the U.S. Court (article 4) amendment 662, to wit: No pact or agreement can be made with another state in regards to parole violation; under provisions of (article 4) section 5287 of the revised statutes of the USCA (amendment 662) a person may be charged with treason or other crimes, and a warrant must be sworn before extradition may be used. Parole violation does not come under the category of such crimes (felonies), and "...legally, no extradition can be had for parole violation..." The Federal Government takes notice of the law commanding the states in such measures; as no state has made parole violation a felony, a person can always successfully refuse to be extradited from state to state by way of the Federal courts. This amendment was provided by the law in 1937 regarding parole violation under the revised act No. 528-71-68, USCA, Constitution Sec-

tion, 662, part 4, section 205, passed 1937.

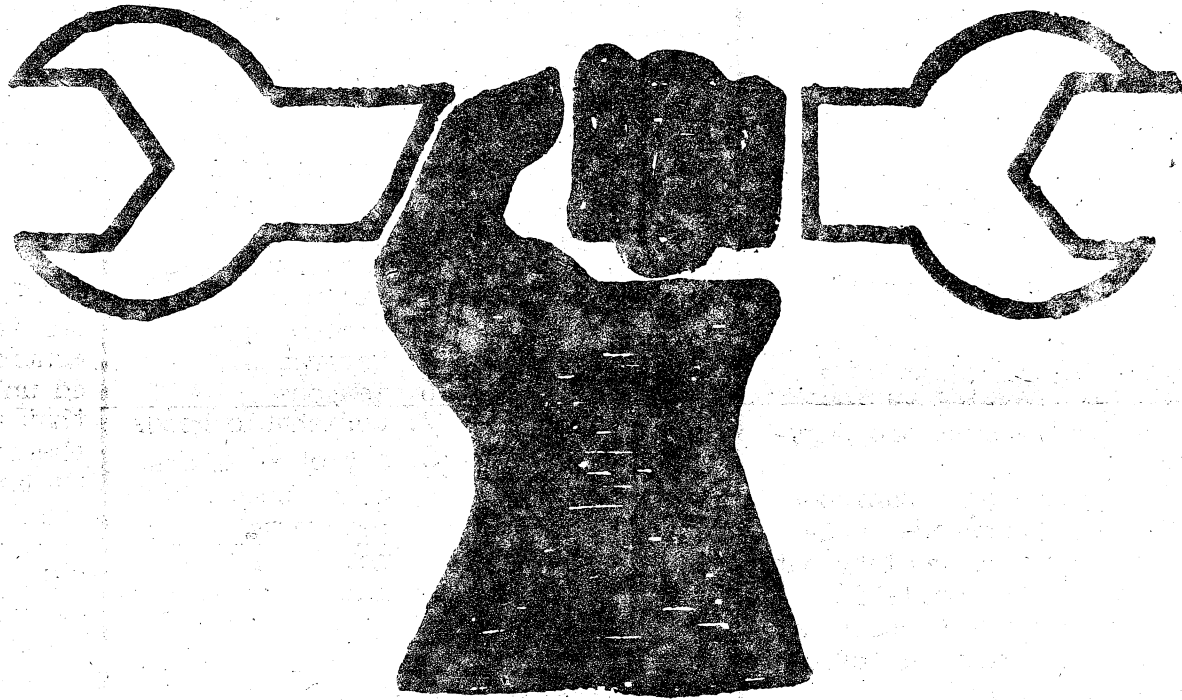
[Editors note: After 1940, Section 662 was transferred into Title 18, Section 3182.]

Any person who is on parole from any state to another state, or any person who is on parole in any state and who violates parole by leaving the state from which he has been paroled, unless such person commits a felony, cannot be brought back as a parole violator. The court has ruled that a person cannot sign himself into servitude. Therefore the signing of parole, or the pre-waiving of any extradition rights are not legal and valid.

See People v. ex rel. Baker v. New York, 82 N.Y. 211 (1943); Sabatrice v. Jennings, 211 applied 418 233 N.Y. 124 (1963)

See, also, Morrissey v. Brewer, 408 U.S. 471 (1972) and Wardon Gagnon v. Scarpelli, no. 71-1225, 41 Lw 4647 (May 14, 1973), which clearly defines parolees rights at a parole revocation hearing.

The appropriate method of contesting a parole violation hearing is simply to refuse to sign extradition and request bail. Bail is mandatory except in capital cases. At such hearings you are absolutely entitled to counsel, and if you cannot afford one, the court must appoint one. At the hearing you would allege that you were illegally imprisoned in violation of the fourteenth amendment for all the reasons set out in this article. You would use a writ of habeas corpus under 28 USCA section 2254 (Federal Habeas). The results should prove successful.



Censorship (cont)

him of this action. A notice form shall be delivered to the inmate within twenty-four hours, along with any letter that may have accompanied the contraband material in the envelope. The notice form shall indicate the name and address of the sender of the letter, and the nature of the confiscated contraband. A copy of the notice form shall also be filed with the superintendent or his designee. If it appears that a state or federal law has been violated, the material shall be referred to the appropriate authority for criminal prosecution.

An inmate shall not be disciplined merely because contraband has been received in a letter addressed to him; but if an investigation determines that such contraband was mailed with his knowledge or consent, his name may be referred to state or federal authorities for appropriate action.

While one can visualize the possibility that a letter would be obscene or threatening or could contain escape plans, the mere possibility of such letters is not such as to warrant the restriction. Moreover, since an alternative remedy exist through the postal regulation and state law, the justification for the restriction fails.

In conclusion, even these rules may tend to be restrictive but until we can eliminate prisons as we find them today, they offer a viable alternative to the oppressive regulations found in prisons across the country.

Commentary - Standards of Regulation

When establishing proper standards for censorship and control of inmates' correspondence, one must work from the principle that an inmate "retains all rights of an ordinary citizen except those expressly or by necessary implication taken from him by law."

Coffin v. Reichard 143 F.2d 443 (6th Cir. 1949) cert. den. 325 US. 887

Since the present issue involves First Amendment freedoms, the questions posed by any regulation in this area is whether that regulation can be adequately justified by the corrections administration as a valid restriction upon an inmate's First Amendment rights.

The permissible restrictions upon mail are dictated by emerging interpretation of the First Amendment in the prison context. The administration cannot regulate mail merely to protect its interest from a danger

that might arise in the future-- they must show that such a danger is clear and present, that is great enough to warrant an invasion of First Amendment rights and furthermore, that there is no alternative method of dealing with the danger other than such an invasion of the inmate's rights.

Palmigiano v. Travisono 317 F. Supp. 776 (D.R.I.1970)

Accordingly, regulations restricting numbers of letters, or prohibiting letters by male inmates to unrelated females, or to ex-offenders, or prohibiting letters in foreign languages all lack validity.

Fox, The First Amendment Rights of Prisoners, 63 J. Crim.L.C. & P.S. 162, 174 (1972)

None of these regulations deals with a clear and present danger of any sort.

Morales v. Schmidt 340 F.Supp. 544 (E.D. Wis.1972)

Palmigiano v. Travisono, 317 F.Supp. 776 (D.R.I.1970); Marsh v. Moore, 325 F.Supp 392 (D.Mass.1971); Smith v. Robbins, 328 F.Supp. 162 (D.Me 1971) aff'd 454 F.2d 696 (1st Cir. 1972). See Comment, Palmigiano: The Constitutionality of Prison Mail Censorship, 21 Cath.U.L.Rev. 215 (1971) Singer, Censorship of Prisoners' Mail and the Constitution, 56 A.B.A. 1051 (1970)

WITH INTENT TO HARM

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

With

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

28 minutes
16mm color
rental/\$35
sale/\$350

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

--American Friends Service Committee

'STRIP CELLS' BANNED.

According to the Hartford Courant of October 12, 1973, "All Strip Cells and so-called holes in every state should be closed." A case filed by Donald J. LaReau in Federal District Court challenged the legality of the Strip Cells. The Lower Court has declared that use of a "Strip Cell" is "cruel and unusual punishment", and the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal by the State. Said LaReau, now on parole, "Well, I think its beautiful, right?"

NEPA TALKS

with

"3000 YEARS AND LIFE"

- Nov. 8-12: Political Science students and faculty, SUNY, Buffalo; SUNY Radio; Public Forum sponsored by Attica Defense Committee
- Nov. 12: Von der Mehden Auditorium University of Conn., Storrs
- Nov. 15: University of N.H. Durham, N.H.
- Nov: Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.
Hunter College, NYC
LaGuardia Community College, NYC
New York University, NYC
- Nov. 30- Connecticut Conference on the Prison Problem, University of New Haven
- Dec. 2
- Jan. 15: Dartmouth College Christian Union, Hanover, N.H.

NEPA Public Education Program

In addition to this newspaper, and selected other publications, NEPA has developed a public education program suitable for schools, churches, civic clubs, and other gatherings of concerned people. Our membership extends to all the New England states and we can bring our program into your community. We can arrange for speakers, films poetry readings, plays, week-end work shops, and continuous seminars. We have three films for rent or sale and they are described on page two. If you are interested in life in jails and prisons, court procedures, crime, community based corrections, prisoner rights, prisoner services, the role of volunteers, the abolition of prisons, and related questions, write or call us.

NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS' ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
FRANCONIA N.H. 03580
603-823-5266

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

This is the only documented account of what has been happening at Walpole. It is the most important film of this struggle to date.

David Collins
Ex-Prisoner
Ad Hoc Committee
for Prison Reform
Boston

3000 YEARS AND LIFE
A Film by Randall Conrad

45 minutes
16mm color
rental/\$50
sale/\$400

This film goes a long way toward explaining how a prison can be run without guards on the inside.

Gene Mason
New England
Prisoners Assoc.

No one can see this film and think that Walpole prisoners are what most of the established media and state house politicians have been saying they are.

Ann Hack
Citizens for Better
Correctional
Institutions
New Haven, Conn.

VERMONT STATE PRISON

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

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

20 minutes
16mm b & w
rental/\$20
sale/\$125
sliding
scale
available

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

--Windsor Prison Vigil Group