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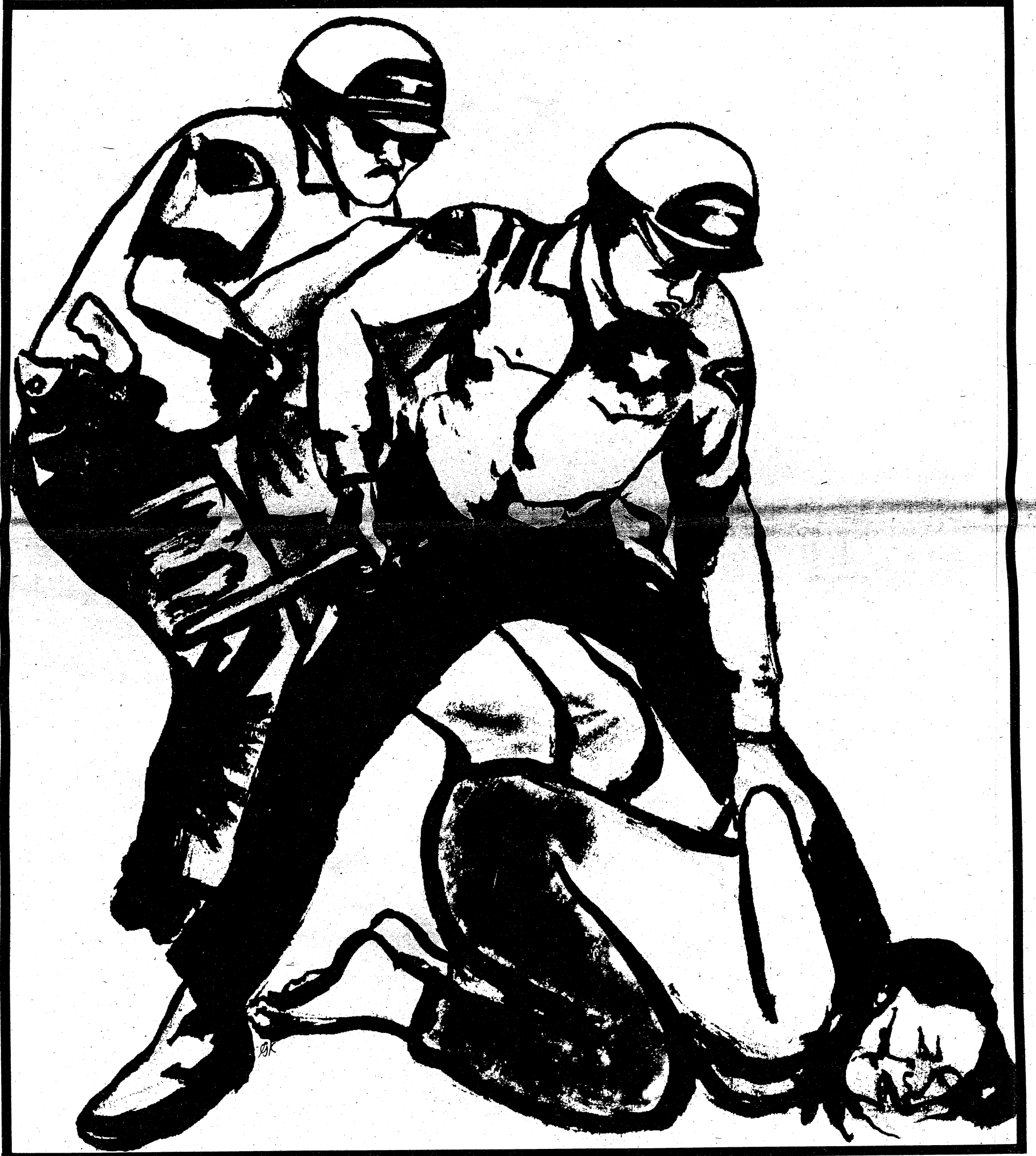
November, 1974

Vol. II, No. 10

25¢

NEPA NEWS

The Voice of the New England Prisoners Association



The Price of Punishment page 10

Shaw for Sheriff page 5

The graphic on this page is by George Knowlton and is titled "Boycott Grapes, Lettuce and Guns." We feel this graphic demonstrates just what Phil Shaw wants to abolish as sheriff. For more on G. Knowlton, turn to page 19.

Fire & Art

by Shelley Killen

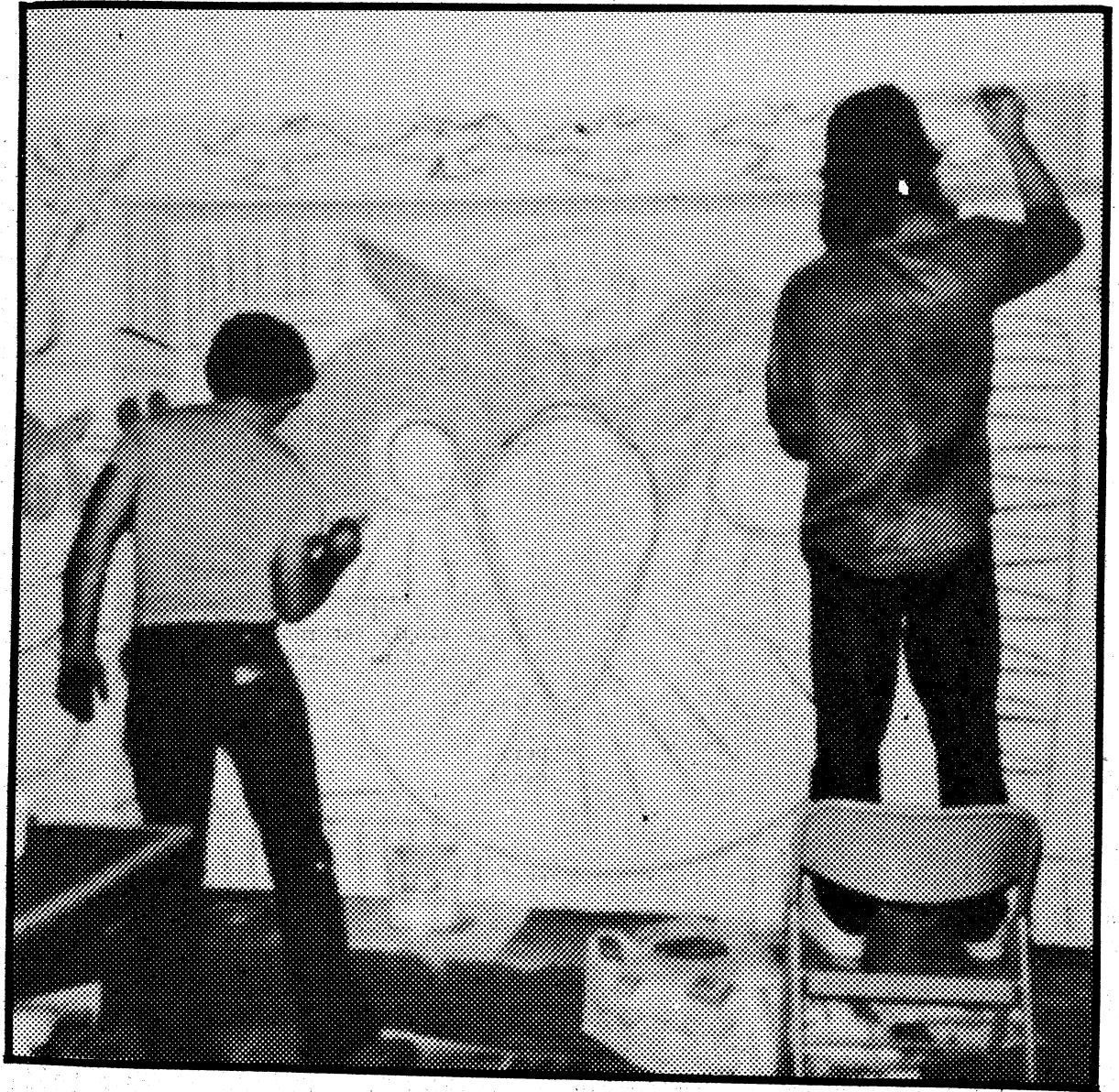
After the tragic fire in the YCC unit of the Boys Training School, those who were not injured were transferred to the C-Building. College Community Art Projects began a new mural series in this section, and the first painting was based on the emblem for the Greek Goddess Athena --the owl. This night bird is identified with Athena and the concept of wisdom because of its unique power to turn its head completely around and look backwards. The owl painting will bear witness to the grave loss of life and pain that was suffered by young boys at the training school. Blame for this fire has been cast everywhere except where it rightfully belongs--upon all of us who allow prisons to exist as dehumanizing institutions that create a living hell for all within them.

One of the central patterns painted on the YCC wall was a triangulated form that is a laughing devil, testifying to an intuitive awareness of the fiendish character of the R.I. penal system.

The new mural depicting the owl of Athena is bordered with five seagulls that express the impulse for freedom and yearning for liberty that is currently being denied by our repressive institutions.

Correction

Last month (October) we printed an article titled "ACI Locked Up Again". We erroneously attributed the article to Roger Marquis. It was actually written by Robert Marquis. Sorry Robert.



Owl Mural, C-Unit, Art Project at the Boys Training School

Attorney General Israel

from NPRA NEWS

In the past year, Attorney General Richard Israel has spoken publicly, and quite frequently, in relation to the ACI. Is this because he is truly concerned with the welfare of the State of Rhode Island, or is he exploiting the ACI for political, and thus personal gain?

A little over a year ago, the first lock-up in the history of the ACI occurred, with prisoners confined to their cells 24 hours a day. The guards were supplemented by State Police. During this lock-up, reports were given to the newspapers of wide-spread brutality and random beatings of prisoners. The Catholic Chaplain went to the governor's office to bring it to his attention. Investigators from the Public Defender's office attempted to enter the ACI to question prisoners on the alleged brutality, but they and their attorneys were also barred from entering. Obviously, something was very wrong within the prison, and to the public it would certainly appear that crimes were being committed against prisoners.

Attorney General Israel did nothing. He neither spoke out in regards to this nor took any legal steps to investigate or prosecute.

The question can be raised: how would this affect the public? It's been well established that prison only makes people worse, and this is a good example of it. Prisoners saw that there was no equal justice for all, but only for a favored few, and thereby would lose respect for law and the courts. If Israel were concerned to help the public by encouraging rehabilitation of prisoners, he would have done something in this case.

The next thing we heard of Israel was when legislation was submitted that would affect the ACI. This legislation would have been a step in the direction of improving conditions within the ACI and would, in the long run, help reduce the return rate to the prison. The warden and the Dept. of Corrections supported the legislation; the warden, in particular, spoke strongly in favor of the legislation. The Prison Legislation Committee, along with the warden, met with many legislators. The legislators saw merit in the bills, and voiced support of the proposed laws. At

the last minute, the Attorney General opposed the legislation, and it did not pass. Were his actions really for the public good, or for building an image as a concerned public official, who would thereby have greater strength in the next election?

Following that, Israel was heard from in relation to the "Prison Hour", an hour-long program from radio station WBRU. This program provides an opportunity for loved ones to send dedications to each other, from within the ACI and outside. They are innocent messages, such as "love Mimi from Joe". This is important and meaningful to the people involved. But Israel spoke out in opposition, stating that some sort of criminal messages could or may be conveyed in this manner. On the surface, it appeared that the Attorney General was concerned about the public welfare, but a closer examination would bring that into question. The Attorney General is very much aware that mail can be freely sent from prison to those on one's approved mailing list, and the letters cannot be censored. Also, he is aware that approved telephone calls can be made to one's family. And the Attorney General is also aware that prisoners are permitted visits and no one can listen to the conversation. In short, if one were inclined to send any messages of a criminal nature, there are many ways easier than to send some sort of a code over the radio. Can what appears to be public concern be political exploitation, and therefore actually injurious to the public?

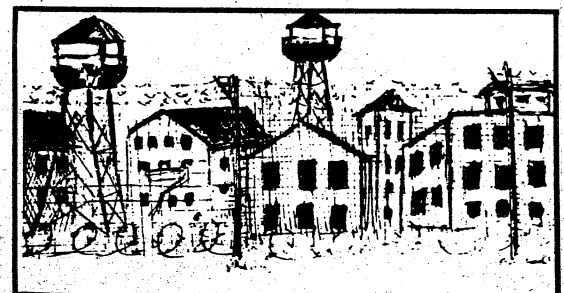
More recently, the Attorney General has been heard from again concerning the ACI. This time he spoke out about alleged softness within the prison and prisoners being able to have a television set or stereo, and being able to make telephone calls to their loved ones. First, it should be established that a person is sent to prison as punishment, and not for punishment. The loss of one's freedom is sufficient, and one is not to be punished further by a harsh prison existence. The Attorney General should be very much aware that harsh prison conditions lead to anger, bitterness, and frustration, and programs prisoners to possibly greater crimes when they leave prison. The cells are roughly 6 by 8 feet, about the size of

a large household closet. Can the reader visualize being locked in a closet with nothing to pass the time away? Would sheer boredom drive many insane? Will the inhumanity of this kind of treatment make one bitter and reinforce all that is wrong within him? It would, and eventually society would have to deal with the resulting problem when the prisoner is released. The televisions and stereos are paid for by the prisoner; there's no cost to the State. In fact, it helps the state because they help to relieve the problem of monotony.

The other issue raised by the Attorney General is that of phone calls. What is morally wrong with a phone call? Statistics show that children from a broken family have a greater tendency towards crime. If a counselor permits a prisoner to call his wife or children, and this helps keep the family united, it's certainly beneficial to the public in the long run. Can the reader visualize the anguish and frustration when a prisoner is trying to contact and hold his family together during a crisis only to be denied that opportunity?

Is this really public concern when the Attorney General tries to make issues of these things, or is it merely a grab for public attention? More recently, an editorial in the Providence Evening Bulletin said that Attorney General Israel had a "know-nothing" attitude towards the situation at the ACI.

So it is painfully clear that Attorney General Israel has the interest of neither prisoners nor the outside public in mind. Which leaves us with the question: Is the Attorney General motivated by political, personal ambition, or is he simply a "know-nothing"?



Legislation

By Steve Jaren

Unique experiences are re-lived, perpetrated, if you will, scores of times within these prison walls. Every man here adds to the event, few subtract. All are attempting in the alchemy to hold onto the "philosopher's stone". The 'stone' in this case is a gathering of loved ones and friends.

To most people this is a Sunday afternoon dinner, sometimes a chore to attend. Or an ordinary, often anticipated, and sometimes boring evening supper with family.

To the inmates at the A.C.I. it is the zenith of best. We are proud to announce we had the second such event called Family Day. Two months since the first, on August 10, Saturday, October 12, 1974, proved to be as magical.

A cool wind huddled the men and their guests. The charcoal fires cooked hamburgers, hot dogs, and even toasted a few marshmallows.

Children had their ballons, husbands had their wives, boy had girlfriend, families were together. A unique, memorable, happy experience for me. You?

Among the gifts given to the children were transistor radios, hockey-sticks and an assortment of stuffed animals.



Picnic Area--Rear Industrial Building
photo from NPRA NEWS

Medical Center

by Robert Marquis

The Medical Center (Mental Health) has been undergoing a steady barrage of criticism in recent months as the result of a series of exposes depicting the adverse conditions in these mental institutions. State Representative Edward Beard has been primarily responsible for these exposes. While he is certainly to be commended for his efforts, it is unfortunate that little or nothing has been mentioned about the one building where the most gross atrocities take place; namely the CIW (Criminally Insane Ward), presently located in the Pinel Building.

The men confined to this unit fall into 3 basic categories:

- 1) Those committed by the courts for observation.
- 2) Those who are declared incompetent to stand trial.
- 3) Those found "not guilty by reason of insanity".

The majority of patients fall in the second category, and these are the ones who are subjected to the gravest injustice. Under our present archaic laws, these men must remain confined at the CIW until such time as a qualified psychiatrist declares them competent. Since psychiatric treatment is virtually nonexistent in this unit, it is not uncommon for men to spend a number of years there before finally having their day in court, still facing the original charges.

A typical example of this, is the case of an inmate presently incarcerated at the ACI. This man was originally arrested in 1952, and charged with robbery. He was declared incompetent to stand trial and remanded to the CIW until 1966. At that time, he was finally allowed to stand trial, found guilty and sentenced to twenty-five years. Incredibly enough, he was given NO CREDIT whatsoever for the 14 years spent at the CIW.

Another man, who is still at the CIW, has been there since 1929, without ever having had a trial. In other words, this man has been incarcerated under lock and key amidst the most deplorable conditions imaginable, without being convicted of a crime.

The patients in the other two categories are not necessarily much better off. When a man is acquitted by reason of insanity, he is then remanded to the custody of the Dept. of Mental Health, which usually simply returns the man to the CIW for an indefinite period of time, often forgetting him all together.

When the court commits a man for observation, they usually specify a 30 day period. However, doctors at the medical center have the authority to extend this period indefinitely, and often do. For instance, I was committed there in 1968, supposedly for a 30 day period, but was kept there unjustly for eight months. Upon my arrival at the CIW, I was immediately placed on "thorazine" (commonly referred to as zombie juice) without even seeing a doctor. This medication is dispensed by attendants who have no medical or psychiatric training whatsoever. Except for a T.V. set in the "day room", there are virtually no recreational facilities. During a good portion of the day, patients are locked in bare rooms, devoid of any utilities. Doctors, nurses, and social workers, generally avoid this ward like the plague, simply because the outmoded title "Criminally Insane Ward", implies that the men confined to this unit are all homicidal maniacs. During my eight months tenure, I was interviewed by a doctor three times for approximately five minutes on each occasion. On the basis of these interviews, the doctor submitted a report to the court that I was mentally incompetent. Fortunately, it was established that this doctor was merely an M.D., and therefore, not qualified to practice psychiatry. As the result of this disclosure, I was examined by a qualified doctor, declared competent, and finally released from the hospital.

It seems that every time there is an inspection tour at the Medical Center, every precaution is taken to avoid the CIW, like dirt to be swept under the rug. How long before the public is made aware of the human depravity, this throwback to the dark ages!

Hopefully, subsequent investigations at the Medical Center will bring these situations into proper perspective, with every effort made to eradicate this hideous error of our time.

Family Day

By Ray Blais ACI-NPRA

Citizens of Rhode Island are witnessing a legislation and voters campaign sponsored by ACI's Legislation Committee to solicit a pledge from voters to support proposed Social Reform throughout the Department of Corrections and to vote for candidates that will contribute towards making changes possible.

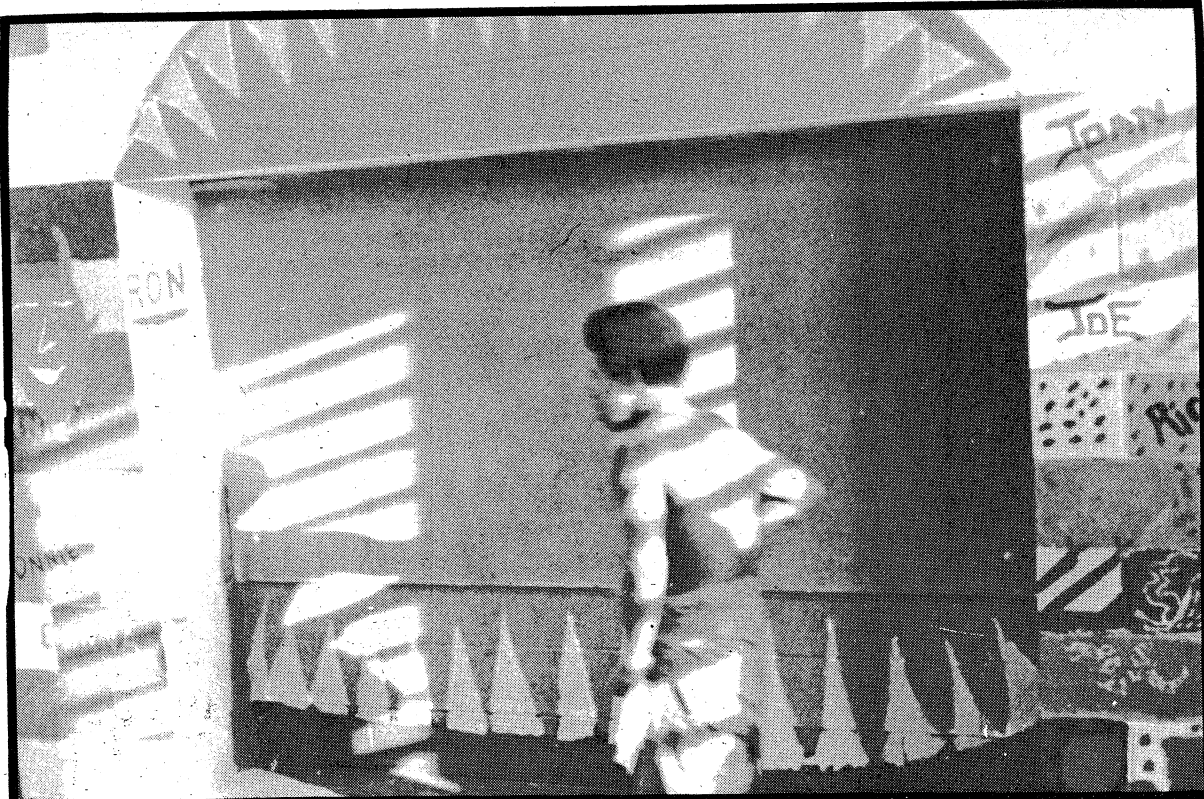
Petitions are already in circulation throughout the state and read as follows: As a voter and citizen of Rhode Island, I advocate Social Reform in our present government, and in particular within our Department of Corrections. I therefore approve, recommend, and support legislation proposed by the ACI's Legislative Committee.

The following legislation submitted and receiving passage would provide for some much needed reform to meet the current demands set for a progressive, modern rehabilitative correctional system for our institutions: 1) Furlough Bill 2) Work Release for Lifers 3) Parole Time to Count 4) Blood Donations.

A postal card accompanying the petition will be used as a record and reference for future communication and support for improving conditions in the state's penal institutions, particularly the R.I. Adult Correctional Institution, Maximum Security. This postal card reads: Front: Return address Back: Please fill out and mail. Citizens' name, occupation and address. Gentlemen: As a voter and citizen of Rhode Island I will support your proposed legislation for 1975. Remarks:

Inmate's family, relations and friends are participating as well as various organizations and concerned citizens from all walks of life who are appalled over the deplorable conditions existing at the ACI. The "only" alternative left to correct the situation is for public indignation that demands action for "emergency" measures to be put into effect and not to accept anymore political pacification of a so-called utopia correctional system scheduled to be in operation in 1989-94. Emergency measures recommended are simple, inexpensive and logical solutions felt necessary to eliminate those prison problems that repetitiously fall into corrections' top priority category they categorically announce will solve the complex problems within the states correctional institutions. 1) A separate facility reserved for awaiting trial defendants only. 2) Community-based centers housing a minimum of 30. 3) Expansion of Work Release to accommodate an additional 30-50 inmates. 4) Passage of modern progressive legislation to provide "incentive" type rehabilitative programs. 5) Renovation of Maximum Security to provide adequate educational, vocational, and recreational service day and night. These "emergency" measures could be put into effect immediately and would not interfere with the state's proposed Master Plan, long-range, for new correctional facilities.

Citizens are urged to sign our petition and to pledge their support for social reform throughout the Department of Corrections. Your active participation will save millions of dollars in taxes and you would be instrumental in making changes possible at the ACI, plus the satisfaction that you will be performing civic duty to correct the disgraceful penal institutions of Rhode Island. Join us in making changes possible!



Fire and Devil Pattern, Boys Training School

of Duplicity, by Deception, and for Domination: Massachusetts Government

by Ron Sturupp

One of the most effective social weapons in a government's arsenal of exploitive strategies is a population control tactic known as the Missionary Left vs. the Military Right. To be most effective, this deceptive device of domination depends upon dishonesty, duplicity, and a politically naive population. Pretending to be a friend of the people, one agency or governmental institution will hand out social crumbs (welfare checks, tax-exemptions, low interest loans for small businesses, grants, etc.), along with high sounding empty platitudes such as freedom, justice, and equal opportunity. At the same time another governmental agency will rattle its sabers and threaten a people with fines, jail and Martial Law as a consequence of "unacceptable behavior". America controlled the Civil Rights struggle with the Poverty Program and the National Guard. Europe once dominated the world with the Bible and its military forces. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is operating a similar devious device on its citizens.

Lewis H. Fisher, Jr., Director of the Massachusetts Office of Economic Opportunity, has sent out a rather mealy-mouthed public letter claiming "surprise and dismay" over a spy network type program about to be implemented by the Criminal History Systems Board, another agency of the Massachusetts Government. The letter reads:

If Mr. Fisher was as concerned over the potential abuse of the people's civil liberties as he claims, he would logically be arguing for the elimination of the program altogether, rather than upgrading it. Further, if he was really concerned, he would be pushing for legislation preventing the legal possibility of any such program ever being enacted.

The questions referred to in the letter, obviously designed by Mr. Fisher or his Office of Economic Opportunity staff read, (in part):

What is the Criminal Offender Record Information System (CORI)?

The CORI system is the collection of records and data which is compiled by various law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts when a person is arrested on a criminal charge, issued a summons, indicted by a grand jury, prosecuted, incarcerated and rehabilitated. Many of the records will be computerized and made available to agencies and individuals who have been granted "access" to the system; some of the CORI will not be computerized but will be kept manually. The CORI system and its proposed rules and regulations will apply to some but not all (see Q. 12) information which is collected by law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts.

Why is CORI being developed in Massachusetts?

Will CORI be limited to records about people who have been arrested, convicted, and put in prison?

No. The proposed system would maintain records of a person's arrest on criminal charges, even where the arrest did not lead to a court trial, or where the defendant has been found not guilty, or a finding of no probable cause has been made by the court, or a nolle prosequi or dismissal has been entered and in which the court has ordered the sealing of the records.

Will my record be in CORI if I am ever arrested on a criminal charge but not convicted?

Yes. Information about arrests without convictions would be kept on tape in a separate part of the system which is called "off-line" but which would be available:

- a) for research,
- b) for pre-employment investigations of prospective employees of a criminal justice agency,
- c) to impeach a witness in any judicial proceeding where the court has so ordered,
- d) to a judge or probation officer who is sentencing an individual for subsequent and unrelated convictions.

Also added:

Whenever the head of a criminal justice agency feels he needs the information for a criminal investigation.

Who can get all of this information?

The CHSB decides which criminal and non-criminal justice agencies or individuals can have access to CORI. Agencies in other states and territories of the United States as well as foreign governments can also receive our CORI.

Do most other states and other countries have acceptable privacy and security standards?

No.

What's another danger of CORI?

When an ex-offender leaves prison and tries to "make good", his or her record will remain "on-line" CORI for five to ten years, which will probably hurt his chances of getting a job. This helps to defeat Massachusetts' goal of rehabilitating ex-offenders. (This period has since been increased to ten to fifteen years.) (Massachusetts cont. page 14)



FRANCIS W. SARGENT
Governor
LEWIS S. W. CRAMPTON
Commissioner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Community Affairs

141 Milk Street, Boston 02109

October 22, 1974

Dear Friend:

The new revised set of regulations for the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) System has been approved by the Criminal History Systems Board. These new regulations, rather than solving the civil liberties problem we brought up the last time around, exacerbate them.

Enclosed you will find a series of questions about CORI and the answers provided by the regulations. Where the answers have been changed by the revisions (Nos. 5, 9, 14, and 17) you can see that matters have gotten worse, not better. The information contained in CORI's "off-line mode" (for example sealed records and dismissed charges) have been made much more accessible to criminal justice agencies. Convictions will be kept "on-line" for even longer periods of time. Security precautions are emphasized to keep people from stealing the files but there are no effective controls on the use of the information by "authorized persons".

In times as troubled as these, it is important to prevent a system with as much potential for abuse as CORI from slipping through while our attention is elsewhere. Currently, the FBI is expanding its control over the criminal information communications system causing "surprise and dismay" to even the White House staff.

The new CORI system will surely be more efficient than what exists at present. But, as Senator Sam Ervin said during hearings on the national crime information system, "for one man to have control of crime data might be more efficient, but this country wasn't based on the idea of efficiency so much. It was based on the idea of power defused." If this system is implemented, it will mean a large step away from that idea.

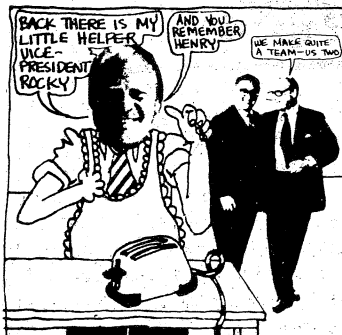
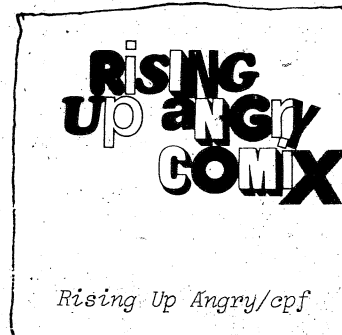
Sincerely,

Louis H. Fisher, Jr.
Director
State Economic Opportunity Office

The Justice Department in Washington is encouraging law enforcement agencies throughout the country to centralize, systematize and automate their criminal justice records in order to speed the process of apprehending and prosecuting lawbreakers.

Who controls CORI?

CORI is controlled by the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) whose members represent the spectrum of law enforcement agencies in the state.



Shaw For Sheriff

Demand New Election!

Demand Review Board!

by Monty Neill

Despite platitudes and pledges uttered by countless politicians, falling on each other in a mad dash to get out from under Watergate, honest politics is a far cry from reality in America. Such was the experience of Phil Shaw, candidate for Sheriff in Cumberland County in Maine.

Phil Shaw is an ex-convict who did time in the Maine State Prison in Thomaston. He is director of the STEP Center in Portland, Maine as well as a director of NEPA. Running as an independent, he polled almost 30,000 votes on election day, over 40% of the total. The winner, Richard Thayer, a Democrat, pulled most of the remainder.

Civilian Review Board

Phil's main campaign demand was to establish a Civilian Review Board, a demand viewed as highly dangerous to the machine which controls the Cumberland County Sheriff's Dept. "What we must do," said Phil, "is to take politics out of the Sheriff's office. An independent Civilian Review Board under community control could do that". Not only is the current set-up out of the people's control, but it can be dangerous.

For example, take the case of a prisoner at the jail, a Viet Nam vet who was a drug addict.

"His people", said Phil, "wanted him transferred to the Augusta, Me. VA hospital. The hospital accepted him, a judge signed the papers. But they sat on the head jailer's desk for two days. The guy killed himself while the papers sat there".

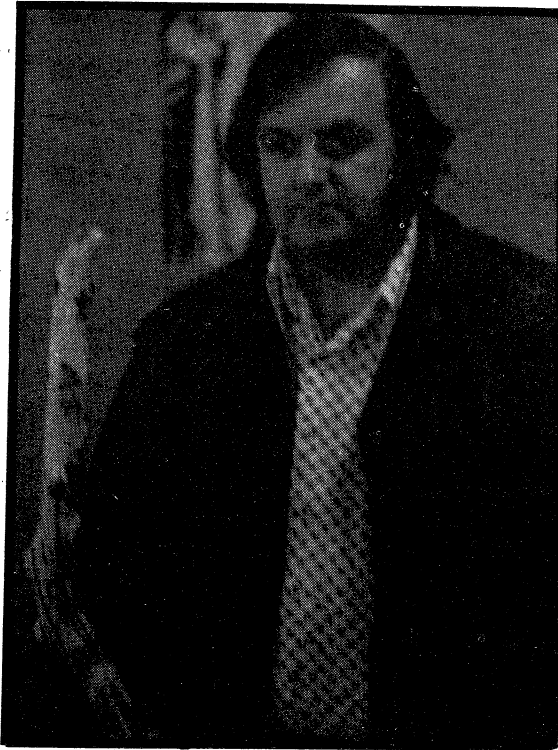
"The head jailer", charged Phil, "is administratively incompetent. He's there only because he can pull 10 or 12 thousand votes in Portland. A Civilian Review Board could get rid of him. Four prisoners have committed suicide in the jail in the last two years.

"Deputies are picked on the basis of how many votes they can poll for the machine. Like the head jailer," explained Phil. "It's ironic that I lost by 10,000 votes. There's 5000 deputies and most of them have wives and kids. That's the election right there."

New Election Demanded

As Phil conducted a hard-hitting issue-oriented campaign, the machine moved to stop him. His posters were torn down, he and his staff were subjected to harassment.

One week before the election, the outgoing Sheriff, Charles Sharp (who had supposedly left office two weeks before),



Phil Shaw, photo by Jim Black

wrote a letter to every Deputy Sheriff in the County, and released the letter through the Associated Press. The letter told the deputies to go out to the community, door to door, and tell people that the independent candidate was an ex-con from the State Prison and not to vote for him. He urged the deputies to distribute cards that Richard Thayer had drawn up, with a resume and picture, and ask the people to vote for Thayer. This letter was picked up and publicized by the newspapers and radio stations of the area.

Deputies, in uniform, guns on hip, went pounding on doors spreading fear and lies.

A Shaw poll-watcher overheard one little old lady say, "Oh dear, what's the name of that man I wasn't supposed to vote for?"

A student at the University of Maine in Portland said a deputy had come to her house. "It was only after I voted that I found out I had been lied to," she said.

Then, three nights before the election, Phil was arrested, which gathered him more bad publicity. The charges: putting signs up on public property, and a two-year old traffic violation for "Failure to keep to the right". The latter charge is a story in itself.



receiving. According to Timothy Wilton, a spokesman for the *New England Prisoner's Association*: "They're supposed to get exercise for one hour a day, but it's been more like once per week in a structure that looks like a dog kennel." There are other delightful items. Asked what he would do if one of the men died because of the hunger strike, Commissioner of Corrections Frank Ball replied: "We'll deal with that when we get to it...You deal with these kinds of problems all the time in this business." The inmates have not been indicted by a Norfolk County grand jury for any of their alleged offenses, which, nevertheless, earned them solitary confinement of an as yet indeterminate duration. All this convinces me that the Corrections Department is acting with arbitrary and illegal authority. It is obvious that under the Corrections Department human beings have no recourse except through such extreme action as starving themselves. The tactics of the Department of Corrections remind me of the

"The road", explained Phil, "was under construction. The charge was ridiculous then. I explained the circumstances to the public prosecutor at the time, and he just filed the charges. I didn't hear anything about them for two years. It was inactive for two years."

Then, two and a half weeks before the election, the Portland Police Dept. pulled the file out. They kept the warrant in their pocket, waiting for the opportune moment.

"You see, Thayer was a Portland cop for 17 years. He was the cops' man."

In addition to being maliciously arrested, Phil charges that he was beaten by the police when he was in their custody. He plans to file charges against the cops.

So Phil Shaw, who was viewed as the probable victor in the race for Sheriff, lost to a calculated campaign to bring fear to the voters. Phil wants the election overturned. One voter has told Phil he plans to file a suit on misuse of county funds. The suit will charge that deputies used County time, not only in the door to door hate campaign, but also to put up Thayer's signs, and pull down Phil's.

"I want the election overturned. I demand a new election. We are investigating different avenues under the Civil Rights Laws. There were some court cases that came out of the civil rights movement in the South.

"The campaign is not over. We will still fight for a Civilian Review Board. We will take our case to the people", concluded Phil.

Death Squad

In addition to the struggle to gain a new election, the next step in the campaign for a Civilian Review Board to oversee the Police will come on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at a demonstration related to Portland's alleged Police Death Squad.

The Death Squad story has grabbed much publicity in the last two months in Portland. "The whole thing", said Phil Shaw, "is shrouded in secrecy". No one seems to really know exactly what is happening. What has been reported is that at least one policeman was attempting to create a Death Squad to kill ex-prisoners in and around Portland. The Squad was perhaps to be modeled after the made-for-TV movie that was shown last summer.

This one cop has apparently been suspended. On Nov. 12 the Civil Service will hold a closed hearing at Portland City Hall. A demonstration calling for a full investigation, the firing of the officer, and a Civilian Review Board is being organized by STEP, SCAR (Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform), and NEPA.

police in a totalitarian state.

And I do know what I am talking about. A long time ago I lost my father to the Gulag Archipelago. He was starved to death. The last few months of WW2 I lived across the valley from Buchenwald and later saw the survivors on the streets. I could tell a few other stories of what happens when authority slips from the people into the hands of unscrupulous "problem solvers", wherever they may be. It is of great concern to me. It is for this reason that I began a sympathy fast with the three inmates of the Walpole State Prison. My fast began on October 14th, and it is now in its 12th day.

I will be more than happy to retract my charges or the implications of same if they can be proven exaggerated and/or incorrect. Therefore, I request your permission to be allowed to share the conditions with the inmates of the Walpole State Prison Departmental Segregation Unit for a minimum of one week. Maybe other citizens will wish to join in that request. I believe it is my right as a citizen not only to make such a request, but it is also my right to know why it is that Officialdom acts with such apparent callousness toward subject men.

Yours very truly,
Eso Kugush

Open Letter - DSU

October 25, 1974

What is going on, Governor?

The three inmates have struggled valiantly to bring to public attention the conditions at the Departmental Segregation Unit, to have it shut down, and to be released from it. Will their protests end without an investigation?

A short while ago state Reps. Laurence R. Buxbaum (D-Sharon) and William Owens (D-Mattapan) while visiting the segregation unit reported seeing food splattered on the walls. Two weeks later Rep. Barbara E. Gray (R-Framingham) is quoted as saying: "It's not as bad as it was. There was no garbage on the floor. I saw some socializing between inmates and guards." That's a pretty quick cover up. I used to be a guard in a Navy brig once and know what can be done in an hour.

The inmate's own story is not at all reassuring. Robert Daigle in a letter which I received some weeks ago claims beatings by the guards and spending several days in the hospital as a consequence. Arthur Morrow charges intolerable conditions. All of the inmates began their hunger strike because of the inhuman treatment they were

Close Somerset Jail

Kitchen

Mr. Robert Carlson
Department of Mental Health and Corrections
Dear Mr. Carlson,

On November 1st the I.A.C. (Inmate Advisory Council--ed.) met with warden Mullaney at a regularly scheduled meeting. One of the issues on the table was the I.A.C. had previously voted to stop pay for kitchen workers until some changes were made to improve conditions in the preparation of foods. The warden overruled this unanimous vote by the I.A.C.

We would like information as to what procedure we can use to appeal warden Mullaney's decision. Our strongest argument is that the warden is using funds from the I.B.F. (Inmate Benefit Fund--ed.) to pay resident workers in the kitchen. These workers feed the officers that eat there and receive no pay from the officer's fund. We don't feel the I.B.F. should be asked to afford the total payroll.

This is clearly a case of warden Mullaney using the Inmate's Benefit Fund to pay inmates to serve officers. We want to stop this immediately. We would like to discuss this matter with you before we take any further action.

We expect to hear from you soon.

Respectfully yours,
s/Robert Harding, IAC Sec.
Everett Carlson, IAC Chair.

(This letter from the I.A.C. at Thomaston, Me. Prison was forwarded to us by S SCAR--ed.)

Petition

Petition for internal disposition of grievance, Directed to Garrell S. Mullaney, Warden, Maine State Prison.

The EAST WING RESIDENTS, as Petitioners declare that:

1) The ventilation system in the East Wing of the Maine State Prison is of such poor condition since the installation of new windows and screens that, (a) it is a health hazard to the East Wing Residents, (b) it creates a condition not short of cruel and unusual punishment.

2) The East Residents choose this petition as a means to expedite relief, and demand action to be taken within (20) twenty days.

3) Copies of this petition have been forwarded to: SCAR, Thomas Benjamin, Robert Carlson, William F. Kearns, Kenneth M. Curtis, and I.A.C. Members.

4) Signed by East Wing residents:
Signed by 135 prisoners.

(Copy of petition sent to us by SCAR.)

N.H. News

McMillan & Thompson

by Jaan Laaman, NHSP NEPA News Bureau

Eddie McMillan and Randy Thompson, two men incarcerated in NHSP, recently won a judgement from the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, stating that the District Court in N.H. had to give them an evidentiary hearing on their case of police brutality.

Last February Eddie and Randy were brutally beaten by two State Troopers in the guard room area of NHSP in full view of certain prison officials. The beating took place during a normal day, there was no lock-up, etc.; the troopers were at the prison to pick up another prisoner and justified their actions by suggesting that they mistook these two men for this other prisoner who they were scheduled to bring to court that day. In any case, they stated it was "just an honest mistake". Randy and Eddie did not think so, especially since they both had lasting injuries from the affair, and they filed a suit against the prison and troopers in the U.S. District Court in N.H. This petition was summarily dismissed by the Magistrate and

The suit to close the Somerset County Jail at Skowhegan, Maine continues. Brought by the Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) and prisoners and ex-prisoners of the jail, the suit charges a long list of brutal, inhumane and illegal activities by the sheriff and his subordinates.

The matter is now in various pre-trial negotiations in an effort to immediately improve the facilities and the treatment. Meanwhile, depositions are being taken. SCAR has forwarded to us a deposition of Francis P. Henderson, the county sheriff. It arrived to late for us to examine the 130 page document, but next month we will present excerpts from the deposition.

This month we have a copy of a letter from Thomas Benjamin of Pine Tree Legal, lawyer for the plaintiffs, to the lawyer for the defendants, George W. Perkins. The letter lists many demands for immediate reform at the jail, and indicates some of the steps being taken to implement the reforms.

November 6, 1974

Dear George:

I think it is appropriate to reduce to writing our agreements thus far relative to the above entitled matter. The following resulted from our meetings with Courtland Perry on October 18 and October 25, 1974.

I have made several recommendations regarding the operation of the Somerset County Jail. These recommendations include the imposition of rules and regulations and a hearing procedure prior to imposition of punishment; no deprivation or limitation of bedding, water, diets, showers, clothing; prohibition of the use of fire hose, mace or other corporal punishment upon the inmates; prohibition of any use of the drunk tanks; prohibition of an inmate being locked into an individual boundover cell; prohibition

of the use of juvenile or women lock-ups. I also recommended that, in the area of medical attention, that an inmate be seen by a doctor on admission and that there be periodic weekly sick calls. The sheriff or his deputies should not have any power to grant or deny any inmate medical treatment. Requests for medical assistance and legal assistance should not be passed through the guards, but inmates should be permitted to call doctors and their attorneys directly. Also, adequate medical records should be kept at the institution. Inmates suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction, or mental problems should be taken to the appropriate institution or treatment center and not placed in a cell.

I also recommended daily visits, outdoor exercise, recreation, library and vocational rehabilitation. Censorship of mail should be limited to inspection of mail for contraband. Also, inmates should not be permitted to work for the private benefit of the sheriff or his deputies and should be compensated for their work.

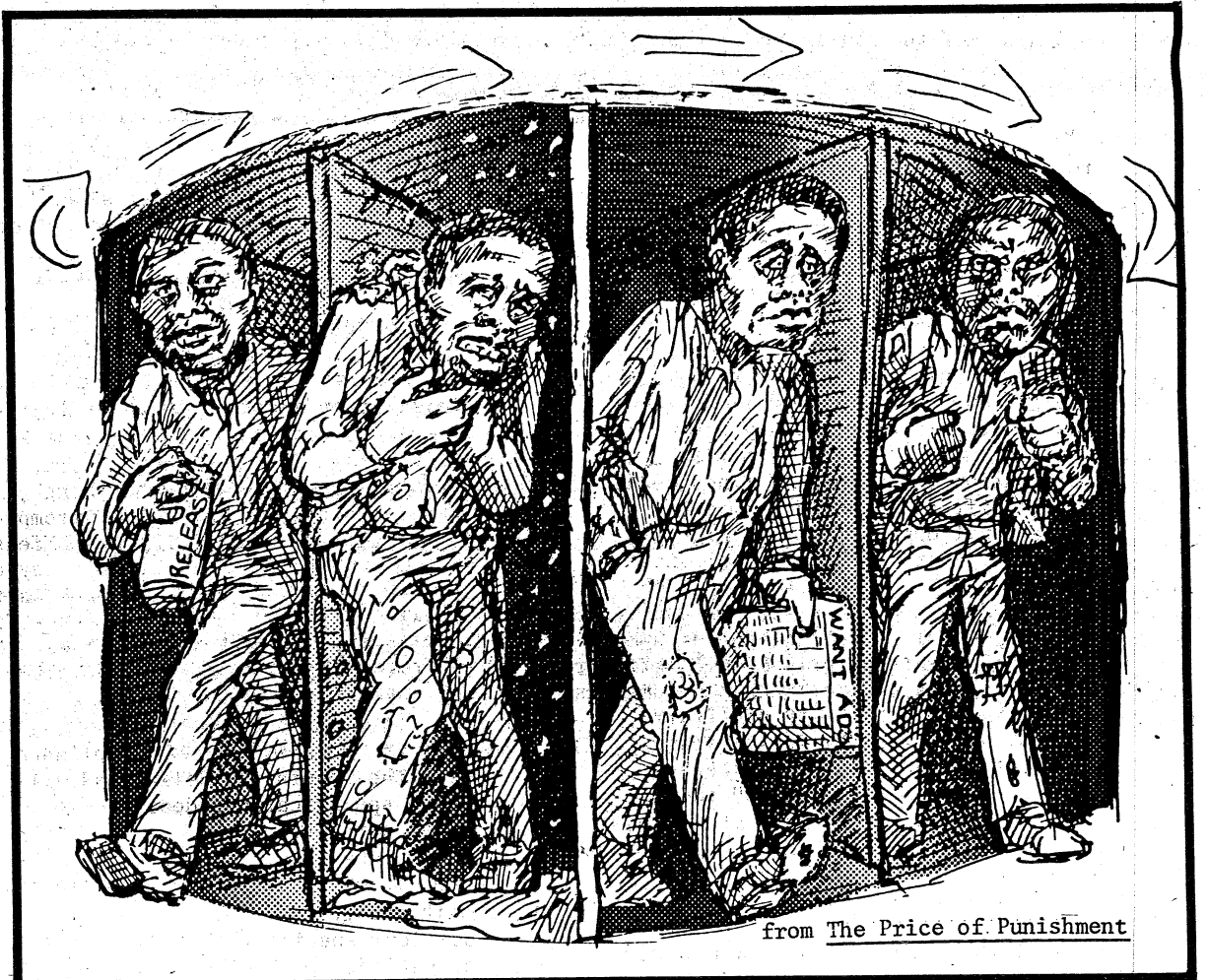
We also discussed the problem of safety within the institution.

You have agreed to again present the above recommendations to the County Commissioners. You indicated that you will know whether a settlement is possible in 2 to 3 weeks. Justice McCarthy said that he would sit down with us if we had any difficulties in ironing out any particular area of controversy. Should we agree on a settlement of the above issues, you indicated that you would permit the action to be maintained as a class action.

Please let me know what progress you make with your clients, and if I can be of any assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,
s/ Tom
Thomas B. Benjamin



Judge, thus leading the men to file an appeal in the First Circuit Court.

Eddie and Randy were not alone in their determination to seek justice in this matter. Besides having the support of the men in the prison, Eddie's sister and friends wrote numerous letters to anyone they thought might be of help, including various government officials and the President. This led to the Justice Department sending an FBI agent to see Eddie. Although this agent promised to investigate the case, nothing has ever come of it; but then, no one expected the Justice Department to really do anything.

As the matter now stands, the Appeals

Court has ordered the District Court to actually take up the prisoners' complaint, to hold an evidentiary hearing, and to proceed from there as the court feels necessary. This does not guarantee that the men will receive the justice to which they are entitled, but with the aid of N.H. Legal Assistance, who helped in filing the petition to the Appeals Court, there is a chance that the true facts of the unwarranted and illegal police beating of these two men will come out. In this sense Eddie and Randy see the decision as a step in their struggle for justice, and they remain as determined as ever to carry it through to the end.

Civil Rights at NHSP

by Dwight Greene

On July 2, 1974, the United States Civil Rights Commission (USCRC) directed its nine regional offices to study the prison system in each one's particular area and submit its findings and recommendations to the national office. The national office is to then go over the nine separate reports and compile a set of guidelines to detail "minimum civil and human rights for sentenced inmates in correctional institutions."

In accordance with these directives from the national office, the Northeastern Regional Office of the USCRC held hearings on the New Hampshire State Prison (NHSP). The New Hampshire prison system was selected to represent New England primarily because of public concern stemming from the lockup of March and April 1973 and the subsequent N.E.P.A. demonstrations and pressure to have the system looked into.

V. Visits

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and four of six specifications in dealing with visits.

VI. Mail

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and two of four specifications dealing with mail.

VII. News Media

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline dealing with the news media.

VIII. Radio and T.V.

Insufficient data for definitive conclusions.

IX. Outside Contacts

Insufficient data for definitive conclusions.

X. Discipline

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all six specifications dealing with discipline. The Commission determined that prisoners

tions dealing with the commissary.

XVI. Inmate Body

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with three of four specifications dealing with governance of inmate body.

If NHSP is representative of prisons throughout the nation, it is apparent that prison administrations have refused to acknowledge prisoners as people and "grant" them those rights that are constitutionally and naturally theirs. It is equally apparent that as long as there are prison administrators and non-enforceable guidelines prisoners will continue to be treated as something less than men. It then becomes apparent that there should be a reduction in the amount of discretionary power in the hands of administrators by establishing national, enforceable guidelines for prison maintenance.

In an effort to attain such guidelines, we appeal to our readers to write to: Mr. Jacques Wilmore, Director
Northeastern Field Office
The Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1639
New York, New York 10007

Urge them to strengthen their present standards and translate these standards into national legislation with severe penalties for non-compliance. It is very likely that prison administrators will disregard any standards, legislated or otherwise. However, if there were legislated guidelines, with penalties for non-compliance, prisoners would have recourse in the courts to force compliance.

Unemployed Hangman

"I am very familiar with the British method of ectrachelizic hanging...for quick and humane executions." So wrote John Doublie of New Jersey to the New Hampshire Prison Board of Trustees in offering his "services" as a hangman for the state. The state re-introduced hanging for some crimes; fortunately, no one has thus far been sentenced to die.

Doublie, in a telephone interview with the Concord Monitor, reported in that paper, says he does not have "any morbid or otherwise unhealthy psychologically unhealthy motives", though he said he has been studying hanging for 12 years and has written two letters to the Governor in addition to the Trustees and ex-State Senate Pres. David Nixon, the author of the death penalty bill.

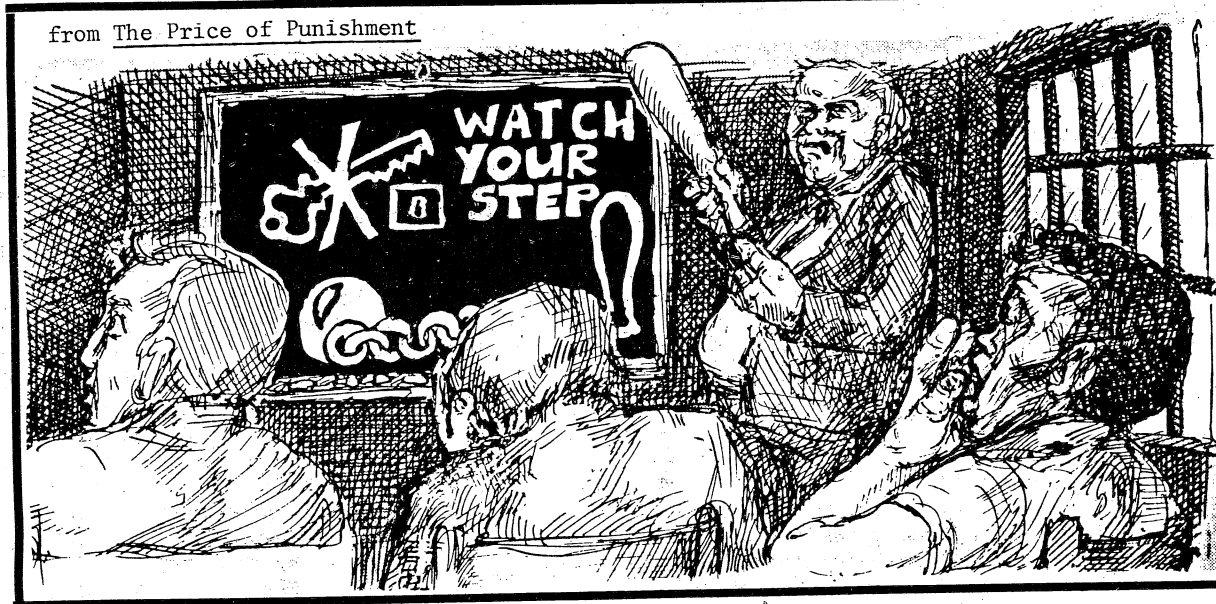
Doublie says he has never even seen an execution, but if he were appointed official N.H. hangman he could go to England to observe and study British methods.

While he would, if appointed, charge for his professional expenses, "I would never accept a fee or a profit for something like this."

We at NEPA NEWS will work to see that he remains unemployed as a hangman, and that he be forced to find another hobby besides legal murder.

Yancey Demonstration

The John Yancey Defense Committee held a rally in his support on Saturday, November 9 in Seacrest Village in Portsmouth, N.H. Scheduled to speak were Alan Caron of Maine's Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) and Roger Champen of the Attica Brothers Legal Defense. Story in next month's NEPA NEWS.



"We have no vocational trades as such, with the possible exception of the print shop. There are no provisions for trade training with any real meaning for the inmate once he is released."

--Robert Donnelly, Former Walpole Warden, 1973

The report by the commission that resulted from these hearings has substantiated what prisoners have been saying all along. The Commission concluded that "some outrages to which no human being should be subjected have occurred in the New Hampshire prison."

The Commission established sixteen guidelines that detailed the minimum standards which should govern a prison. The New Hampshire State Prison system was in compliance with only one of these sixteen guidelines. The prison's failure in relation to these guidelines reads like a fifteen count indictment:

I. Personal Human and Civil Rights
NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and both specifications dealing with human rights. Deprivation of and disregard for human and civil rights by prison administrators produced hours of testimony and numerous accounts of sadistic and arbitrary actions by guards and administrators. Even though many of the "outrages" occurred during the "lockup" the Commission concluded that "at no time, can the prison atmosphere be considered humane nor is it conducive to rehabilitation."

II. Housing

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and five of seven specifications dealing with Housing

III. Work

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all eight specifications dealing with work. The Commission determined that the work programs in no way prepared prisoners for outside employment.

IV. Medical Health

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and nine of thirteen specifications dealing with medical health. Not only is the system in non-compliance with the guidelines but it is also in violation of state law in the way it dispenses medication.

do not have access to a set of written rules and penalties for infractions of those rules. Further, it also determined that prisoners were subject to severe penalties for infractions of these rules without even having a "due process hearing".

While NHSP now has supposed "due process and a list of regulations, the "due process" is no more than the administration adding a touch of legitimacy to its actions, and the list of regulations borders on the absurd: "Possessing unauthorized clothing"; "Using...obscene language"; "Attempting to commit any of the above offenses, Aiding another person to commit any of the above offenses, or making plans to commit any of the above offenses...". In essence, not only do the rules call for total physical control, but also for thought control.

XI. Legal Services

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all three specifications dealing with legal services.

XII. Education

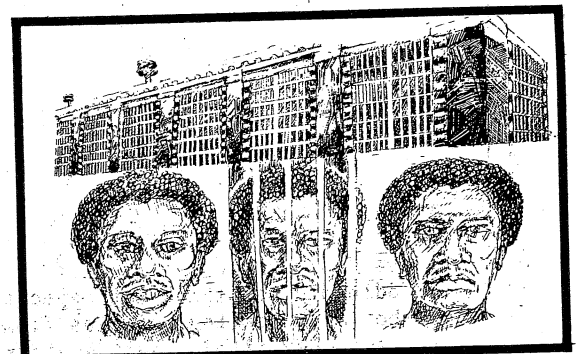
NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all four specifications dealing with education. Although one of the stated aims of the prison is rehabilitation of the prisoner, the Commission concluded that "...inmates were not assured the right to and in the past did not receive an adequate remedial, elementary, high school and higher education. In the past prison officials did not support the educational programs and discouraged much needed participation from Franconia College and other sources outside the community."

XIV. Recreation

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all specifications dealing with recreation.

XV. Commissary

NHSP is operating in non-compliance with the general guideline and all specifica-



from The Price of Punishment

News from New England

DSU Update

Bobby Daigle, Arty Morrow and Jerry Sousa are all in the Norfolk Hospital as a result of their two month long hunger strike against the Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU) at Walpole. Prisoners Rights Project, representing them, went to Federal Court on Monday, November 4th. Judge Skinner is presiding over the session which will hopefully lead to a preliminary injunction against DSU and the immediate release of Bobby, Arty and Jerry into general population. The courtroom was filled with their supporters.

During the hearing, Attorney Donahue from the Attorney General's office was forced to reveal that, according to D.A. Burke, there is no evidence on which to pursue indictments against Arty Morrow and Jerry Sousa in regards to the bogus murder charges on which the D.O.C. has tried to frame them for over a year. If the court hearing had not forced this into the open, we can be sure the D.O.C. would not have told Arty and Jerry of the D.A.'s decision. This is another typical move by the D.O.C. to illegally punish and isolate prisoners who actively seek change.

Norfolk

Two and a half years ago, the legislature passed the Omnibus Prison Reform Act. This law called for a far reaching reform of the Massachusetts prison system. It specifically outlined a path to community corrections with the use of work and educational release, half-way houses, appropriate training programs and furloughs. It was hoped in this way to alter the utter failure of the prison system (78% recidivism rate) in this state by promoting programs that would help reintegrate prisoners into the community rather than destroying their community ties.

What happened was that the administrators and guards, who have stakes in the present system, sabotaged or flatly quashed any progress in this direction. In fact, the only aspect of the Law that is in use today is the furlough program at Norfolk and some work release programs at Framingham and the three forestry camps.

For most Massachusetts prisoners Norfolk is the center of this system: 'If I can make it to Norfolk, I'll have a chance at a program or furlough.' By encouraging prisoners' beliefs in this myth, they hope to keep all prisoners quiet. What they don't tell prisoners is that if they're lucky enough to make it to Norfolk they still don't have a good shot at a program or furlough. And even if prisoners get 'it', they can take 'it' away at any time a prisoner might have an inclination to complain about all the crap around him or her.

Two months ago the men in Norfolk attempted to protest this very situation. When the administration refused to negotiate, the prisoners went a step further - they attempted to strike. The administration went in with their police force and lugged off 26 prisoners to 10 Block at Walpole. They did this without any legal sanction. Some of these men remain at Walpole to this day. That is the way the D.O.C. deals with grievances.

Then, in mid-October, 20 fires raged through the cell blocks and other sections of Norfolk over a period of a week and a half. The D.O.C. blamed these fires on 'drug traffic' of all things. Two months ago they refused to deal with the real grievances of the prisoners at Norfolk and today they are attempting the same thing. Two months ago they shipped out 26 men to Walpole as a 'solution' to the problem and this time they are attempting to deal with the same grievances in the same way. The D.O.C. want to make deals with the men they have locked up in the RB (receiving block) segregation unit at Norfolk. If the men agree to be transferred to Walpole, the D.O.C. will drop charges against their alleged participation in fires at Norfolk. The men refused. It's about time the D.O.C. began dealing with the real problems rather than creating more in their attempts to cover their folly.

Maine

Gus Heald, inside chairman of the Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) at the Thomaston, Maine Prison, has been appointed a Notary Public. Gus applied last August, listing his occupation as "para-legal advisor" (he's a jail-house lawyer) and giving three movement lawyers as his references. He was routinely approved by the Executive Council, who are now not very pleased with themselves. But they cannot reverse themselves, and there is no legal restriction to prevent a prisoner from being a Notary Public.

State Rep. David Emery, a law'n'order type who has been holding so-called "Rural Crime Hearings" around Maine, hearings which are nothing more than a forum for the cops to call for more money and guns, said "It is further evidence of our growing disrespect for the law when a convicted felon serving time is allowed to assume a position of responsibility and trust." Actually, Gus is very responsible and very much trusted by his fellow prisoners. Congratulations.

Last month we reported that a farm used occasionally by the Maine Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) was raided by police. The cops found some marijuana growing under the trees, then proceeded to launch a publicity campaign against SCAR. But no indictments had been returned against anyone more than six weeks after the raid. The cops don't seem to be publicizing that fact with the same degree of enthusiasm.

Five male employees of the Augusta, Maine, Mental Health Unit were arrested recently on charges of mistreating women patients. The charges against the five included rape, assault and other sexual abuse charges. One of the five is a staff doctor. The incidents were first reported by a patient advocate, then investigated by the county prosecutor's office.

The hospital head said, "I'm glad it's been uncovered." He added that the five are only a small percentage of the 750 staff members of the hospital.

Prison Store

The Prison Store, Inc. will open in Bloomfield, Ct. on November 9. The store will sell chairs, tables, lamps, book-cases, paintings, leatherwork, and jewelry made by prisoners. This non-profit store allows the prisoners to set the prices on their own goods, and the money made will either go into a fund for the prisoner or go to the prisoner's family.

The Store was set up by the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, Ct. The first of its kind in the state, it will be staffed by volunteers. The owners of the store gave the group a break on the rent, local businessmen donated money to help set it up, a local law firm donated their services to set up the corporation, and the Dept. of Correction is shipping the first load of merchandise as well as helping to set up display shelves.

The store is located at the Wintonbury Mall in Bloomfield. We wish them well.

P.E.N.

International Pen is an organization which helps prisoners develop skills as writers. This year they are sponsoring a contest with cash awards for poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Each category has a First prize of \$100 and a Second prize of \$50. The following regulations pertain to the contest:

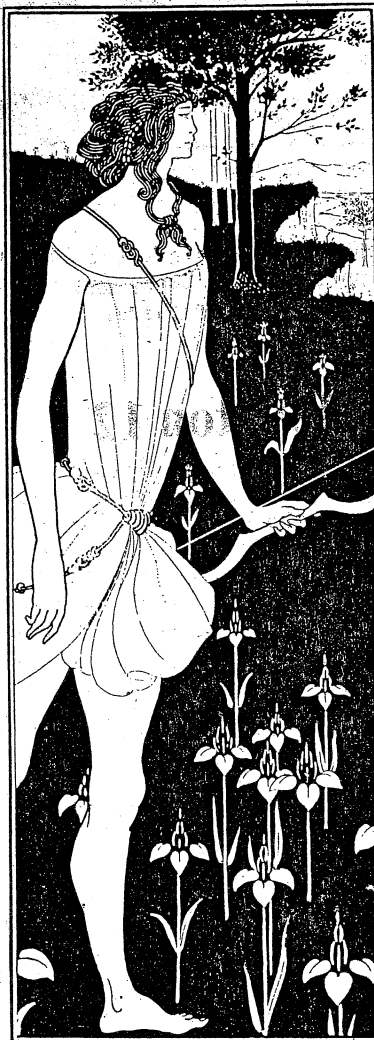
Poems not to exceed 100 lines; fiction and non-fiction each not to exceed 5000 words. All entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1975. Winners to be announced May 1, 1975, judges yet to be announced. Manuscripts must be type-written (double-spaced) or neatly printed on one side of an 8 by 11 paper. Authors must not submit more than one entry in each category. Efforts will be made to facilitate publication of winning entries. Send to P.E.N. Writing Award for Prisoners, P.E.N. American Center, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

"Give me a riot anytime--I'll know exactly what to do. We have the guns."--Raymond Procnier, California Commissioner of Corrections.

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Lawton & Gardner

Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner are two Black men who have faced 3 and one half years of harassment, two trials and on-again, off-again imprisonment on a frame-up charge of ambushing two Riverside, California policemen. Lawton and Gardner had for years been active in the Black Community of Riverside, a town notorious in California for its racist police terrorism.

After the first trial ended in a hung jury, charges were dropped against Nehemiah Jackson, originally charged with Gardner and Lawton. The second trial also ended in a hung jury. Then, just as the third trial was about to begin, the judge ordered Gardner released, citing "lack of sufficient evidence".

The evidence is no more "sufficient" against Lawton than it was against Gardner or Jackson. The prosecution is now trying to get the judge disqualified, saying that the judge has made up his mind about the credibility of some of the state's witnesses. The judge refuses to disqualify himself, so the trial has been postponed again. Meanwhile, Gardner, Chukia Lawton and Rusty Bronaugh face charges stemming from an attack by Riverside police against the Lawton/Gardner Defense Committee.

More info and donations: Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Comm., Box 244, Riverside, Ca. 95202

Shorts

Puerto Rican people have been fighting the cops in Newark, N.J. on a regular basis, as the people call for an end to police violence and other common forms of oppression of the poor. Black community leaders have supported the Puerto Ricans, but Black mayor Gibson has supported his cops...As a result of massive community pressure, two White cops were kicked off the New York City police force. The two cops had murdered a 10-year-old Black, Clifford Glover... 180 people demonstrated against police terrorism in Chicago on October 6...

Next to nobody has taken up Jerry Ford's fake amnesty offer. Seems the deserters and dodgers don't feel they owe an apology for refusing to kill women and children to build up corporate profit...The U.S. supported Chilean military government continues to round up "suspects" at all times of day and night, no warrants, no reasons except "suspicion" of being against the government. The people are resisting, sabotaging industry, destroying new military supplies the U.S. government sends in.

Juan Otero, a leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, was freed in New York. The court, saying the police evidence was "conflictive and spurious", threw out three-year-old robbery charges. ...Though Dennis Banks and Russell Means were acquitted in their trial in St. Paul Minnesota, 100 more American Indian Movement/Wounded Knee defendants still face trial. Banks and Means also face more charges.

Portugal granted independence to Mozambique on Sept. 7, ending a long struggle for independence that left Portugal with no choice. Freedom for Portugal's colony Angola should also be won in the near future. Portugal has held African colonies for nearly 500 years...But the apartheid, racist regime of South Africa has stepped up mass arrests of Blacks to counter rising demonstrations coming on the heels of the successful liberation struggles by the Portuguese colonies. It is a "normal" situation for hundreds of Blacks a day to be arrested for such "crimes" as not having the "proper passes." Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues to seek ways to perpetuate its alliance with the S. African regime under the guise of "fighting Communism." A large number of U.S. Corporations have large investments in S. Africa and make still larger profits therefrom.

Crime

Attorney General Saxbe, as we reported last month, warned in a speech that the U.S. faces the danger of a national police force. What he didn't say is that he is a leader in creating that force. Turns out that, among other things, he wants to set up a computer operation to keep track of "career criminals." This is just an expansion of what the FBI already does, and pushes 1974 a little closer to 1984.

An LEAA-funded study showed a clear relation between a rise in the unemployment rate in an urban area and the climbing rate of crime there. So now LEAA knows what we know: people would rather steal than starve. FBI statistics show that in the last six months crimes against property have risen three times as fast as crimes of violence (murder, rape, assault and armed robbery). All in all, it seems that as people get poorer they have more reason to steal, and the government simply tells us to conserve energy, buy only what we need, and approve of hiring more cops to run more computers to bust all the people who can't even buy what they need.

Leavenworth

The four Leavenworth Brothers, all Black, who we reported as having been convicted by an all white jury last month, were each sentenced, the sentences running from 10 to 25 years, to run concurrently with time already being done. The trial of two other Brothers, Armando Miramon and Jesse Lopez, has now begun; the lone white Brother, "Whitey" Hurst, is dead, likely murdered by guards.

After the first week of the Miramon-Lopez trial, all the evidence introduced against Jesse Lopez had been stricken from the record as hearsay. Still, Judge Theis refused to direct an acquittal for Lopez. The four guards who have testified for the prosecution contradicted each other as to who did what and when, and all four agreed that the



defendants, who held the guards hostage during a rebellion at Leavenworth, treated the guards well.

The photo above is of, L to R, Alf Hill, Odell Bennett, Jesse Lopez and Alfred Jasper of the Leavenworth Brothers.

Houston 12

The Houston 12 are twelve young men, including 8 Chicanos, who were attacked by police at the close of a demonstration against the mid-East War on October 9, 1973 in Houston, Texas. The twelve were beaten, arrested, beaten again, then charged with assaulting the cops. Five of the 12 face life imprisonment for assault with intent to murder a police officer.

The demonstration had been sponsored by Youth Against War and Facism (YAWF). On Sept. 28 YAWF had held a demonstration against police brutality, leading the police to swear to "get YAWF". Then followed the attack on 25 unarmed demonstrators by 100 armed cops. on Oct. 9.

The trial of the five who face life imprisonment begins November 11. Much work is being done in the Houston area to build support for the 12. More info and donations: Houston 12 Defense Committee, 2401 San Jacinto, Room 101, Houston, Texas 77002.

Legal

A recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York State says there must be a hearing before a prisoner can be transferred from one prison to another as a form of punishment. In essence, the Judge declared that "hardship involved in the mere fact of dislocation" may make a transfer punitive. Judge Kaufman concluded, "We cannot condone the idea that the mere fact of incarceration permits a prisoner to be punished at the whim of those charged with his confinement." The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, and if a decision is reached by that court, it will probably have great effect on all prisoners in the U.S.

Miners

The United Mine Workers will be out on strike this month, could go on for a while. Mine owners say that the miners are trying to take management away from the company (like wardens say prisoners are trying to run the prisons?) 600,000 oil workers will strike in December. Could be a cold winter if the fat cats don't come to their senses and grant the workers reasonable pay increases (at least keeping up with inflation) and control over safety. Safety conditions are so bad a miner a day dies at work, to say nothing of the slow deaths caused by black lung, etc.

If the miners win, the companies will have to hire 20,000 more workers to live up to the safety codes, and untold more if the miners win their demand for a 32-hour work week instead of a 40-hour week. Now that sounds like a good way to deal with unemployment--everyone work, but all work less. (for decent wages).

Elections

Old Jerry Ford does hit the nail on the head sometimes. A week before the elections he said that if people didn't vote it would indicate that the people lacked faith in the American government. Estimates just after the election said a little under 40% of the eligible voters actually voted. If Ford is right, then over 60% of the people...

No Recession?

Our Edsel in the White House says there is no recession (what do labels matter?) Well, the government had defined a recession as being when the Gross National Product declines for three successive quarters (nine months) after proper adjustments to account for inflation. It fell for the first three quarters of 1974, but now it's not a recession.

Of course the simple statistic of the GNP doesn't include all the other wonderful economic realities we face: inflation ran at over 12% during the past 12 months; unemployment has hit 6% officially, and only-who-knows-how-much-higher if you add in all the folks who have given up looking for a job, who are underemployed (forced to work part time, or work full time but still don't make ends meet) or who are in a holding pattern and not counted (housewives, students who might want jobs of some sort). What do we call rising unemployment, rising inflation and declining productivity? Freedom?

We have a partial solution to the problems: close all the prisons. Granted, it might not help the unemployment rate, but it will have some real impact on government spending, a major cause of inflation.

The Price of Punishment

For more than three years the prisoners of Massachusetts have kept up a struggle to change the system which imprisons and exploits them. They have tried to teach the Massachusetts public what prisons really do to the men and women in them, why the system fails to stop crime, and why our prisons must be abolished.

This booklet was written to aid that struggle. To do that, it will explain how the system is run, who benefits from the system, and why prisons make the problems of crime, poverty and violence in our society worse and worse as years go by. It also will discuss several related issues, such as:

- Where the state Department of Correction spent the \$38 million it got last year
- Why prisoners are almost always poor people who remain poor as a result of imprisonment
- Why the prison system helps no one except the people who run it — not the taxpayers, not the victims of crime, and certainly not the prisoners.

Struggle for justice

In the last few years, prisoners have learned better than ever how to work together to do away with the system which has killed, driven insane or ruined the lives of so many of their brothers and sisters.

By early 1972, prisoners had achieved two major victories: the appointment of John O. Boone as Commissioner of Correction, and the passage of the Omnibus Prison Reform Act of 1972, Chapter 777 of the General Laws. Boone's job was to implement the reforms promised in that legislation: programs such as furloughs, work release, education and community correctional centers. But these victories only marked a new phase in the struggle.

The guards' union opposed every attempt by Commissioner Boone to change the prison system. After 18 months on the job, the new commissioner was fired by Governor Francis W. Sargent, who gave up on his promise of prison reform rather than risk a political fight with the guards' union. Two years after Chapter 777, it is still necessary to force the prison wardens and guards to obey the new law.

For most prisoners, conditions are no better today than they were before passage of the new law. In some cases they are worse. The past two years have been a time of constant beatings, lockups, transfers and even murders. More than a dozen prisoners have died at Walpole, Norfolk and Bridgewater as a result of the guards' attempts to sabotage reform.

As this is written, the prisoners at Walpole are still trying to force the administration to implement the furlough program, begin serious educational programs, and pay prisoners a day's pay for a day's work. The National Prisoners' Reform Association (NPRA) has staged a successful strike for almost a year in an effort to improve conditions at Walpole. Although the NPRA is recognized by the Department of Correction, Supt. Douglas Vinzant has refused to begin serious negotiations. The strike continues despite the high price the men of Walpole have paid so far. But it would not be necessary for them to strike if the administration merely carried out the reforms promised by law two years ago.

Why we have prisons

Punishment, control and profit were the reasons for the creation of Massachusetts' first prisons: the jails and houses of correction that the Pilgrims and Puritans started putting up almost as soon as they got here.

Then as now, prisons were used to *punish* the poor and rarely anybody else but the poor. Since many crimes were punishable by hanging or other types of execution or torture, prisons were at first used mainly to punish minor offenses. The rich didn't go to prison since they were allowed to pay fines as punishment on the rare occasions when they were prosecuted.

In order to *control* the working-class population, a law passed in 1692 gave the government the power to lock up men and women found to "live idly and misspend their time in loitering." A 1699 law required every county to have a house of correction for "the Suppressing and Punishing of Rogues, Vagabonds, Common Beggars and Other Lewd, Idle and Disorderly Persons; and also for *setting the poor to work.*" Prisons were used to keep new immigrants from simply living off the land instead of going to work at low wages for the merchants and large landowners who controlled the colonial government.

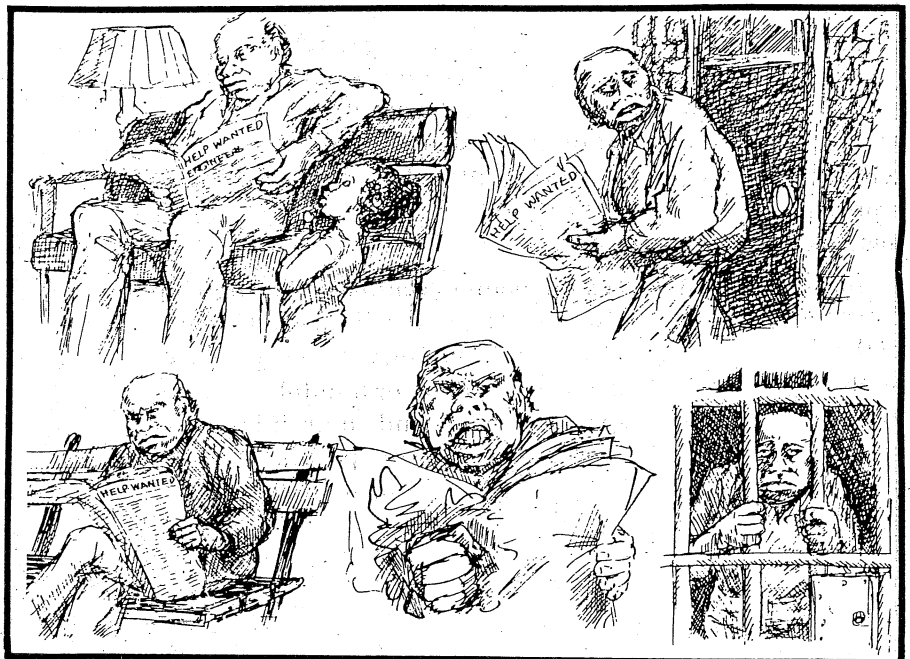
The Price of Punishment: Prisons in Massachusetts, from Urban Planning Aid, Cambridge, Ma. Compiled by The Prison Research Project, designed and illustrated by The Media Project. 1974, 66 pages.

The book is available from NEPA, 116 School St., Waltham, Ma. 02154. The cost is \$1.00 plus 25¢ for postage. Unfortunately, the price probably will have to go up soon. Free to prisoners.

This book is a comprehensive study of the Massachusetts prison system. The introduction is printed below. Chapter 2 examines the finances of the system—where the money goes. The chapter then has a section on each prison in Mass. (The section on Concord is below.) Chapter 3 examines such things as prison industry and medical experiments on prisoners. Chapter 4, "The Human Price of Prisons", examines the effects of prisons on both prisoners and their families. The last chapter, "Abolition, Not Reform", is a powerful argument for the abolition of prisons.

Each house of correction was equipped with workshops (prison industries), thus allowing the colony to *profit* from the hard labor forced on prisoners. Prisoner labor contributed to the Massachusetts economy from the start, while the threat of imprisonment was used to keep other citizens at work.

The foundations of modern-day capitalism in Massachusetts were literally built by prisoners from Charlestown State Prison. After building the prison themselves, in 1805, prisoners were put to work cutting and shaping granite from the Quincy quar-



ries. This stone was used in many of the grand old buildings still standing in Boston's financial district and Haymarket Square. An 1828 report of the Massachusetts Senate states that the prison earned a net profit of \$23,000 in the years 1824-26 as a result of the booming granite business.

The number of prisons in Massachusetts has changed over the years, but their function has not. Neither has the prison architecture. Except for plumbing and electricity, Walpole prison is not much different from the Charlestown prison it replaced in 1956.

Who goes to prison

Our prisons are filled with men and women who could not earn a decent living by legal means and therefore tried illegal means. The wife of one Walpole prisoner summed up the reasons for his imprisonment this way:

"I had worked all during my pregnancy because my husband, being an ex-prisoner, couldn't find work. I had no prenatal care because we couldn't afford it. If I'd had it, perhaps the death of one of my twins could have been prevented. With the new baby, I could no longer work. My husband tried and tried to find work, but he found nothing day after day. He became so depressed, so desperate and so destitute that he attempted an armed robbery — only to be shot, only to be taken away from us, only to be caged. But all he wanted to do was to take care of and feed us, and no one would give him a job.*"

Equally tragic stories sum up the situation of every prisoner. Most of the "crime in the streets" that the average citizen worries about has its roots in poverty, or else in the results of poverty such as alcoholism, gambling, family breakups, mental illness, or many years of frustration with poor schools, slum housing and low-paid jobs. Statistics tell the same story:

- Fifty-four percent of Massachusetts prisoners went no further than ninth grade. Only 17 percent graduated from high school.

- More than 60 percent come from the state's five major urban areas: Boston, Worcester, Springfield, New Bedford and Lowell.

- Seventy-five percent worked as manual laborers or service workers and less than 10 percent as businessmen or professionals.

In spite of their crimes, prisoners too are victims:

Victims of the Massachusetts economy, which guarantees that 7 or 8 percent of the workforce is unemployed and that many more are forced to live on salaries of \$80, \$90, or \$100 a week.

Victims of Massachusetts government, which refuses to provide adequate housing and education for all of its citizens.

Victims of racism, which is why nearly half of the prison population is black or Puerto Rican.

Lastly, prisoners are victims of the prison system itself, a system which guarantees that more than half of all prisoners will be imprisoned again after release, usually for a more serious offense. In fact, many prisoners are men and women who keep going back and forth through prison doors all of their lives:

- A third of Massachusetts prisoners did time in juvenile prisons.
- Half had been in county houses of correction for a previous offense.
- Nearly half had been in state or Federal prison before.

More often than not, prisoners are men and women doing "life on the installment plan"—never able to break the cycle of poverty and imprisonment.

Massachusetts' two systems of justice

Our prisons are filled with the poor, but not because only the poor commit crimes. On the contrary, serious crime is a problem in every level of society. For every burglar who rips off a stereo system, there is a landlord who rips off a tenant for an equal amount in excess profits. For every bank robber who goes to prison, there is a bank executive embezzling funds who does not go to prison. Nationwide losses to bank robbery in 1965 were \$27 million, while losses to embezzlement were at least \$200 million. That was the conclusion of a Presidential Task Force on crime which said that crimes such as price-fixing, stock fraud and embezzlement cost the nation far more than well-known crimes such as burglary or robbery.

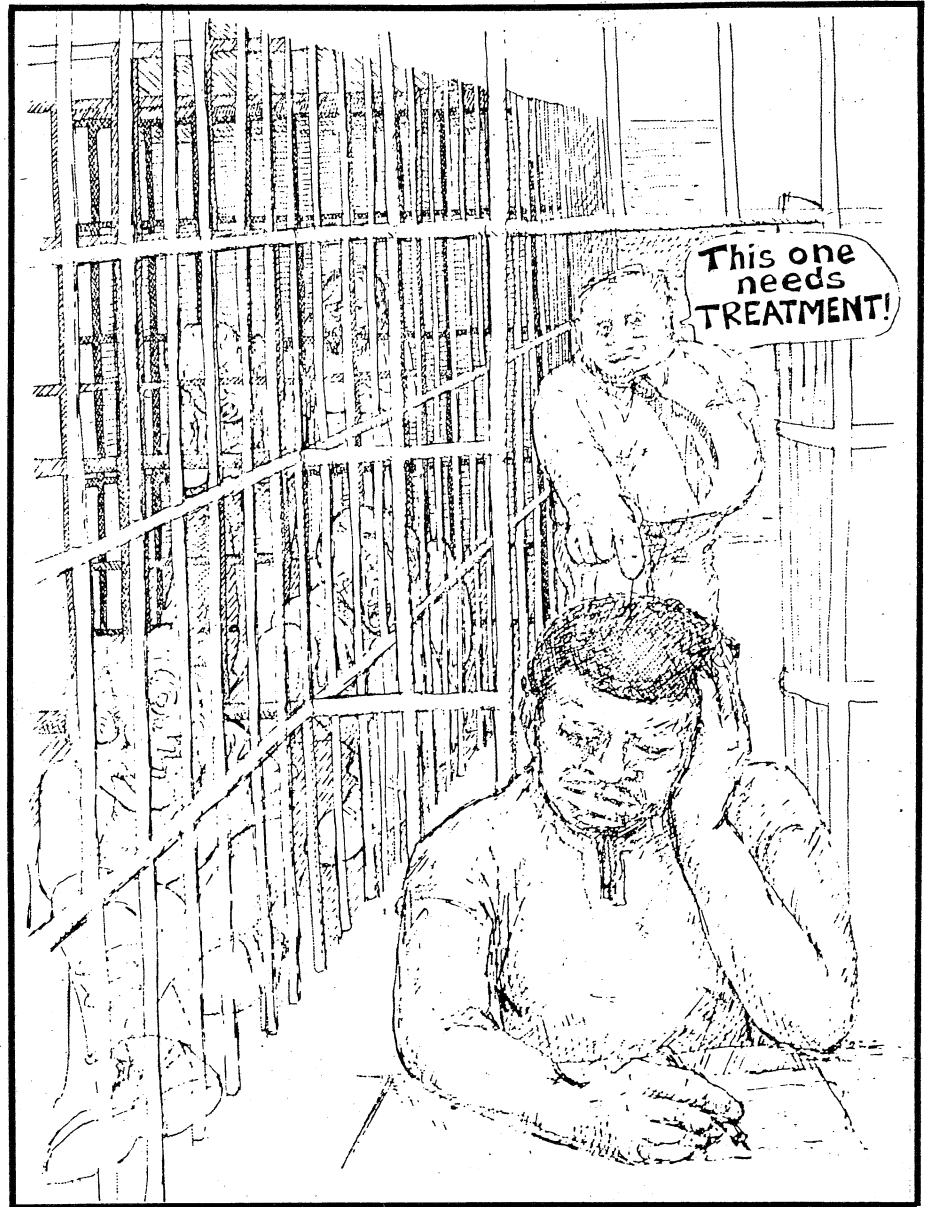
But it is almost always the poorer criminals who show up in court. Police and district attorneys spend their time on the crimes of the poor, such as prostitution, gambling or robbery, instead of on the crimes of the rich, such as bribery or fraudulent advertising. Phoney home-repair schemes and high-interest loan companies milk poor and working-class people of millions every year, but they are seldom investigated. This is partly because business crimes are hard to investigate, but mostly because political strings are pulled to keep investigators away from the rich and the powerful.

In court, the dual system of justice is clearly visible. The more money a defendant has, the speedier is his or her trial and the less likely he or she is to get convicted. The poor, black or working-class defendant usually has a public defender who has to take dozens of cases a day and does not have time to do a good job. The wealthier defendant can afford to hire full-time lawyers and expert witnesses. When sentencing occurs, the wealthy defendant is fined or put on probation, while the poorer defendant is likely to go to jail. That's why almost every crime may be punished with either a fine or imprisonment—so that those who can afford to pay don't have to go away.

Even in murder cases, the punishment depends on who the defendant is. First degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence with no possibility of parole. Second degree murder also is punished by a life sentence, but with a possibility of parole after 15 years. Manslaughter carries no mandatory sentence. The prosecutor and the judge determine what is first degree murder, what is second degree murder and what is manslaughter. The outcome of that decision often depends on who is the defendant, not who was killed or how.

Of the 328,000 men and women convicted in Massachusetts district courts in 1971, only 11,000 were sentenced to imprisonment. That's one out of 30, or roughly three percent. Almost every person in that three percent was poor. Once in prison, they are almost certain to stay poor for the rest of their lives.

Finally, it is important to realize that in most cases the 29 out of 30 convicted persons who do not go to prison are little different from the ones who do. In fact, almost every citizen has at some time committed a prisonable offense—such as drunken driving, tax evasion, assault and battery, larceny over \$50, gambling or possession of marijuana. The real difference between most prisoners and most other people who have never been inside a courtroom is just a combination of money and luck. Mostly it's a matter of money.



Concord: Another Reform That Failed

Concord is living proof that the "youthful offenders' prisons" sought by reformers are a hoax. Built in 1884, Concord is officially a reformatory: the 400 men of Concord are almost all in their late teens or early twenties. In reality, it's just a young prisoners' Walpole. There's the same brute emphasis on security and forced labor. There is slightly less rebellion because the most vocal men at Concord are quickly shipped to Walpole.

Concord is a rotting hulk of a prison, with rats and vermin competing with the prisoners for places to sleep. On November 15, 1973, Concord held 424 prisoners but only 360 beds. As often happens, the extra 64 men were forced to sleep on cellblock or corridor floors. This situation continued throughout the winter.

Of the \$4.4 million spent at Concord last year, \$3.7 million went to the salaries of 299 staff members. (That's three staff members for every four prisoners.) Food expenditures came to \$210,000, heat to \$149,000. That left less than \$300,000 in the budget for all other costs combined, including the cost of prison industries. Concord is supposed to have an auto mechanics course. But after eight years on the payroll, the automotive instructor still has not received money from the state for tools or a workshop.

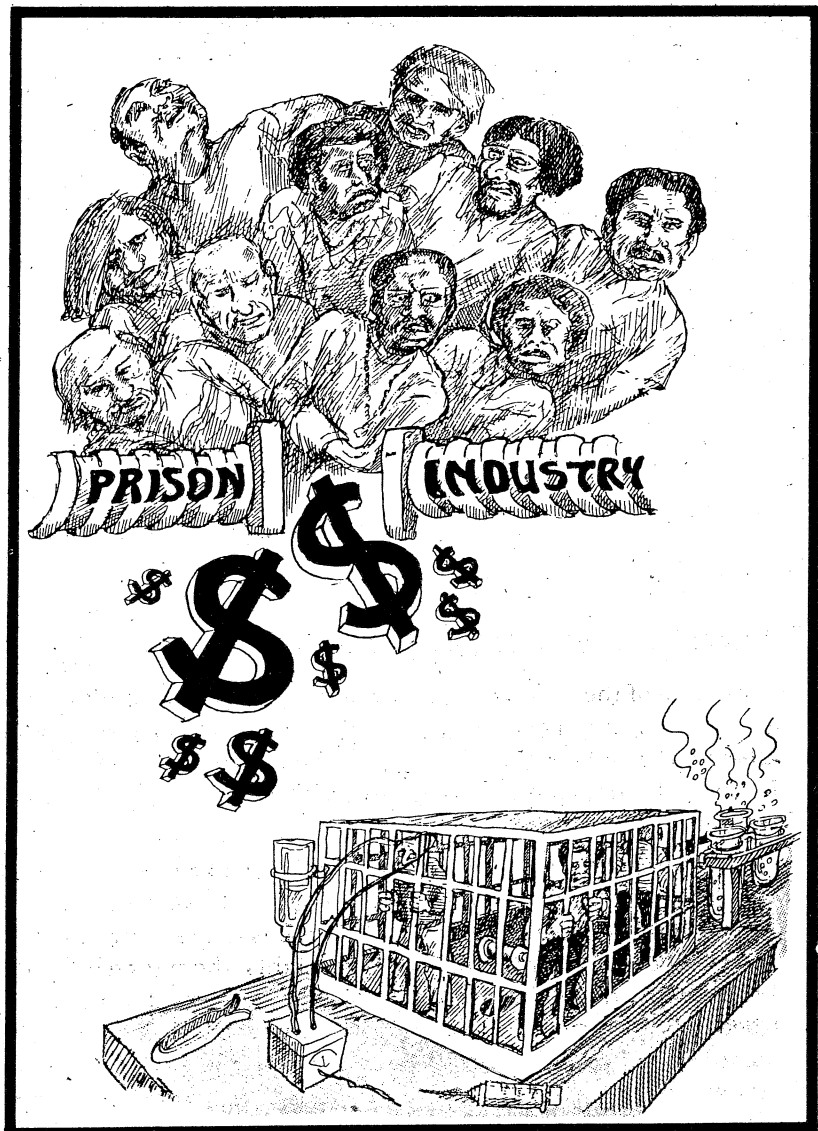
Concord's 172 guards have taken part in the same type of sabotage of prison reform as their counterparts at Walpole. Ship-outs of prisoner leaders, lockups and visits from the State Police are used to terrorize the prisoners. Late in 1972, all prisoners were locked in their cells for 19 days before the threat of a Federal lawsuit forced an end to the lockup. Less than three weeks later, the guards' union at Walpole started a lockup there.

Nearly half of Concord prisoners are black, and the administration uses racism to divide the population. This is how one prisoner summed up the situation:

"The administration consciously keeps the cons split and self-seeking. It does that primarily through racism, which the younger fellows at Concord haven't got themselves enough together to know better than to fall for.

"The two basic prisoner groups at Concord are the JayCees and the Peaceful Movement Committee. Both are now thoroughly racist. Both groups have official sanction to operate and organize in the prison. The result has been that whites have gravitated to JayCees and blacks to Peaceful Movement. Rampant racism has never been so bad in any prison in the state as it is now in Concord."

Concord serves mainly as a breeding ground for future Walpole prisoners. Most men at Concord are in for burglary, robbery or drug offenses. Eighty percent are high school dropouts. When they leave Concord, they will only be more broke, less likely to find work, and more likely to end up in prison than they were before they arrived.



Medical and drug experimentation

An off-shoot of the Department of Correction's slave labor policies is the standing invitation it gives to drug manufacturers and medical experimenters to use prisoners as guinea pigs. Prisoners are regarded as ideal subjects for experiments because:

- They are usually so desperate for money that they will permit any quack experimenter to rent their bodies at a fraction of the cost other citizens would have to be paid. They will also take part in experiments that others would refuse.
- Their lives are totally regulated in ways that those of the general public could never be. Experimenters study the diet, living conditions and daily habits of prisoners just as they do with rabbits and dogs in laboratories.
- If anything goes wrong with an experiment, prisoners have little opportunity to go to the courts or the newspapers to complain.

Drug research in Massachusetts has a long history. For example, Harvard Professor Timothy Leary did experiments on prisoners at Concord with a new drug called LSD long before he became an international celebrity. Ten years later, Leary is in prison himself — for giving the same drug to middle-class kids instead of to prisoners.

Just how many men and women have been crippled, deformed or turned into vegetables by more dangerous drugs than LSD may never be known. No one with inside knowledge of prison experiments is telling. But medical and drug research on prisoners continue.

One prisoner made \$550 in 1973 by taking part in five different experiments run by drug manufacturers. The fees he got ranged from \$250 for a month-long test in which he ate a special diet, took drugs daily and allowed some 100 blood samples to be taken from his arms, to \$50 for a week-long experiment that left him with constant diarrhea. One drug left him so high, he said, that he "ended up in the hospital because they didn't know what was happening to me." Despite these and other problems, he keeps going back to sign up for more experiments. "This is the only way I live in here — taking tests. The food in here ain't the best, you know. You need money."

To fight this exploitation, prisoners' medical committees have formed at Norfolk, Concord and Framingham to prevent drug firms from coming in. In the fall of 1973, the Concord committee succeeded in preventing Hoechst Pharmaceuticals from trying out a new tranquillizer named Clobazam, similar to Valium, on 45 prisoners. The instructions for this experiment asked prison authorities to give Hoechst copies of autopsy reports if any of the prisoners died during the experiment.

Experiments on poor people are being used to develop an arsenal of drugs and medical techniques for keeping them in their place. New types of tranquillizers are being used not only to control prisoners, but also to "quiet down" poor and black children who refuse to submit to the discipline of badly run schools. Psychosurgery — the destruction of certain portions of the brain — is being used in California and in Federal prisons to silence

politically active prisoners.

Massachusetts prisons apparently have not started using psychosurgery yet, but the danger is real. From 1966 until 1973, Dr. Lawrence Razavi of Massachusetts General Hospital did research on prisoners at Bridgewater in an attempt to prove that violent crimes and sex crimes are linked to brain damage caused by inherited genetic defects. He theorized that violence-prone people could be spotted at an early age by studying fingerprint patterns (which he also thought were linked to genetic damage). Razavi received a \$79,000 Federal grant for this work in 1971, but he did not need to pay prisoners to take part because prison officials forced them to be examined. Similar studies were done at Framingham, Concord and Bridgewater by other doctors.

Razavi's research is closely related to that of three other physicians connected with Mass. General and Harvard Medical School: Drs. William Sweet, Vernon H. Mark and Frank Ervin. Sweet once said that people with brain damage are probably responsible for urban riots. Ervin and Mark, in their book *Violence and the Brain*, recommend psychosurgery for individuals prone to violent behavior. Sweet got a \$500,000 Federal grant in 1971 to open a "Violence Center" at Boston City Hospital to study violence among poor people. Ervin and Mark are being sued by the mother of an engineer named Leonard A. Kille who has not been able to work since he underwent psychosurgery at Mass. General in 1966.

The use of drugs and behavior modification to control prisoners was recommended by another Harvard group with a \$188,000 Federal grant in 1973. A Harvard School of Public Health professor named William Curran, along with Harvard Medical School researchers, said that "special offender" prisons using these techniques should be established throughout New England. Their theory is that anyone who refuses to put up with conditions in Massachusetts prisons must be mentally ill.

The likes of Curran, Sweet, Ervin, Mark and Razavi, along with drug firms such as Hoechst, must be kept out of the prisons. And it is not just prisoners who need to be on guard, since many researchers of this type are always seeking other groups on whom to test their latest theories.



Imprisonment doesn't just interrupt the lives of prisoners and their families: it destroys them. Many prisoners lose all contact with their families as soon as they go to prison. Whether the family is shattered by imprisonment or not, it will never be the same again. Every prison sentence leaves permanent scars on both a prisoner and his or her family. This is how one prisoner's wife explained the problem:

"How do I explain the life of a wife and mother of four whose husband is an inmate of Walpole? It's not easy to do because it's a life of constant confusion and discipline, it's a life full of heartache. It's a life without a definite schedule, it's a life of never-ending worry about bills. Although I'm grateful, being on welfare is a burden. It's a life we have to live one day at a time, sometimes forgetting our reality and escaping into our memories for strength to continue our struggle. It's a life of loneliness... I constantly refer to the word *our* because not only my husband but myself and our four children are doing 20-25 years.

"Our baby, now almost five, was an infant when my husband first went to Walpole. Our other children were two, three and eleven. We were alone, we were scared, and I became head of the household. We became the topic of everyone's conversation. We became the outcasts of our neighborhood, eventually forced to move. We had no friends, we had nothing... nothing but each other.

Attacking the family

For the Department of Correction, it is not enough to separate a prisoner from his or her family. It also does everything it can to keep families permanently apart. Its goal is to make every prisoner totally dependent on the prison system. The family stands in the way of that goal.

The first step in attacking the family is to encourage divorce. The woman quoted above was visited by a social worker who said, "You're just a young woman. Do you really want to put yourself through this? There'd be more opportunity for you with

another man." As a result of this practice, many prisoners do get divorced soon after being sentenced.

Even a family that wants to stay together is up against heavy odds. Massachusetts prisons are all difficult to reach from the major cities. Visiting hours are severely limited. A visitor who is a few minutes late is not allowed to visit. The number of visits allowed to a prisoner at Walpole is just four a week, yet the Department considers this a liberal visiting policy. Many a visitor is turned away and told that the prisoner's quota for the week has been used up.

Visits are so expensive that many families can't afford to visit often. Here is what the woman above calculated it would cost for her to visit Walpole if she went four times a week:

One visit: \$3.40 (90 cents for bus and subway, \$2.50 for Greyhound bus trip to Walpole and back)

Four visits: \$13.60

Four visits a week for a year: \$707.20

If she brought her children, the cost would be still higher. Just to bring the four children once a week for a year would cost \$668.20

Prison officials and guards do not want prisoners to have many visits. Any newcomer is apt to be warned that "This guy is a bad customer," or "Be careful. He's a vicious character." Going into a prison can also be a humiliating experience, as described here by a woman married to a prisoner:

"First I had to succumb to a skin search: take off all my clothes, or they wouldn't let me see him. They didn't give me a reason. They said that if I made any trouble they would bar me. Later there was a lockup of the prisoners, and when the place was opened again, the guards told me: 'You're not allowed here any more.'

"That went on for two or three months. We couldn't even talk to each other through the mail. He'd send me a letter, I'd never receive it. Where did it go? Finally, after some lawyers got an injunction and started getting in, he got smart. He'd send a letter to the lawyers, with a letter inside for me. And he'd send it registered mail. I sent my mail certified — I wasn't as smart as him. And even though I had a receipt, the prison denied ever getting the letter."

Contact with outsiders is hard to make at any time. But prisoners who take part in political action risk losing all outside contacts. One prisoner stated: "I was at Walpole eight and a half years before they would let me have a visit from a woman. I was labelled a troublemaker and this was my penalty. They wouldn't even let me write to a woman."

One prisoner's wife made the following observation about the lockups:

"I don't know which is worse — the beatings or the keeping families out of contact. The bruises from a beating will heal a lot faster than the bruises of not having his family. To use a man's wife, sweetheart, mother or children as discipline is a far cry from reform. This will *never* help a man in prison, who will someday be released to the messed up society outside, to know how to cope with it. Instead he will strike back. He thinks in this manner:

"They've done it now! This is the last of what I'll take. The only thing I have left in the world, my family, and I can't have it. Without them I have nothing. So why behave?"

Families and friends who take part in political work are also punished: by being barred from the prisons, or by being insulted and hassled by guards. If those tactics don't work, the prisoner is punished for his or her family's activities. The threat of punishment has discouraged many families from fighting back in the past, but more and more families are becoming willing to take the risk.



It's time to stop talking about reforming prisons and to start working for their complete abolition. That means basically three things:

First, admitting that prisons can't be reformed, since the very nature of prisons requires brutality and contempt for the people imprisoned.

Second, recognizing that prisons are used mainly to punish poor and working-class people, and forcing the courts to give equal justice to all citizens.

Third, replacing prisons with a variety of alternative programs. We must protect the public from the few really dangerous people who now go to prison. But more important, we must enable all convicted persons to escape the poverty which is the root cause of the crimes the average person fears most: crimes such as robbery, burglary, mugging or rape.

Why prisons cannot be reformed

Every one of the existing Massachusetts prisons was built in the name of reform. That includes even Walpole, which was built after severe riots at the Charlestown State Prison in the 1950's. It's time to stop fooling ourselves with the slogan of "prison reform."

Nothing will ever change the main reality of a prison: the fact that guards and prisoners are permanently locked in a cycle of hatred and violence. A prison guard's job is to prevent prisoners from exercising the most basic human rights: the right to be with loved ones, the right to plan one's own life, and the rights of speech, religion and voting, among many others. To do his job, a guard must be ready to kill, and every prisoner knows this. No amount of reform will change the basic fact that the keepers have the legal right to kill the kept.

Prison reform means a lot of different things to different people. At Walpole, good food, personal safety, furloughs and work release would be major reforms. But to most "experts" on prisons, reform means one of three things: psychiatry, rehabilitation or increased control over prisoners.

Psychiatry as Reform: There are many prison administrators, psychiatrists and ordinary citizens who think that all criminals are mentally ill. Their solution to crime is to have every prisoner sit down with a psychiatrist.

Mental illness, or at least temporary insanity, is connected with some crimes, but with only a minority. When a father kills one or his own children, or when a seemingly normal person goes berserk and kills several strangers, mental illness is probably involved. But most crimes, even crimes of violence, involve simple economic motives that have little or nothing to do with mental illness. You don't have to look far for a motive when someone holds up a package store to pay his rent.

Psychiatry isn't the answer to the problem of prisons, but many psychiatrists are still saying that it is. Their most recent program is to use a combination of drugs and behavior modification ("carrot and stick") programs on "incurable" prisoners. This is what will be done at the new Bridgewater and what is being done at Walpole today.

Rehabilitation as Reform: The idea of rehabilitation is as old as the Massachusetts prison system. When the Charlestown prison was built, every prisoner was required to go to prison services every day and then to put in a full day's work. This didn't stop crime then and it won't stop crime now.

Prisoners do want education, jobs and a chance to improve their lives. But what they want most is *freedom*, not to be locked up and told at gunpoint to work or to study.

A prisoner's first struggle is to survive until release. That struggle alone takes too much attention and too much mental energy to leave much time or desire for taking part in programs of rehabilitation.

Control as Reform: What prison reform usually means is not reform at all, but simply more control over prisoners. Even now in Massachusetts, more money is being spent on new cellblocks at Concord and a new prison at Bridgewater than has ever been spent on other types of "reform."

When prison wardens talk of reform, what they mean is constructing bigger or better prisons. The latest idea is construction of a New England Regional Prison, where so-called "special offenders" from each of the states would be sent. These "special offenders" would be prisoner leaders, political activists, and others who rebel against prison discipline.

Wardens and politicians are kidding themselves if they think that new prisons will stop rebellion. Because prisoners want their freedom, they have always had riots and always will. Prisoners are human beings, and human beings in all ages have been willing to fight and die for their freedom.

Reader's Digest Revolutionaries

We received the letter typed in italic which follows below. The letter pertains to an article published in the October, 1974 Readers Digest. The article, which is copyrighted, alleges that prisons are recruiting schools and training grounds for revolutionaries, who will then proceed to hit the streets to make revolution. The article also names some organizations as being revolutionary: the National Prison Reform Association (NPRA), which has chapters in ACI-Rhode Island and in Walpole, Mass; the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO), a nationwide veterans organization active in prison reform; and, named as the "Central Committee" of prison unrest, the National Lawyers Guild.

The article is, to us at NEPA NEWS, totally off the wall. The so-called evidence is concocted from a right-winger's nightmare. But the results, given the enormous circulation of the Digest, could be dangerous.

We have received an angry communication from a member of the ACI-NPRA denouncing the article, its false allegations, and the potential damage it could cause.

This letter from G.M. Lachapelle at ACI says in part: Another fantasy is projected by the author, only this one is a blanket statement that 85% "of the magazines and newspapers subscribed to by inmates advocate revolution." No home-town newspapers, comics or girly mags for the men in Quentin...The thrust of Adam's article was meant to undermine existing organizations within the prisons.

As an example of the dangerous nature of this article, Conn. Corrections Commissioner John Manson has used the Digest article in an effort to justify his plans for Project Divide. Project Divide will divide Somers Prison, creating an 80-man unit for incorrigibles, read: political agitators and others who will not bend to the dehumanizing tactics of the Conn. prison system.

As a sidelight, Manson also uses the arguments of the liberal National Council

on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) to bolster his case. The NCCD has stated that no prison should hold over 500 men. So Manson says that Somers now has 700, but Project Divide will enable Conn. to make one prison into two, bringing the population of the larger part down to near 500. Very nice.

In any case, we print below the letter from the Reader's Digest which they sent to us to advertise the article by Adams. We cannot print the article itself, as it is copyrighted. Consider the letter as humorous, as we did. But behind the humor is danger: a justification for things like the proposed behavior mod center at Portsmouth, N.H., which was defeated; like Walpole's DSU; like Project Divide; like the now-closed START; and like the Fed's Butner, N.C.

September 30, 1974

Dear Professor:

During the next five years, the great majority of convicts in U.S. institutions will be due for parole.

Evidence of our enlightened penal system? Perhaps. But consider this comment,

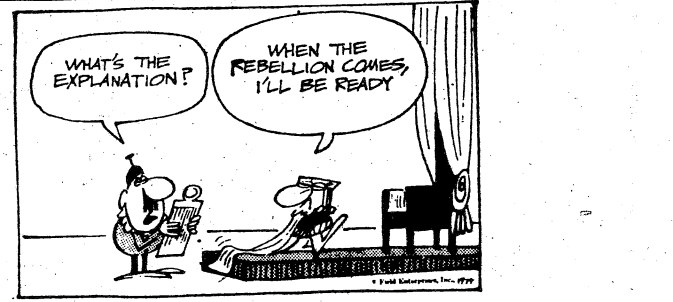
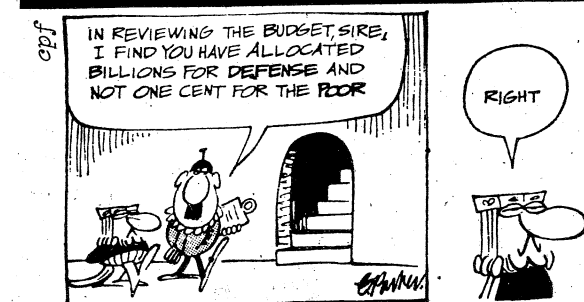
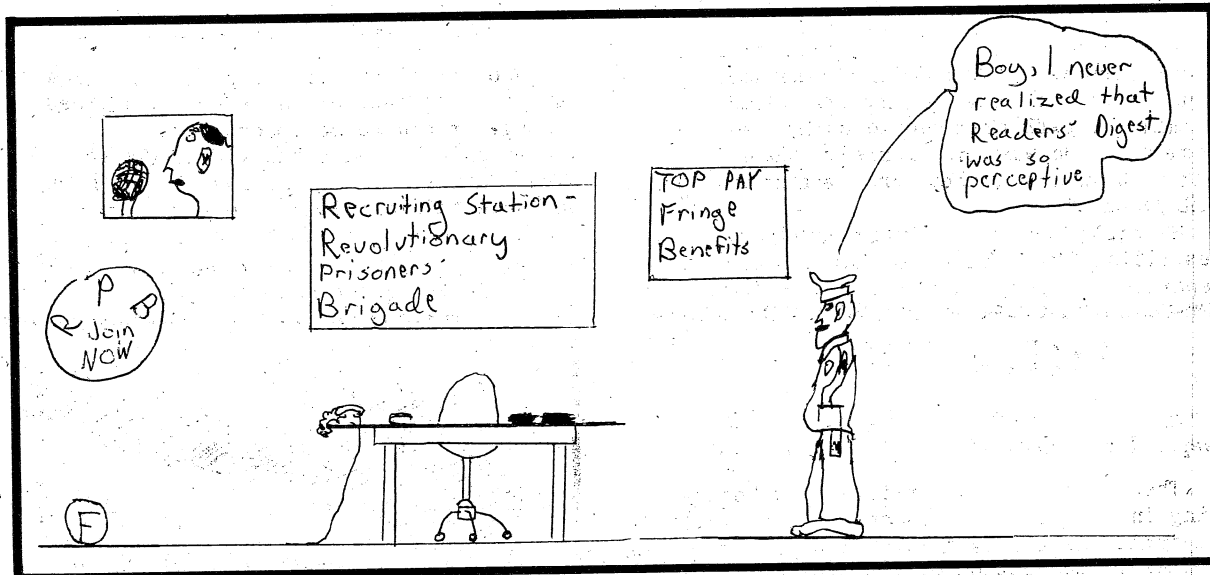
by a top FBI official, reported in the enclosed October Reader's Digest article: "There is not a major prison in this country where revolutionaries are not recruiting inmates. Somebody better wake up before it's too late."

The coalescing of these two factors raises a number of frightening implications. And, says Reader's Digest reporter Nathan Adams, unless we act now, we can expect more and more social explosions as thousands of prisoners emerge from jail as hardened political terrorists.

As someone who has a direct concern with this problem, you will be interested in Adams' report, and in the article's recommendations for improving prison conditions and curbing the extremists who are recruiting inmates - steps the Digest says we must take to forestall further explosions.

We'll be happy to send you a nominal supply of reprints of "Our Prisons Are Powder Kegs" with our compliments, if you'd find them useful.

With all best wishes,
Sincerely,
s/ C.R. Devine



Massachusetts (cont.)

Can I be listed in CORI by mistake?

Yes.

How will the CHSB let me know if I am listed in CORI?

The CHSB plans to publish a public notice that persons can inquire whether or not they are included in CORI. In fact, if you don't personally take the initiative to see your record, you won't know if you are listed. An individual will not receive any direct communication from the CHSB that he or she has a record in CORI. The proposed regulation (3.1) which covers this point is followed by an explanatory comment which states that it would be "a task beyond the capabilities of the CHSB" to notify persons whose records are to be included in the automated CORI.

Can this system be abused?

Yes. Even the explanatory comment which follows proposed regulation 3.15 admits that there are numerous ways to get information illegally from CORI. The comment states that in addition to wiretapping and electromagnetic pickup of the computer signals, there are a variety of other methods of illegal entry, all of which are described in detail in the comment to the proposed regulations.

Office of Economic Opportunity's unfulfilled promises during its ten year War on Poverty now painfully know that, as poor, hungry, jobless, dissatisfied citizens and a threat to the stability of the ruling class, they already have been identified, categorized, questioned and questioned until every possible bit of information about their lives, no matter how personal, has already been gleaned from them and is stored away in the memory banks of the Office's computers in Washington, D.C. Even little children with "social adjustment difficulties", potential revolutionaries, have been identified in Office of Economic Opportunity Day Care Centers, and thoroughly studied. This information, of course, stays on record. The Office of Economic Opportunity already has the most effective and deceptive spy network system ever devised by the mind of man.

For Louis H. Fisher, Director of the Massachusetts Office of Economic Opportunity to say that he is concerned with protecting the rights and civil liberties of Massachusetts citizens is PURE BULLSHIT. Mr. Fisher is using the age old tactic of the Missionary Left vs. the Military Right. He is an agent of a repressive government carrying out another piece of its long range plan of total control of its people.

People's Support

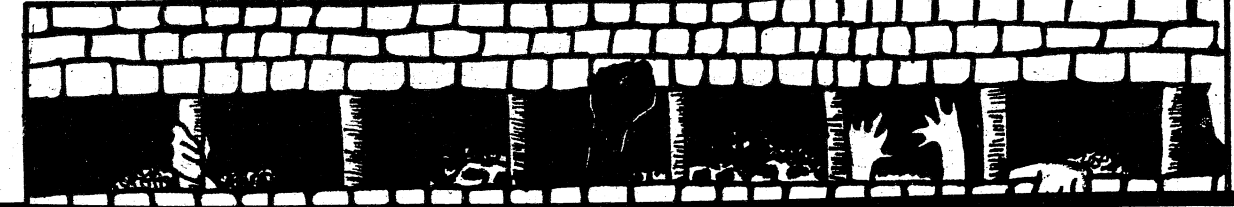
From the Attica News, Oct. 31, 1974 by Rahien

Why do we need the support of the people?

1. Without the support of the people the hand-picked lackeys of Rockefeller will be successful in putting us (The Attica Brothers) in jail for the rest of our lives for the crime of being men and demanding to be treated like men and not like animals.

2. Without the support of the people Rockefeller and his lackeys will be successful in their attempt to whitewash the crimes that they committed before the rebellion and during the retaking of Attica and after they retook Attica.

3. Without the support of the people Rockefeller will have paved the way for mass-murder under the heading of Law and Order. Remember Attica is not just a mass-murder that took place three years ago, Attica is happening every time you can't get enough to eat because you have no money--Attica is when you can't get decent housing--Attica is when some child is shot in the back of the head and it is called justified--Attica is when you can't get a job because you don't have an education--Attica is when you do get a job and make a little money, and the money that you bring home is not enough to feed a family of two let alone four or five--Attica is all of these and more, Attica is all of Us. And without the support of the People Attica will mean another step on the road to total Genocide of the poor and oppressed people of this country. That's why we need the Support Of The People.



Those millions of victims of the Of-

ATTICA IS ALL OF US

Champ Speaks

"Attica was a rebellion, the same way this country rebelled against England. But Rockefeller sent in troops with machine guns." With these words Attica Brother Roger "Champ" Champen introduced the film "Attica" at Franconia College before an audience of nearly 50 on Sunday, Nov. 10.

After the film, Champ continued his brief talk.

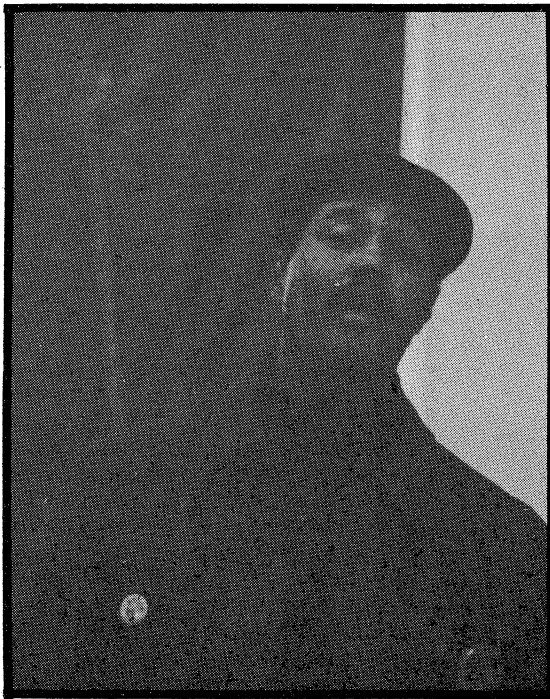
"Prison is just one segment of the society we're in." He described poverty he has seen, mentioning a house in New Orleans he saw a week before which had no roof. "The economic oppression that's on them is a prison."

Champ then talked about prison, prison conditions and struggles he had been involved in over the years to change those conditions. He served 15 years straight in New York prisons.

"We had these strikes. They didn't accomplish a thing. During one they threw prisoners down stairs, all kinds of things. The press didn't say a word. It's been going on for years."

After one strike he was fingered as a ringleader. "I wasn't a ringleader. But I'd been in a long time and I had a story to tell that people could relate to." He was transferred: "When I got to Dannemora, they were performing lobotomies."

He talked about the Attica uprising, describing how Attica has four totally separate blocks. "If you had a brother



Roger Champen, photo by Jim Black

in another block, you might see him once a year. It couldn't have been a planned thing; it had to be spontaneous."

He said he faced "38 kidnap charges and 2 murder charges because I was up on a table talking, like I am now. They took a photo of me from the air, from a helicopter. That's why I was indicted." Champ described how there are two

grand juries still sitting. "People who could come forward and speak for us don't because they are afraid they will be indicted." He added, "The state has used \$9 million; they haven't given us a coin."

He summed up the reason for the assault as "Killing the example we had started by taking the prison."

In closing, he returned to the theme, "Attica is all of us."

"Race and class," he explained, "That's what America is all about."

"I think we all have to concern ourselves about each other. You by yourself are nothing; you united have a lot of power. The social system we live in has to be changed. To say what I think about alternatives to prison, I'd have to tell you what I think about a whole new society. I do not have the time to do that today."

"We must teach with patience. We can't reach everybody, but we will reach most of the people."

Franconia was one quick stop on a tour Champ is doing. Originally, Big Black had been scheduled to speak, but he could not come because he was framed up on a new bust recently, a bust that is part of a new wave of police harassment by the State of New York.

Champ spoke at a rally for John Yancey in Portsmouth on Saturday afternoon; in Portland, Me. on Saturday night; Franconia; Dartmouth Afro-American Society on Sunday evening; then on to Brattleboro, Vt.

The staff of NEPA NEWS thanks Champ for coming and bringing the film, Attica.

Attica Film

"Wake up. Because nothing come to a sleeper but a dream."

The Attica Brothers trials, now beginning in Buffalo, N.Y. is one of the most important series of trials in American history. Conviction of the Brothers would create legal legitimacy for the mass murder of dissidents in America. It would decree that any protest against intolerable conditions, any struggle for human dignity, must remain at a level of subservience to the "good will" of the likes of Rockefeller or face the armed force of the state.

There are several good ways of learning about the Brothers, about the rebellion, about why Attica is all of us. The first is to set up a speaking engagement for a Brother (147 Franklin St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, 856-0302). The second is to send a donation and ask for copies of Attica News, the paper of the Attica Brothers. Third, attend the trial in Buffalo; the Brothers need your physical support. (2 and 3 from the above address.) The fourth is to arrange for a showing of the film Attica by Cinda Firestone (Tricontinental Films, 333 Sixth Ave., NY, NY 10014, 212-989-3330).

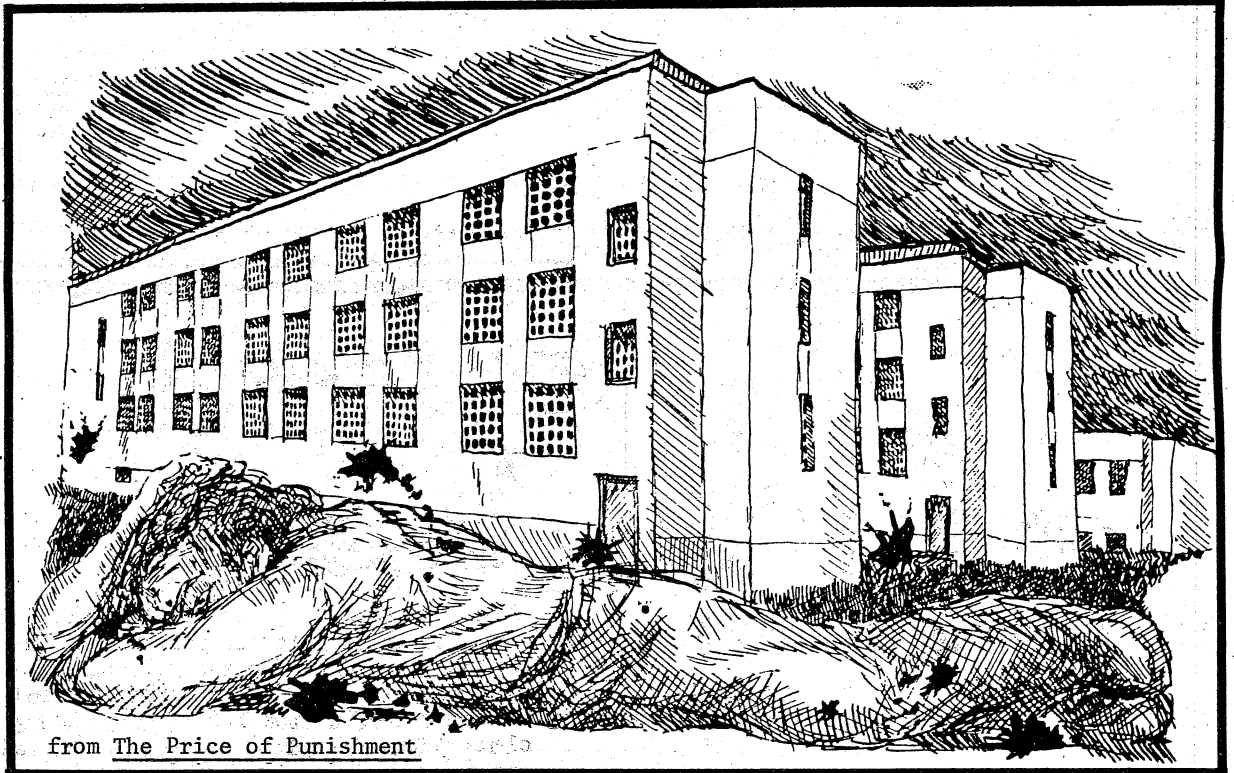
We at NEPA NEWS saw the film when Roger Champen, an indicted Brother, spoke at Franconia. The film has won well-deserved awards as an excellent documentary at several film festivals.

But Attica is more than a good documentary. It is the record of the rebellion, the massacre and its aftermath, the conditions at Attica, and the meaning behind the slogan, "Attica is all of us." The film is informally divided into these four parts. It contains film shot during the rebellion, film of the assault taken through a rifle scope, stills and moving footage coupled with interviews with some of the Brothers, footage of the McKay Commission hearings, and other footage.

Below are quotes from the film, admittedly out of the context of the film, but quotes that exemplify the power of the film. If you can, see the film, the impact is far greater than words in black and white. The quotes follow in the order in which they appeared in the film. Because they were copied down long-hand during the showing, some of them may not be exact quotes, but they are close.

"Everything they do is designed to destroy you, to dehumanize you."

"All we had was each other. So we



from The Price of Punishment

clung to each other, despite all our different ideologies. And there were a thousand different ideologies."

"You know what it is to have unity."

"There was no real racial tension.

It was fantastic, the way everybody worked together. It was beautiful."

"We're gonna get what we plan, or we're gonna die trying."

"What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of the oppressed."

"No decisions were made unless all inmates agreed."

"We are not advocating violence, we are advocating communication and understanding."

"If we cannot live like people, we can at least try to die like men."

"My body has to this time cigar burns and cigarette burns on it."

"I speak of my dead Brother, L.D. Barkley. I know he was killed by pre-meditated murder."

"It's the only industry that functions off of failure."

"They need the manpower to run these industries."

"If it wasn't for the institution the people would have no jobs."

"62¢ a day." (Food per capita--ed.)

"The men had no real choice cause they were dying."

"My life is for the people, for the

rest of my life, for the oppressed people."

"It must be made known to the people what their death's mean."

"I will not let it die in the minds and hearts of the people."

"The same thing that's happening to me, is happening to you."

"Wake up. Because nothing come to a sleeper but a dream."

"It is perfectly clear to me now that the roots of violence at Soledad and other prisons reach deeply into the prison system itself. It is a system which renders a man impotent, denies his individuality, destroys his identity, and grinds him ceaselessly under a yoke of uncertainty and injustice. Such a system generates rage and bitterness which in some men will be turned upon others, whether tormentors or brothers. Prisons, then, are generating the very behavior which they are ostensibly designed to eliminate. They are destroying rather than rehabilitating men. They are promoting violence rather than controlling it."--Frank Rundle in The Politics of Punishment by Eric Olin Wright.

The People-to-People program is still growing, gaining more correspondents inside and outside the prison walls. People-to-People is a program founded by Karl Grunert of Rye, N.H. in an effort to gain correspondents for prisoners who have no one to write, and to try to get persons on the outside aware of the reality of imprisonment by writing to prisoners. We print below some letters, or parts of letters, that Karl has received from prisoners and outsiders. In order to avoid repercussions, we withhold names and addresses.

Your letter in our morning paper interested me. I am a senior citizen and would like to do this--someone older maybe--as young people today don't care too much for the older generation's ideas. I believe the mail is censored--opened before they receive it--if one wanted to send a gift of money, etc. would the addressee receive it? Male or female--would be of interest to me. I often see prisoners on TV and I am touched, feel for them--such a waste of life.

I have just read the article about writing to prisoners you had published in the Keene Evening Sentinel of Sep 23. I am retired and have plenty of time to write a letter or two a week to some of these fellows. I don't know how much actual news, as such, I could write them, but there are always interesting clippings from papers and magazines, as well as current magazines and books and any other small articles they might need or want. If I can be of help, please let me know by writing to the above address.

I read your letter in this evening's Keene Sentinel requesting people to write to prison inmates. I should be happy to do this for someone. I am a middle-aged married woman with three teenage children living in the country, if this information is of any use.

People to People

Please send me information on writing to prisoners. I am a very lonely lady of 56 years. Lost my husband a year ago. I have an 18 year old son living at home. He is at a loss without his dad & he doesn't have a trade. He quit school in the 9th grade, but he wouldn't go back. He needs a man to help him. I hope to hear from you. Maybe thru you, you could help my son. And I can help make some lonely person happy by writing to them.

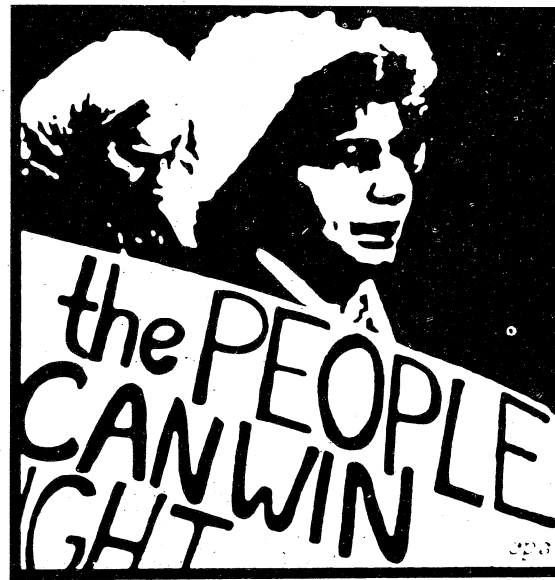
My name is X. I'm 5'9", with dark brown hair, hazel eyes. I was born Nov 21 1948. I lived in Chicago.

The reason for this letter is that I would like to find someone that I could correspond with. I am an inmate here in Y and I don't get much mail from anyone. I would really appreciate it if I could correspond with people in any part of the country. Being in this place I know this is one of the most lonely places in the world. I wish I could send a picture of myself but I have none. I have no family except my aunt that I haven't heard from in about two years.

Believe me, mail from the outside really helps a guy in here. I really hope I do hear from you. I'll be looking for a letter in the mail.

Please forgive me for writing so quickly, but L said to get this in the mail as soon as possible. I have no one to write to and I would appreciate your aiding me. I am 18 years old and have been in training schools since I was 8 and with the exception of L I do not make friends easy. I would like to write to some 18 year old boys and girls and also an attorney if you have one. Thank you.

I am an inmate at Y and my purpose for writing this letter is because I feel I am being strangled by aloneness and must reach out from behind these walls to find a friend or lose my sanity.



If you would like to participate in People-to-People, contact one of the following persons:

Karl Grunert
321 Wallis Rd. RFD#1
Rye, N.H. 03870

Rev. Francis Gibbs
Box 14
Concord, N.H. 03301
Rev. Gibbs handles mail from inside NHSP.

Jane Anderson
Landing Apartments.
B12-110 Landing Rd.
Hampton, N.H. 03842

Amy Davidson
311 Temple St.
New Haven, Ct. 06510
Ms. Davidson handles Conn. mail.

Letters

Dear Mr. Lockwood, NHSP,

In response to your letter concerning blood donations for "good time" out of Massachusetts prisons, only the NPRA-sponsored program at MCI Walpole is currently operational.

The same problem you're experiencing in N.H. exists in Massachusetts and we understand that it is becoming national Red Cross policy not to accept blood donations from prisoners. The Red Cross here will not accept prisoner-donated blood claiming studies show that prison populations have a higher percentage of people who've had hepatitis than people in the outside population. An antigen left behind in the red blood cells of anyone who has had hepatitis makes the blood unacceptable for transfusion.

We worked around the opposition put up by the Red Cross by contacting the Massachusetts State Laboratories who agreed to accept blood, fractionate it (that is, to separate out the plasma portion of the blood from the red blood cells). Only the plasma portion of the blood is used. It is reduced into two valuable products: albumin (protein) and gammaglobulin (hepatitis preventative). Using only the plasma portion of blood eliminates the hepatitis factor.

The State laboratories distribute the gammaglobulin and albumin to state medical facilities. Presently one of the medical facilities receiving these blood products contribute the supplies such as blood bags necessary for the blood drawing program and another state medical facility contributes to the program by helping with storage and transportation of blood to the laboratories.

The program is entirely volunteer. Prisoners, nurses, doctors and non-medical personnel needed to make the program work give their time and skill on a volunteer basis.

Prisoners in Massachusetts may give blood every two months. By Massachusetts law, a prisoner is given five days "good time" for each donation so that a prisoner may accrue 30 days "good time" a year.

In struggle,
Sonia Dettmann

Dear NEPA,

Today I got to thinking about the United States' Government. You know which one I mean. The one "by the People, for the People, and of the People".

Why is it that the people of the richest nation in the world cannot control its' Government? There are needy, hungry, even starving people in the U.S. Can our government help these people? Yes, but instead our illustrious government would rather spend hundreds of thousands to create more poverty. This is done by paying farmers to destroy their crops, driving prices up, because of "shortages".

Our government annually gives away billions of bushels of wheat to "needy" countries of the world. Is not our country in the needy category?

Isn't this just another tactic to promote inflation, under the disguise of helping the needy peoples of the world? Wasn't the "energy crisis" manufactured by our government in cooperation with the major oil companies? Many people went without heating oil last winter, because they either couldn't get it, or because they couldn't afford to pay the superinflated fuel prices.

The Arab Oil Embargo: the only reason that Arab Oil was boycotted to the U.S. is because the U.S. was selling military weapons and articles of destruction to both the Arabs and the Israelis!

How long can our government masquerade as "the government trying to promote World Peace in the Mid-East"? This country is looked upon as the "War Mongering Americans". To the extent this view is true, it is an extreme outrage! However, I can see how it came to pass. Any country that would encourage a war by selling arms to both sides, deserves to be described as "War Mongering".

Finally, I see that our country has become a Police State, similar to the Soviet Union. In Atlanta, Georgia, citizens cannot walk down the streets without being beaten, or murdered by the "Public Servants" of the Atlanta Police Dept.

The "Nixon Administration" set up an organization called L.E.A.A., devoted to the study of crime and prevention. We can see L.E.A.A.'s accomplishments on the streets of Atlanta. This agency was funded with millions under the disguise of promoting law and order to support L.E.A.A.'s

Dear Nepa,

Behavior Modification programs are often implemented by fascist prison officials to turn prisoners against each other and to remold and shape the thought process of those prisoners who speak out against the prison system.

Transactional Analysis Therapy is one of the many behavior modification methods used to suppress and control prisoners.

The infamous fascist Dr. Martin Groder subjected prisoners at Marion, Illinois to Transactional Analysis until a federal court ordered the program to be terminated. (Groder is the warden at the soon to-be-opened Butner Behavior Modification Center--ed.)

At the Maine State Prison's Segregation unit, attempts have been made recently to establish Transactional Analysis Therapy.

Such attempts to subject prisoners to behavior modification programs must be actively opposed, resisted and defeated.

It is widely known that behavior modification techniques are designed to brainwash and control prisoners. Therefore it is essential that such activities be exposed for the harm they cause and stopped.

Albert Paul
MSP, Thomaston, Me.

continuing fascist abuse of human lives.

I don't hate my country, but I hate the idea of what it is coming to stand for. I despise every bastard who furthers the corruption of our country, domination of its citizens, everyone who blocks the way to world peace & unity. And most of all I hate the War Mongering Americans who profit financially from death and destruction. These people are the lowest form of scum on the face of the earth. They care not whom they kill and maim for life.

Someday, hopefully, this country & government will again be, Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

To all of my brothers in other prisons round the country; Strength and Unity in your cause,

Sincerely Yours,
Daniel Covert
M.S.P.

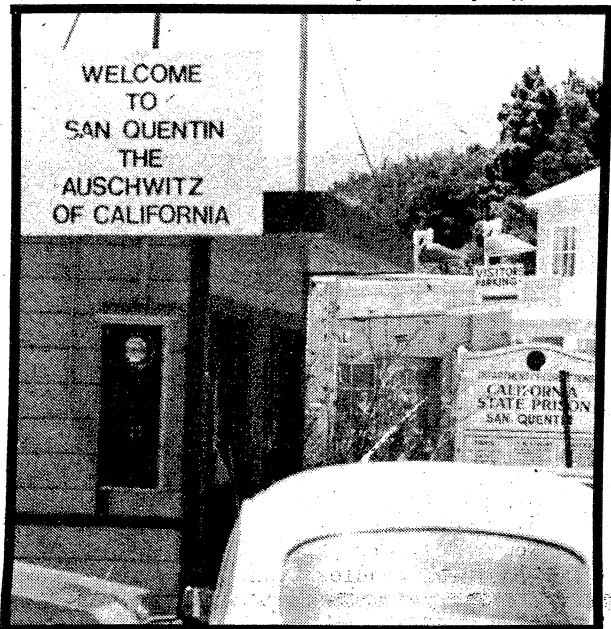
Puff The Magic Dragon

Review by Eve Pell

The Dragon Has Come by Gregory Armstrong

We had received requests from concerned prisoners to do a review of Armstrong's book. Before we could get to it, we found the following review by Eve Pell in *The Conspiracy*, a monthly paper published by the California Bay Area Lawyers Guild. Eve Pell is a legal writer who has worked with many prisoners. *The Conspiracy* added a comment to the review: DON'T BUY THE BOOK. They were afraid that the review would spark interest in the book, and they did not want such a book to be subsidized by the public; the best thing that can happen to such a book is that it not be bought. So if you are interested in reading the book, try to get a copy by some other means than buying it.--Ed.

When you daydream a lot and read too many novels, the way I have, life is always a letdown. For me, identifying



with George was like having a second self. I think that it was like this for many of the people who knew him. George's power was our power almost as a fact of ownership. If he had been outside, he would never have belonged to us in the same way, but locked away, he was ours. We possessed him and everything he was. We even felt the right to live through him. And it is exactly this kind of relationship which has no basis in a shared daily life, which doesn't grow out of being together, which is so vulnerable. Reality slips away. Promises are made. Vows. Plans.... Since there was no everyday life to restrict our fantasies during those hours we spent together in the visiting rooms of Soledad and San Quentin, no risk seemed too great.... Magicians, that was what we became in those visiting rooms, practicing a kind of magic that sometimes threatened to become megalomania, creators of a myth in which the final enactment was death."

These excerpts from *The Dragon Has Come*, by Gregory Armstrong, set the tone of the book. Alternate titles could have been *My Pet Nigger*, *Portnoy's Secret Life With Che Guevara*, or *The Confessions of Somebody Else's Crime* by Gregory Armstrong. The author, formerly at Bantam Books in New York, was the editor for George Jackson's two books--*Soledad Brother* and *Blood in My Eye*. Had he simply done his job: publish and promote the books, he would have served George Jackson well. Instead, he became deeply involved with the Soledad Brothers' case and Jackson and then, after George was murdered, wrote this account of George's last months. I am not an objective reviewer, having known George Jackson and Gregory Armstrong well. I cannot write about this book without thinking that George Jackson has been dead for three years, while Gregory Armstrong has become a minor celebrity. I cannot blame Greg for George's death, but I do blame him for unconscionable, though unconscious, exploitation of his subject. In the guise of love, truth, and good intentions, Armstrong has ventured blithely into depths he does not understand, muddled over problems desperately in need of clarity, and tried to solve his personal mid-life crises by abusing his relationship with George.

Harvard educated, white, newly divorced, physically weak and bookish man of 40, Armstrong seized on his accidental connection with Jackson--his imprisoned opposite, to break out of the comfortable but confining life he led. Armstrong, not Jackson, is the real subject of this book. The middle-class editor, spoiled and insulated from hardship by his parents, his white skin, his male gender, and his education, fantasizes some kind of 'real life'--and grasps at George as if George could provide it for him.

On meeting Jackson: "...he glitters just like one of those multicolored snakes that I see in my dreams sometimes and that seem so much like gods in disguise." (p. 18)

On talking with him: "...it is almost as if our words are emitted in the short staccato rhythm of copulation." (p. 86)

What he wants from Jackson: "Make me real, give me the reality of hard surfaces, of steel doors and bars, prison-made shanks, karate calluses half an inch thick. Take me out of my plastic world of offices and subways and apartment houses and deodorants. Make me as real as death, as fateful as murder."

Armstrong, because of his own needs and his personal discontent, fashions Jackson into his imaginary alter ego--and starts to live vicariously. He disagreed with other friends of George who told him his decision to proceed with this book was individualistic, opportunist, and exploitive. In his absorption with himself and his fantasy, he has produced this volume of self-revelation, almost groveling as he reveals his juicier weaknesses. One of the objects of confessional writing is to achieve a public, personal catharsis--and Armstrong does. But the audience for the chronic discontent of a middle-aged Bantam publisher is small. Armstrong, however, confesses George Jackson's sin. George did, he asserts, kill a guard at Soledad.

But the "confession", it turns out, depends on a switch of tense in a conversation, and is certainly far from convincing to me. Yet this is what has drawn national attention to the author, gotten him on countless television talk shows, and promoted sales of his book. It has also enabled the establishment

press to conclude that Jackson was nothing more than a vicious killer, and to discredit the arguments of prisoners and non-prisoners who call for abandonment of our penal system.

Armstrong needs Jackson to be a killer--Armstrong, superman, warm, loving, revolutionary and deadly--for his own fantasies. Armstrong saw Jackson as his black brother, an alter ego of his true self as he emerged from long, dry years of work in publishing, a neurotic marriage, and a 40 year old man's identity crisis. Had he remained content with Walter Mitty-ish daydreams about George, he could have had his jollies and we would not be saddled with this book.

Armstrong would have been better off idolizing a football player or a lion tamer, where his exploitation could have done less harm and his subject would have been less vulnerable. Surely the ultimate cruelty, and the worst of the sins Armstrong confesses, is his offer to help his friend escape. Picture the successful, hip, insecure, New York publisher dangling hope of freedom and life itself before the black prisoner chained in the condemned visiting room at San Quentin--knowing all the while in his innermost self that he would never jeopardize his own comfort by trying to deliver on his promise. Armstrong could make himself feel good for weeks and months, feeding his fantasy with escape plans--while Jackson, as that time went by, grew increasingly desperate and out of touch with reality in his Adjustment Center cell.

It's a sick scene, and a very dangerous one. Armstrong writes:

"I know why so many middle class whites like myself identify with blacks. We say to ourselves that only blacks possess true authenticity...What we all want from George is to be made an instrument of himself. To be made as real as death, as fateful as murder." (p. 184)

This is crazy stuff--and there is a lot of it. Armstrong seems to comprehend his own cruelty to the man he says he loves, at least dimly, in later reflections. Yet, had he truly understood the enormity of his self-serving fantasy, he would have burned his manuscript. The irony is that it was Armstrong who escaped--from his boring job, from the constrictions of his stunted upbringing--through George.

Armstrong's understanding of himself and those he meets is colored by deep-seated feeling about blacks and women. He seems blind to his own racism, which shows frequently:

"It is as if blacks feel that as a white man I possess the power to deliver them from the pain and stigma of their blackness. As if I had the power to deliver some special dispensation that would finally cleanse them. It makes me feel ashamed. I realize that it is because whites have held power over blacks for so long that it is almost inevitable that blacks should look to whites more than to other blacks for a judgement about the quality of their lives, and that judgement from a white would be more significant than one that came from a fellow black." (p. 158)

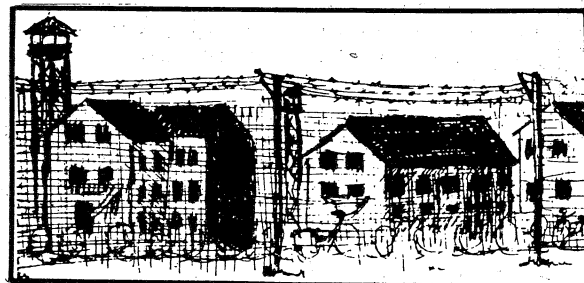
He seems blind to his sexism as well. He refers to one woman as "a sweet little thing", another as "sweet and fresh like a peach". Throughout the book, women seem to be "things" or objects of enjoyment--with the exception of George's mother, Georgia Jackson. One would not know, from this book, that the primary organizers of the Soledad Brothers' defense were women, and that George Jackson, in all likelihood, would be unknown today but for their efforts.

In various passages Armstrong lies, somewhat drunk, with his head in a woman's lap; he (and George) fuck some nameless women; Angela Davis is "still just a young girl". One woman, after reading the book, commented, "this book is so sexist I could barely hold it in my hands".

This book contains some excellent material about George's life; his family, accounts of his time in prison, a sense of his astonishing warmth and charm. It also shows George's estrangement from the world outside prison, and his painful awareness that prison damaged him.

But the book is also filled with posturing and agonizing on the part of Armstrong, and a lot of veiled sexual gossip about people involved in the Soledad Brothers' Defense. During the course of the defense, blacks involved with the case felt that whites made the decisions, controlled the purse strings, and profited professionally and financially from the case. Whites, who made considerable sacrifices to participate in the case, felt abused and unappreciated. Armstrong recounts these differences, emphasizing the ego-centered side of the participants in such a way that one loses sight of the serious issues in question. One sees, primarily, a bunch of squabbles over money and fame. While the quarreling took place, this account takes it out of context and treats it as gossip.

As a result, a social problem has been reduced to its most petty elements by an author without disciplined political experience. Armstrong flew into California and back to his offices on Fifth Avenue. He was in no position to understand more deeply. He was helpful, supportive, and loving to people involved with the case. But he has nullified those efforts by sensational, ego-centered, naive profiting from his involvement.



Alternatives to Incarceration

by William E. Moulden

Almost anyone speaking against the inhumanity of prison systems is, sooner or later, asked the question that is the title of this article. It is a legitimate question and the answers we have heard given are usually weak and imprecise. Therefore, we are offering this attempt to classify and define alternatives to incarceration. There have been many shapes and forms to community corrections projects developed during the last decade when the "many flowers" have been blooming. The semantics here are from the realm of adult corrections but the content applies as well to juveniles. We have included forms of respites from being locked up and ways to get people out early as well as alternatives in the pure sense. We acknowledge the limitations of our knowledge and experience and welcome information and other examples that would improve, expand or replace this outline.

1. INSTEAD OF LOCKING PEOPLE UP:

Decriminalization of law: Working to reverse the modern trend toward increasing the law on the books are lawyer and legislative groups pressing for the elimination of victimless crimes and the vague and often discriminatory statutes relating to vices and juvenile activity. Broadening the capacity of society to tolerate differences is a basic activity toward deinstitutionalization of society.

Negotiation of Warrants: Pilot projects in Hartford, Connecticut and Philadelphia sponsored by the American Mediation Association prevent many criminal warrants from moving to the arrest stage by negotiating with parties in the dispute that led to the warrants being sworn.

Release on Recognizance: The Vera Foundation of New York City pioneered this model that is now in wide use. Project staff stand up in court for poor people who, upon arrest, cannot make bail. Counseling, guidance and employment services, as well as legal advice, are offered clients during the pre-trial period. Abscondance is rare and incarceration is reduced as research shows that people who are confined during pre-trial are much more likely to be convicted and sentenced to confinement than those who are out.

Pre-Trial Diversion: This is a variation of ROR which offers an intensive, sometimes residential, treatment program for arrestees who agree to waive their rights to a speedy trial and voluntarily undergo the treatment or therapy for a specified period of time, usually one year. Used mostly for drug addicts, examples of this approach can be found in New York City and with the Operation de Novo in Minneapolis. The idea is to have charges tabled on the basis of successful completion of a therapy program.

Unsupervised Probation: An individual so designated is under no compulsion to report or participate in treatment but has the right to do so if he so desires. This is a useful tool for probation and parole departments where staff understand and practice the concept of advocacy for their clients in communities where other institutions are unresponsive or hostile to probationers. This is a part of the deinstitutionalized Massachusetts juvenile system and is sometimes known as the Agnew Alternative.

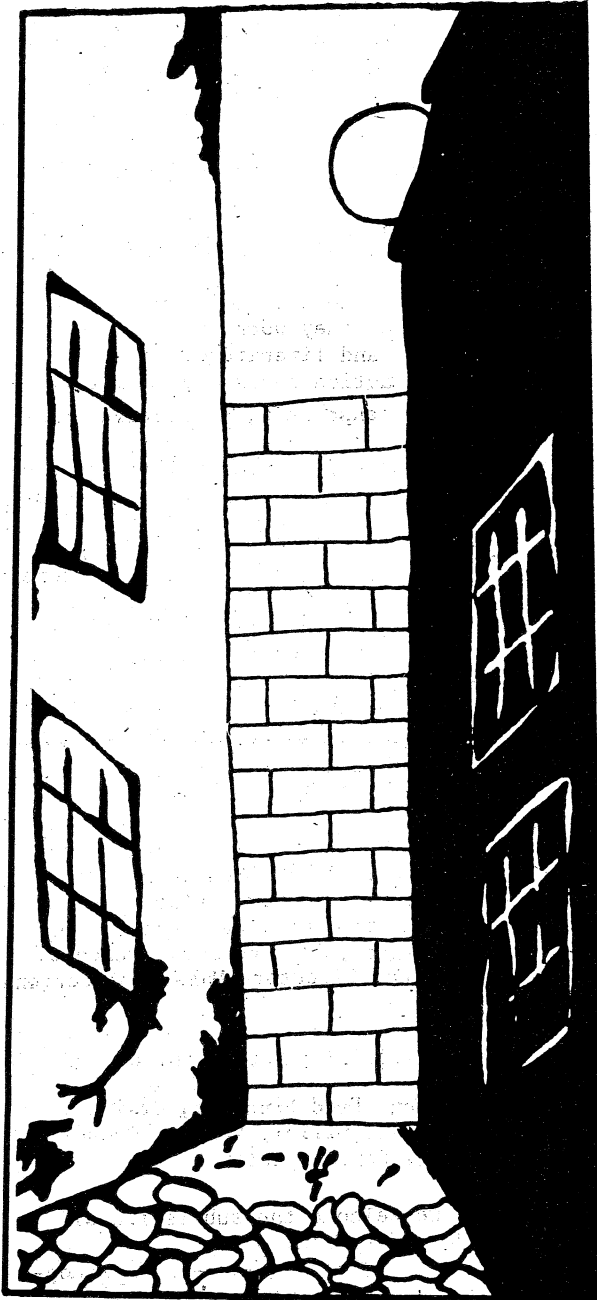
Probation Houses: We use this phrase to cover a wide variety of residential and day care alternatives in the community. They reduce incarceration by providing judges with a variety of types of probation supervision beyond the standard offerings of court staff. Included here would be group homes for juveniles, drug treatment programs, therapeutic communities, youth development centers, and many other projects coming under the generic heading of "halfway houses." These resources are often open to the community in general, not only those on probation, and sometimes are combined with pre-release guidance centers and parole house programs (see below).

Increased Use of Probation: This is the simplest and cheapest approach and can be done through education of judges. The addition of probation staff is not necessarily required with this as some research shows violation rates do not substantially differ with the size of the caseload.

2. RESPITES FROM SENTENCES TO INCARCERATION:

Weekend Sentences: More common among juveniles but not unknown with adults, this

method for misdemeanants can extract retribution while allowing individuals to maintain employment and support dependents. This could be achieved in state prisons with felons through a combination of work release and weekend furloughs.



Drawing by K.D. Koster

Furloughs: Generally used as a reward for good behavior and usually restricted to weekends, the furlough laws often permit much wider and extensive use. This approach decreases prison tensions and increases family support for prisoners.

Work Release: We speak here of the person who leaves the prison for work in a real community job each day and returns each evening. Some systems dispatch participants from a discrete section of a prison or from smaller, separate camp facilities. The latter is, of course, preferable and just one small step away from a residential center within an urban community.

Study Release: We use this term to identify programs that require a return to custody each evening after a prisoner participates in educational or training programs during the day. Participants are usually college students but most of the enabling laws do not require this and could very well include any kind of education and training in the community. We use the term "Educational Release" (see below) to distinguish this alternative from residential programs.

3. EARLY RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION:

Educational Release: Most states and the federal government have laws permitting the placement of inmates on college campuses to live there and attend school. On the University of Massachusetts, Boston Campus, inmates live in a house near the campus. At Long Island University, New York, inmates live dispersed amid other students in the dormitories. At the University of Washington, Seattle, project inmates live in a discrete section of a dormitory. Most projects have geographic limitations and require signing out and in, but use weekend furloughs freely. Some require that inmates be within

one year or six months of parole before allowing them to enter such a project. In almost all cases, the inmates are regular college students. The University of Minnesota Project NewGate has reported receiving students sent directly from the courts—a true alternative. The Task Force especially promotes this alternative and can help in getting projects going. As with study release we strongly urge college campuses as sites for centers that serve the educational and training needs of the full range of inmates, not just those who can qualify for admission to college under traditional standards.

Pre-Release Guidance Centers: This approach was pioneered by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in the early sixties but not heavily used by them now. They have twenty centers in operation nationally. It brings inmates with parole release dates to a community center several months before the official release date. With counselling help they look for work and work out housing arrangements. Usually they are gradually phased into community living, moving from house restriction to day privileges, to overnight passes, to weekend furloughs. They could move back down that list if they have problems and serious misconduct or poor cooperation and could result in the loss of the parole date and re-confinement in prison. Sign-out and sign-in procedures are enforced and many projects require participation in group counselling activities in the evenings.

Increased Use of Parole: Too frequently, the length of a persons' incarceration is determined more by the availability of prison cells or the lack of them rather than the stated purposes of parole systems. To review cases of parole eligibles and release most of them on parole would enable most medium sized or large systems to close whole institutions. Massachusetts utilized this technique in closing state juvenile institutions and Connecticut is using it to phase out its women's prison. As mentioned above, violation research findings indicate that increasing parole staffs is not always necessary.

Parole Houses: Parole violations and re-imprisonment of parolees can often be prevented if there are temporary housing units available. A facility in Jersey City (PROOF) run by the New Jersey Bureau of Parole serves this purpose by offering parolees who lose jobs and/or housing a place to stay, food and counselling to re-establish themselves.

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS:

Community centers could obviously house combinations of several of the above mentioned alternatives. Our general recommendation, however, is that the smaller is better and a wide variety of forms and styles would be preferable to the large correctional complexes being planned by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Inmates and ex-prisoners are excellent prospects for staffing community corrections facilities as various self-help and new careers projects have discovered. Correctional systems cannot simply move into community alternatives with existing staff selected on seniority or volunteer basis. The basic objectives of security have institutionalized most staff who try to impose control procedures in the community settings. Careful selection of staff and sensitizing and skill-training programs are essential to successful community-based alternatives to incarceration. It is not only a new ballgame, it is an entirely different ballgame.

A clear policy decision to reduce incarceration and close facilities, once made and announced, can swiftly be implemented by supporting and expanding all of these alternatives simultaneously. There will always be incidents of crimes being committed by people who, under the old system, would have been locked up. Reformers must have at hand the data showing overall reduction of crime through reduced recidivism, showing cheaper costs of community corrections, showing the low split rates from alternative projects, and emphasizing the inhuman and destructive qualities of closed confinement. This article answers one of the most frequently asked questions and we hope it can be of use to you.

Bill Moulden is a member of the National Task Force on Higher Education and Criminal Justice, Rm. 767, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10027. Telephone: 212/870-2734.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.

I am a prisoner. Here is my subscription in the amount of \$ _____

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Here is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support the continued publication of NEPA NEWS.

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I am a con. Enroll me as a member of the New England Prisoners Association.

I am on the outside. Enroll me as a member of NEPA. I enclose \$4 for a subscription to NEPA NEWS and for a copy of the N.E. Prisoners Resource Manual.

I am on the outside, have no funds, but please enroll me in NEPA.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

Bail Fund Benefit

The Boston Bail Project/Bail Fund is sponsoring two events in November, the proceeds to go to the Women's Bail Fund.

On November 20, Wednesday, 8pm at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave (near Harvard Square) there will be a poetry reading with Marge Piercy, Miriam (Balmer) Dyak and Brenda Walcott. Donation \$2.00.

On November 23, Saturday, 10am to 4pm, in the Auditorium, 100 Arlington St., Boston there will be workshops on Bail, Prison Health, Prostitution, Framingham Prison and others. "Women in Prison", a feature-length, color documentary, and a slide-show will be shown. Also \$2. Co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, Women in Prison Program.

For more info about either event, call 617-491-1575.

Art for Xmas

The following works of art are available from George Knowlton, P.O. Box 13, Kingston, R.I. 02881. Mr. Knowlton works with the art workshop at the Boys Training School in Rhode Island. All proceeds from sales go to the support of the art programs at the Boys School and to the Flats Workshop, Peacedale, R.I.

To the left of this note is a work by George Knowlton, though not one of the works available. It is titled, Death by Fire, and is in memorium to Michael Forte, who died in the fire at the Training School reported in last month's and this month's NEPA NEWS.

The catalog of available works:
ATTICA AND THE APOCALYPSE--limited edition silkscreens suitable for framing. By G. Knowlton. Calendar with cover, \$10 to NEPA NEWS readers (otherwise, \$25). \$2 for single sheets to NEPA NEWS readers (otherwise \$5).

IN MEMORIAM STATIONARY--10¢ a sheet (with envelop. ATTICA TEE SHIRT--original silk screen--\$3.50. PICKET CLOTHES--original silk screen--\$3.00.

CHRISTMAS CARDS (postcard format) 10 for \$1.50, 15¢ for one:

Hunger print by G. Knowlton

Farmworker print by G. Knowlton

Bat print by flats workshop artist

include 50¢ for mailing costs

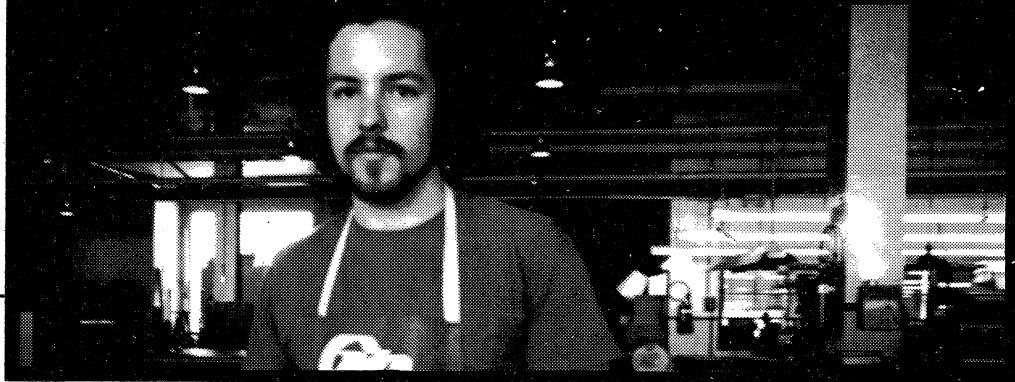
PAYABLE TO: G. Knowlton at the above address.



New Prison Films

With Intent to Harm

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler



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

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

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

3000 Years and Life

A Film by Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki

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

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

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

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

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

Vermont State Prison

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

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

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

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

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

New England Prisoners' Association
Public Education Program
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580

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



Community Centers

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

MAINE

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Prison Information Center
932 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610
617-753-7167

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

VERMONT

Prisoner Community Center
87 Main Street
Windsor, VT 05089
802-674-2708