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Prisoners, Ex-Prisoners & Supporters

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1941-1971

GEORGE JACKSON
Soledad Brother

His spirit will always live.

Schoendorf, Jimmy
Somn. Corr. Instit-Somers
Somers, Conn. 06071

Impeach John R. Manson

by Monty Neill

Brother Anthony (Tony) J. Saia, formerly incarcerated at Somers, Ct. Prison, now at the Marion, Ill. Federal Penitentiary, has filed documents with the Conn. House of Representatives in an effort to obtain the impeachment of Commissioner of Corrections John R. Manson. The impeachment effort stems from Tony's own case, a case which, on the one hand, is marked by intrigue and conspiracy up to the highest level of the Corrections Dept., and, on the other hand, is a clear example of the machinations of the Corrections Dept. against all prisoners in the state of Connecticut.

Tony, along with other members of the Somers Prisoners Union, and other politically active prisoners in Connecticut, has been harassed, conspired against, placed in segregation and transferred for the sole purpose of attempting to prohibit prisoners from organizing to protect themselves and to improve conditions in the prisons.

The level to which Manson, Somers Warden Robinson and Assistant Warden Singer have sunk in order to persecute Tony can only be described as disgusting. This, and more, is clear from a large number of documents Tony has obtained from Federal and State officials and has sent to me.

Tony Saia is a recidivist. He served time in Conn. in the 1950's and 60's. In 1965 Tony assaulted several guards. In cases # 2662 and #2693 in Tolland County, Ct., both dated June 29, 1966, Tony was found "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity" and was ordered remanded to Norwich State Hospital upon finishing his bit at Somers by Judge Alva Loiselle.

Keep in mind the date: June 29, 1966. Realizing that Tony was sane, the authorities at Norwich released him on leave on Dec. 21, 1967 (he entered the hospital on Dec. 1, 1967), officially granted him indefinite leave on June 15, 1968 and discharged him on June 16, 1969.

During this period of time Tony was on the streets and in the community of Bridgeport, Ct. Having become politicized, Tony actively worked with the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords Party to combat police oppression of the poor, police narcotics dealing and other anti-poor and anti-working class police activities. As a result of their political, educational and other organizing work, the police stepped up their efforts to put Tony and others away. This was the period of time in which Bobby Seale, Erika Huggins and others of the Panthers were arrested on what proved to be phoney charges.

After having various charges against him dismissed for lack of evidence, Tony was convicted of arson and then, while already at Somers (an excellent place from which to conduct a defense), he was convicted of murder in June of 1973 and received a life sentence. Tony still maintains the charge was a frame-up.

But the Corrections Dept., and particularly Somers Prison, had another politically conscious prisoner on their hands. Despite the fact that Tony went up to 21 months without a disciplinary report, he spent most of his time in the hole or in segregation. Tony was even praised by numerous guards for helping to avert a riot on May 21, 1972. Despite the efforts of Tony and other members of what is now the Somers Prisoners Union, a riot occurred the next day (the "Baseball Bat" incident described in the article "Project Divide" in the July issue of NN).

In July of '73, at a classification hearing, Singer told Tony he was filing too many civil suits, he would never get out of segregation, and he must decide to what out-of-state prison he would like to go. Tony replied that he had lived in Conn. all of his life, both his parents were very ill, and he would refuse a transfer. Singer then told Tony that Manson had already decided to transfer him. According to Tony's affidavit filed with the Conn. House of Reps., he had been told on numerous previous occasions that he was being kept in segregation on the "direct orders of Manson."

In Sept. the Conn. Dept. of Corrections



wrote to the Federal Bureau of Prisons requesting that they accept Tony. On Dec. 13, Norman Carlson, Director of the Bureau, wrote a letter to Manson stating:

We have carefully reviewed the material on Anthony Saia forwarded to this office on Dec. 4, 1973 by our regional office in Baltimore, Maryland. In view of Mr. Saia's apparent need for psychiatric treatment and individual therapy on a long term basis, we have decided to accept Mr. Saia at our Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Missouri.

Please contact Doctor P.J. [illegible] on my xerox copy, Director of the Medical Center and advise him as to the date of Mr. Saia's arrival....I am also forwarding the classification material furnished by Mr. Zizzamia of your staff.

Tony charges that under Conn. law a person's psychiatric records may not be read



without the permission of the patient. Tony did not give his permission.

In order to live up to the letter of the law, as defined by many court cases, Tony had to have a hearing before he could be transferred. An internal U.S. Gov't. memorandum from C.E. James to Mr. H.I. Yinger, dated Jan. 7, 1974 at Springfield, Mo. states:

Mr. Zizzamia from the State of Connecticut Department of Corrections called this afternoon to inform us that subject inmate will be arriving here by automobile Friday afternoon. Inmate Saia is being sent here for psychiatric evaluation, and hopefully later placement somewhere in our system.

We received a letter regarding this a few days ago, however, we were not told until we received the telephone call that this inmate is a known escape artist. Please alert your staff.

As is clear from this memo, the Federal authorities expected Tony to arrive on Friday, Jan 11, and obviously knew of this before the date of the memo, Jan. 7. Yet a "Notification of Hearing on Transfer" was not furnished Tony until Jan. 7, and the date of the hearing was set as Jan. 9. This is hardly an impartial hearing since the federal officials were informed of Tony's date of arrival prior to the time Tony was told when his hearing would be.

Why was Tony transferred? According to a transcript of the hearing, signed by Jerome Smith, Tony was informed that he "was not being sent to that facility as a psychiatric or mental patient." Tony informed me that Singer had told him that "the sole purpose of the transfer was to have me put in 'pop' [population] in a different prison. He said it would be done three weeks after I got there."

We have seen that the Feds accepted Tony on the grounds that he was a psychiatric case. In order to get him transferred Conn. officials told the Feds Tony needed long-term psychiatric treatment; they told Tony the transfer was to place him in the general population in a federal prison instead of in segregation at Somers. The completed Transfer Hearing Form from Somers simply states the "Reason for Transfer" was "administrative".

Tony spent from Jan 11, 1974 to March 26 in segregation at Springfield. On March 26 he was transferred to the Feds' "new Alcatraz", Marion, Ill. On the 27th a Capt. Buzard at Marion told Tony to plan on three years in segregation. He is still in segregation. I would also add that the above quoted letter from Carlson (Bureau Director) to Manson (Conn. Corrections Commissioner) says that Tony apparently needed treatment and therapy "on a long-term basis". Yet Tony spent only 2½ months at Springfield for his "long term" treatment. It therefore appears that the Feds were hip to the real reasons for the transfer as well. Conn. and the Feds are trying to bury Tony in segregation a thousand miles from the help of his friends and family.

Manson and company may have followed the letter of the law (debatable), but hardly the spirit of the law. The escape accusation will be dealt with later, but now to return to the train of development with one of the truly bizarre elements of the case.

I earlier mentioned Tony's assault cases. Two court orders, each called a *Mittimus* (State of Conn. vs. Anthony J. Saia, #2662 and #2693, both dated June 29, 1966), both read:

...."Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity". Whereupon, it was adjudged that the defendant be confined in the Norwich State Hospital for Mental Illness until such time as, in the judgement of such Hospital, he is sufficiently recovered to be released, and it was further ordered that such confinement go into effect upon his release from the sentence or sentences he is now serving at the Connecticut State Prison." [The wording is slightly different in the two, but the intent is identical.]

In both cases the judge was Alva P. Loiselle. However, when Tony got to Springfield he noticed a document on a desk, and he has since obtained a copy of the document. It, too, is a *Mittimus*, and it too is numbered, saying "Nos. 2662 and 2693"; it too is the State of Conn. vs Anthony J. Saia; it too is Superior Court, Tolland County; the judge too is Alva Loiselle; it too has the date of June 29. But it is different in some respects from the above mentioned documents, despite referring to the exact same cases. This one is dated 1973, not 1966. And this one does not order Tony remanded to Norwich. Rather, it orders Tony remanded to Springfield, Mo. The document, in the form which Tony received it, has faint lines above the typed-in name, "A. Loiselle, Judge", lines which could be a signature, but are too faint to really make out.

How court orders from June 29, 1966 resulting in sentences to Norwich can be altered to read June 29, 1973 resulting in a sentence to Springfield is beyond my concrete knowledge. I wrote to Judge Loiselle about the matter. In a letter dated July 30, 1974, and addressed to me, Judge Loiselle stated:

Re: Anthony Saia
This is to acknowledge your letter and enclosures concerning your inquiry of the State v. Saia case. The last that I had anything to do with the case was the sentencing in 1966, as is recorded in the judgement. I have no knowledge of the form dated June 29, 1973, with my name

typewritten at the bottom. I am sending a copy of all your correspondence to John Yeomans, Clerk of the Superior Court in Tolland County, and also to James D. Cosgrove, Chief Public Defender for the State of Connecticut.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Alva P. Loisel

Next we have another document, at least as bizarre as the first, though in a different fashion, a fashion that led me to state that Commissioner Manson, et al, can "only be described as disgusting." It is here reproduced in full:

Intra-Departmental Memoranda

Do Not Copy or Reproduce

CONFIDENTIAL

Jan. 8, 1974

TO: Norman A. Carlson, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons

FROM: John R. Manson, Commissioner, Dept. of Corrections, Hartford, Connecticut 06115

re: SAIA, Anthony J.

[Note: it is stamped RECEIVED]

Commissioner Manson has instructed me to submit detailed account of Mr. Zizamia's telephone call to the Medical Center yesterday. We regret not forwarding the following more specific information in our previous communications:

Saia has escaped from our Somers and New Haven institutions, however, no indication of same appears on FBI 586 236 since these cases were quickly rolled. Saia is known to have committed several slayings during 70/71. He successfully defended himself July 71 in the murder of a locally known police informer. On 6/14/73 however, he was found guilty of First Degree Murder and sentenced to Life. On several occasions he has seriously injured correctional officers, policemen, citizens and, has boasted he would "kill a 'pig' in-a-minute".

He is a compulsive letter and "writ" writer who has filed numerous actions with the courts causing occasional administrative anxiety. He's an escape artist; exceptionally brilliant; demeanored; dangerous; and should be lodged under maximum safeguards for the well being of everyone concerned.

Saia's parents, who obviously 'stick by their son', are viciously outspoken. His mother has assaulted several of our officers, however, they being a low-income class, it is anticipated future visitation with their son to be minimal--if at all, which should, in any event alleviate any qualms in this regard. His sister (Anita) according to affidavit, is a known prostitute, (see attached Pre Sentence Investigation report compiled by Mr. Perkins) and, although she has not recently attempted visitation with her brother, we have reliably been informed that she might try to visit him for the express purpose of conveying firearms or other items of serious administrative concern.

Our psychiatric department states thus: "therefore, it seems apparent Anthony, as well as his parent (mother) and sibling (sister) possess similar deep-rooted emotional characteristics which verge on the thin grey-lined area of paranoid schizophrenia..." (see attached evaluation report by our Staff Psychologist Dr. O'Hare).

Psychiatric background data has previously been furnished to your Regional Office in Baltimore, Maryland, by Mr. Zizamia of our Department of Corrections.

We trust this information along with the materials as indicated above is the desired information requested of Mr. Zizamia yesterday.

Again, I regret our not communicating these more detailed facts earlier. I trust our Departments will continue cooperation in future transfers of these most hardcore political agitators.

Sincerely yours,
James L. Singer
Associate Warden-Treatment
Somers Correctional Institution
(Initialed: JLS)

A more outrageous, brutal, lying, and self-condemning document cannot be imagined. Before refuting this pack of lies point by point, I would like to ask if Manson had Singer write so that, if it ever came to light, he could, like Nixon, "disavow all knowledge"?

Pertaining to the escapes, which were also mentioned earlier, Tony says, "I have never escaped from anywhere. As a matter of fact I was never in my life in New Hav-

en Jail. When they say there's no 'indication' on FBI records, etc., again, this conspiracy is obvious, because when I argued this in Mo., they told me Ct. would never lie! As for the part of being "known to have committed several slayings during 70-71", can you dig that? I was arrested and tried but I was acquitted after 1 1/2 hours of deliberation. Only because my innocence was so obvious!"

Singer and Manson are obviously using allegation and proven innocence as proof of guilt. That anyone, let alone someone from a "low-income class", could seriously "injure" policemen, be known, and not arrested, is beyond belief. This pertains to both Tony and his mother.

The writ-writing business is further evidence of the State's political assault on Tony. He is an "escape artist" who has never escaped; may well be brilliant; "demeanored", according to Webster's, means "outward behavior", which everyone has; and the State of Conn. has here demonstrated that it views all of its politically conscious prisoners as "dangerous".

Paragraph four goes beyond even the level of perversity one can now expect of the writers of these documents.

I talked with Mrs. Catherine Saia, Tony's mother. She said, "Yes, I stick by my son, like any parent would. The jury convicted him, we have to accept that." She said that only once has she had a run-in with a guard. Back in Dec. of '67 she went to see Tony as he was being transferred to Norwich. She saw Tony, wrapped in chains from the neck down, being car-



ried face-down and prone, down the hall. When Tony saw his mother he yelled, "It's OK, ma, I'm OK." The guards then dropped Tony's head on the floor several times. 'Sticking by her son,' Mrs. Saia began to yell at the guards.

The guards took Tony out one door, then let Mrs. Saia out another. When she did not see Tony, she ran over to the waiting police car, yelling "Where's Tony?" Tony was lying on the floor of the car, face down, still in chains. Three officers sat in the car with their feet on him. For some strange reason, this did not please Mrs. Saia, who once again verbally "assaulted several of our officers."

In talking with Mrs. Saia, she added that she and her husband know several police officers in Bridgeport. When she told them what was in Singer's letter they expressed complete disbelief that anyone would make such statements about Mr. and Mrs. Saia.

Tony's sister is actually named Antoinette. She is recently divorced, lives in a \$50,000 suburban home, has never been arrested and, according to Tony, "I haven't seen or spoken to her since about July, 1968." Why Singer and Manson chose to disseminate such outright slander about perfectly respectable persons is not known.

Stated Tony, "My mother and sister have never in their life even seen Dr. O'Hare, let alone have him interview them...Once this starts popping, I hope my sister and mother sue them till they bleed."

And, finally, the last paragraph, where Singer unveils his blatantly political repression of "political activists."

This is not the end of the bizarre and cruel nature of this case. Tony requested that, following Conn. policy, he be brought back to Conn. to see his mother, who has terminal cancer, and his father, who is partially paralyzed as the result of a stroke and is current in the hospital. Manson refused.

Tony appealed in Federal Court his transfer to Springfield and Marion. The decision refusing his appeal is full of so many factual errors that it is hard to believe they are accidental: Judge Newman stated that Tony was convicted of murder on January 30, 1967, yet Tony was on the streets from Dec. '67 to Nov. '71. This is one of the errors. Either Judge Newman did not have accurate information or he paid so little attention to the case he didn't know, or

By this point, the essentials of the case are clear. First, Tony is and has been for some time a political activist. As such, he is deemed dangerous by the state. For this reason, the highest corrections officials in the state of Conn. have used many dirty tricks to get Tony out of the state. They include:

1) Used a very old case to attempt to demonstrate Tony is of unsound mind, and even fabricated the actual date and sentence of the cases. Yet, repeatedly, state and Federal psychiatrists have affirmed that Tony is sane, and released him after very short stays.

2) Fabricated escape attempts.

3) Provided mis-information to various Federal authorities.

4) After repeated interference by Manson in Tony's case, Manson stated in sworn affidavit that Tony's transfer had nothing to do with Tony's pending litigation. Yet Singer expressly told Tony that one of the reasons for his transfer was that Tony was a writ-writer. Hence, Manson would have us believe he knows little about the case while his subordinates tell Tony that Manson knows all. And then we have the letter from Carlson to Manson, indicating Manson knows a great deal.

5) Deliberately and maliciously slandered Tony's family to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and other federal authorities for the purpose of seeing that Tony be kept in segregation and out of Conn.

6) Repeatedly lied to Tony about the reasons for and nature of his transfer.

7) Made all arrangements for Tony's arrival in the federal prison in Springfield, Mo. prior to the time Tony was notified of a hearing at which such transfer questions are supposed to be decided.

8) Apparently forged a court order to get the Feds to accept his transfer.

9) Openly explained the political reasons for their manipulations.

Bizarre as Tony's case is, we would make a mistake if we were to believe that his case is an exception. The history of the Somers Prisoners Union demonstrates the common usage of political repression against activists at Somers. What is not known is the machinations that could have been used against other prisoners who have been transferred. What is unusual is that Tony obtained the documents and could send them to me.

We hope that lawyers will take Tony's case, and one result will be Tony's return to Connecticut to see his family and to stay in his home state.

But a legal case is not enough. For the Conn. Dept. of Corrections to be in the hands of men like Manson., Robinson, Singer and others is a danger to anyone in the state of Ct., in prison or out of prison. To allow such repression to exist in the prison system will, following the nature of repression, only encourage the state to repress its political dissidents on the outside. To allow men of this ilk to continue to draw a salary from the taxpayers' money, to continue to represent Connecticut in the halls of government, to continue to decide the fate of Connecticut citizens, would be a crime against the people.

We therefore call for the impeachment of Commissioner of Corrections John R. Manson, and for the firing of his henchmen, Robinson and Singer. And we call for the return of Brother Anthony Saia to the state of Connecticut.

Petition on behalf of Catherine and Joseph Saia for the return of their son Anthony to Connecticut.

NAME TOWN STATE

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Use this or make a copy. Send to Bring Tony Back, NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580

McMillan and Thompson Fight Back

by Jann Laaman

The investigation and pending legal case resulting from the State Police beating of Eddy McMillan and Randy Thompson last February, has recently expanded to include a U.S. Justice Department inquiry into the matter. Last February 15th, state police corporals Bartels and McMasters termed it "an honest mistake" after they brutally assaulted Eddy and Randy in full view of numerous prison officials in the guard room area of New Hampshire State Prison. The troopers were at the prison to pick up another prisoner, but, according to their version of the incident, mistook Eddy and Randy for this other prisoner, and in the process assaulted them.

Eddy and Randy filed a suit in the U.S. District Court in N.H., only to have it dismissed by Judge Bownes, who ruled that "physical force is a reality of prison life." With the assistance of legal aid attorney John Cotton, this case was appealed to the First Circuit Court in Boston, and is due to be heard in September. Meanwhile, the State has tried to forget the whole incident, even though both prisoners received numerous injuries from the beating.

Dangerous Medicine

by Jaan Laaman, NHSP News Bureau

A potentially dangerous, let alone outrageous, situation presently exists with the dental and medical treatment procedures at New Hampshire State Prison (NHSP). The Prisoners' Reform Council (PRC) was recently notified by Acting Warden Fuller that the following steps were necessary for any prisoner to receive dental or medical treatment:

1. Inmates must submit a sick slip to the Prison Doctor. The Doctor will determine whether or not the inmate's condition is serious enough to warrant outside Dental care, which, at the present time, is the only Dental care available to us.

2. If outside Dental care is needed, the Doctor will inform the Warden or Deputy Warden and he will in turn notify the Governor's office.

3. The Governor will then either approve or disapprove of outside Dental treatment in each specific case for each involved inmate.

4. If approved, the inmate will be escorted to an outside Dentist for treatment. The Governor or a Superior Court Judge must sign an approval before any inmate can be taken out of the Prison for ANY reason.

(The above is quoted from the publicly posted minutes of the July 11, 1974 meeting of the PRC.)

Some months ago a State Dental investigation found that it would take over a year just to catch up on the backlog of cases, let alone emergency treatment or preventive care.

This is bad enough, but far more dangerous is this business that before anyone can be taken out of this institution the order must be approved by the Governor or a Judge. What happens to those men injured at work (there are plenty of unsafe machines in many of the shops here), or someone who has a heart attack or otherwise gets seriously sick, especially in the evening hours? It is more likely that all that will need to be signed by any state official is a death certificate.

Another aspect is that many men here will be forced to seek judicial relief to obtain medical/dental care now. Since the courts work rather slowly, this will not resolve any emergency cases. But how often is it reported that the courts are overburdened by prisoners' complaints, that prison officials spend long and unnecessary hours in court, that all this is costly to the taxpayers? Yet the Governor, or whoever is responsible for this order, is plainly asking for more prisoners' writs.

Finally, while every man at NHSP has been convicted of breaking a law, no N.H. Court ever sentenced a person to X number of years of medical and dental care deprivation. So long as the state keeps a person in bondage it has the moral and legal obligation to care for that person medically. Personally, I hope that a prisoner does not have to become a cripple, or worse, before this matter is resolved; it is bad enough that many have to suffer the dental and medical neglect that presently exists.

The men have not forgotten the incident though, and neither have their family and friends. Eddy's sister, Jay Burnor wrote dozens of letters to numerous government officials, including the Justice Department and the President. These efforts resulted in the Justice Department sending Special Agent Theodore Goble to investigate the matter in late June. Eddy gave the agent a full explanation and a signed affidavit about the incident and also told him that medical records from the N. H. State Hospital and the prison hospital should show what injuries were sustained. The medical affidavits show that Randy had a severed cartilage in his rib cage, and that Eddy had a cut on his back, several bruises and contusions, and a sprained and cut wrist. Eddy explained to the agent how the troopers "kicked and punched me in the head and back... they kicked the handcuffs closed on my wrist, causing it to be cut and sprained."

Since the FBI's initial interview, the men have not heard any more from them or the Justice Department.

Asked what he hoped would result from these activities, Eddy stated, "I went to the First Circuit Court mainly so I could

get the case back here, so I can have a trial. I definitely want a trial, so all the facts get out." Eddy feels it especially unjust since he is serving 18 to 20 years for two counts of assault; "I was convicted and given 20 years for assault, yet nothing happened to the troopers."

Even with this added investigation the prisoners are not very optimistic about their chances of getting justice. Eddy explained, "This is a police state, and prisoners especially don't get a break; but I will take this to every court in the United States. I will exhaust all court remedies, and if I'm not satisfied, I'll continue to fight with whatever I have to, to get justice."

Asked what he felt his friends, family and other concerned people could do, Eddy stated, "People could write to the Governor and Col. Doyen of the State Police, and ask why troopers can get away with maliciously beating someone within the confines of the state prison, while a regular citizen would be given a long jail sentence for doing anything like that. People should demand that the State prosecute these 'law enforcers'."



Woodstock: Demands and Grievances

By The Inmates of the Woodstock Correctional Center

This letter is from the inmates of a minimum security facility in Vermont. We need your help! We are not hardened criminals or the State would confine us to Windsor Prison. We don't seek unreasonable concern or assistance from the citizens of this State, but we are being denied basic services, including medical, which we must have and are entitled to if confined to a facility such as this. Please help us by letting your readers know of our needs so that we can obtain the basic services needed, pay the price for having broken certain laws, and return to society as productive, tax paying citizens.

We feel that the taxpayers of Vermont are entitled to know a few of the conditions existing in the Department of Corrections. The Department tells the taxpayer of Vermont that it costs a minimum of \$10,000 per year for each person in jail in Vermont. It is far past the time when the people should demand an exact, itemized accounting of where this money is being spent.

(Since I have been in jail at the Woodstock Correctional Center, for many months, I feel qualified to state the existing conditions.) As we are in a State Institution, we are the total liability of the Department of Corrections. Generally, inmates of jails have no income and little or no money, yet--

1. No clothing of any kind is furnished inmates.
2. Any medical treatment other than minor colds or the administering of necessary drugs must be paid for by inmates.
3. Dental work in several cases, recommended by dentist as urgent, pending since January 1974 with no action. Inmates are told the work will be done only if they agree to pay at least half.

4. Inmate transferred to Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center and at the end of training forced to pay all costs without previously being so informed.
5. Even something as minor in cost as haircuts must be done by the inmate or he will not get one while here.
6. Both Alcoholic Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation "specialists" are periodically in attendance with all their marvelous platitudes, but when asked for material assistance such as the price of the necessary tools to follow a trade when released, they are poverty stricken. Material, practical help is apparently not their function.
7. Practical rehabilitative vocational training programs do not exist regardless of the department's propaganda to the contrary.
8. Although in a state institution, inmates are required to pay State tax as well as the profit derived from the use of vending machines for cigarettes and soda.

Unquestionably, the taxpayers are being charged at least \$10,000 per year per inmate. What we believe the people should question is exactly where this money is being spent. It most certainly is not being spent to care for certain very basic and humanitarian needs of many of the inmates at Woodstock Correctional Center.

A sampling of questionable conditions was brought to the attention of the Governor's office several months ago in a letter signed by all the inmates of this Center and the only action taken was a statement that the "budget is exhausted." Perhaps Vermonters should be interested in exactly where their money is being spent. Also, that many persons detained for very minor offenses are not being granted the rights due them.

Grafton County Jail Demands

Dear Sirs:

We the undersigned inmates of the Grafton County House of Correction plead to you for relief from the deplorable conditions we are forced to tolerate from the administrators of same said institution.

We have a list of grievances which directly result in countless calculated and malicious violations of our constitutional rights guaranteed to us under the first, second, fourth, fifth, seventh and all amendments of the constitution.

We have not and are still not provided with Federal Guidelines concerning newly handed down rights of inmates and procedures concerning the rights of inmates. We are also not provided with the Annotated Edition of our State Statutes or Federal Law books and we the undersigned believe that as laymen not being trained in the field of law are being denied the right to appeal because how can we possibly question a system that denies access to appeal the alleged violations which we were sentenced for.

List of Grievances G.C.H.O.C.

1. We feel we shouldn't have to have haircut or have to shave as long as their kept neat and clean.
2. Our mail under law shouldn't be censored.
3. A.A. help for people who need it or want it.
4. Educational help for people who need or want it.
5. Medical and dental help should be improved.
6. Inmates should receive some payment for work to help them get started after their release.
7. Guards shouldn't be allowed to cuss or swear or to discuss personal problems of inmates amongst themselves or anyone else.
8. We should be allowed better recreational facilities.
9. Inmates feel a qualified doctor should be on call 24 hours a day.
10. A dietician should be on station and a qualified cook for the three meals.
11. Inmates feel a longer time for visiting should be allowed as only one half hour is allowed per week and a great distance is travelled by some people to get here to visit inmates.
12. Inmates should be allowed to change clothes and underwear more than twice a week.
13. We are trustees and should not be enclosed in a high barbed wire fence as it states in the Blue rule book.
14. At the end of each work day we should be allowed 4 hours recreation instead of the 1 or 2 hours we now have

**WHILE
THERE IS
A SOUL
IN PRISON
I AM
NOT FREE**
EUGENE DEBS

15. Vocational training for inmates should be allowed. (M.D.T.A.)
16. Cell doors should not be locked at nite as tier doors are locked and the doors leading down stairs are locked. No one likes to wake up smelling someone else's secretion.
17. Inmates request an impartial board set up consisting of both inmates and an impartial party on disciplinary problems of inmates.
18. Canteen priveleges should be given every day instead of once a week.
19. Inmates would like a hot plate or coffee pot to heat water for coffee instead of having to use tap water.
20. Due to energy crisis inmates would like candles so they can read or write at nite when we can't sleep.

We the undersigned believe these changes should be made at the Grafton County House of Correction.

Woodsville, N. H. Box 267.

INMATES:

John V. Finnigan
Mr. Bruce Meterier
Bernard Hinne
David Picard
Raymond E. Ester
John Caron
Leo L. Hill
Wilbur Sturtevant
Ricky C. Alsermoren
Douglas M. DuBois
Larry F. Fry
Dean P. Gillen

Letter from Grafton

Brothers & Sisters,

I hope that you will be able to print these two following statements in your paper as they show how people in power in the penal system help inmates HA-HA what a joke. First of all is the actual account of a conversation I over heard between Mr. Keith Cochran, probation officer and two screws here in the Grafton County House of Corrections in N. H. Their was an inmate here who was released and three days later was back again for burglary. Why? Because he had no place to go, no money, and no family. He did another long stretch and prior to his release I over heard Cochran talking to two screws. The screws say to Cochran what are we going to do with - - - when he is released. Cochran answers, well we could send him to knitting school or even better we could buy him a bus ticket to Kentucky and get rid of him which is exactly what he did. Now if they had set him up with an apartment and some money and found him a job he never would have returned here in the first place but instead they choose to ship him off some where. He was released from here about two months ago and he is again in jail again in Michigan or Arizona. If they call that helping I want no part of it.

Next is something that happened to me and I'm quite sure it has happened to others here. When a married man is committed for a long period of time he leaves his wife with an awful lot of responsibility. Now in my case I also had a three year old daughter. In February of this

August

year she died. Normally I should have been given a 1-2 or 3 day pass to be with my wife. Heres what they did. They had a deputy sheriff take me to the funeral and then back to my apartment for a whole 45 minutes to be with my wife and then back to the jail. My wife was very emotionally upset because this was the second child we had lost. After a couple of weeks I could tell by my wifes letters that she was changing. The loss of our daughter really screwed her mind up. I asked for help from the people in power here and I told them how my wife was all messed up and that my marriage was in danger. I asked to be able to spend some time with my wife alone but they said no. I also wrote the Governor, of N. H. 6 times asking for a 1-2 or 3 day pass. But to no avail. I received a letter from my sister telling me what my wife was doing and I was very emotionally upset so I ran trying to get home to my wife. They caught me and took all my good time and gave me 6 more months to run concurrent. About 2 months after that my wife left me and I was really broke up over it. I knew my wife really loved me but her head was all screwed up over the loss of our daughter and I wasn't their to help her. We have no family or friends in this state because we just moved here, so she had to face this all alone. After two weeks I received a letter from my wife saying she still loved me and wanted me. Her head finally came together and now were both happy again and I get out in two more months after doing 11 months all total. While my wife was gone I again asked for

Outside N.H. NEPA

On Saturday, July 27, the outside arm of the N.H. NEPA chapter met in Concord, N.H. An interim Board for the outside was elected, headed by Richard Schofield and Monty Neill.

All present agreed that the primary task at the present time is to conduct an educational and petition campaign in the state of N.H. The focus of the drive will be on changing policies and laws in regard to parole, work and educational release and furloughs. This is in accordance with the proposals of the inside branch of N.H. NEPA. The inside and outside branches are working together to draft proposed changes and to draw up a pamphlet that will explain the need for changes from two perspectives, why it is beneficial to prisoners for them to get out of prison earlier and why it is beneficial to society as a whole for the prisoners to be released earlier.

Other areas discussed included work in the counties around release, the Prisoner Family Center and its progress in helping the families of prisoners and prisoners, and the John Yancey Defence Committee. The latter two were reports from groups that have agreed to work with NEPA in N.H. around specific issues, such as parole, release, and furlough reform.

A Big Farce

By Don Williams N.H.S.P.

A study release program has been in existence here at New Hampshire State Prison for a number of years now. In theory, all prisoners can take part in this program. Any man who shows the potential for doing college work and has a sincere desire to better himself can, in theory, participate. This looks great on paper but that's where it ends. At present, there are no prisoners on study release. In fact, you could count the number of prisoners who have ever been accepted for study release here at N. H.S.P. on the fingers of one hand.

One can draw one of two conclusions from this: Either all prisoners are dummies, or the prison administration doesn't want prisoners attending college because this might benefit prisoners and keep them out of jail. Consequently, the administration couldn't brag that 80% of all prisoners released from here on parole are back within a year.

This past year, the Thompson School of Applied Science has made college courses available on a small scale to prisoners here. Roughly forty prisoners took advantage of these courses with the average overall grade for the group being a B and up. It should be evident, even to the administration, that there are prisoners here who have the ability to do college work. It is time to take the study release program out of the files and put it into the prison where people can benefit from it.

help and this was the answer I got. Your very immature and can't cope with your problems. Here I've lost my daughter and for awhile my wife and this is what he says to me. I'm immature and can't cope with my problems. I just wanted to let the public know the kind of help we get from those in power. Also just one more thing that happened today. We have written to Mr. Gene Mason trying to get some information from him and we learned he never received our letters. The head screw here when questioned about it said that even if he showed up here, Mr. Mason would be thrown off the property because he advocates the over throw of U.S. Government by force. Can you dig that. Well that's all I have to say except that people should be more aware of how prisoners are treated when it comes to personal problems.

Power to the People,
Butch

John V. Finnegan
Box 267
Woodsville, N. H.

03785

P.S. I would like a copy of your paper every month but at the moment I don't have any bread but when my wife comes up I'll ask her for some and send it to you.
P.P.S. If we could have someone from NEPA we would like very much to talk to him.

End of Grand Jury System in R.I. ?

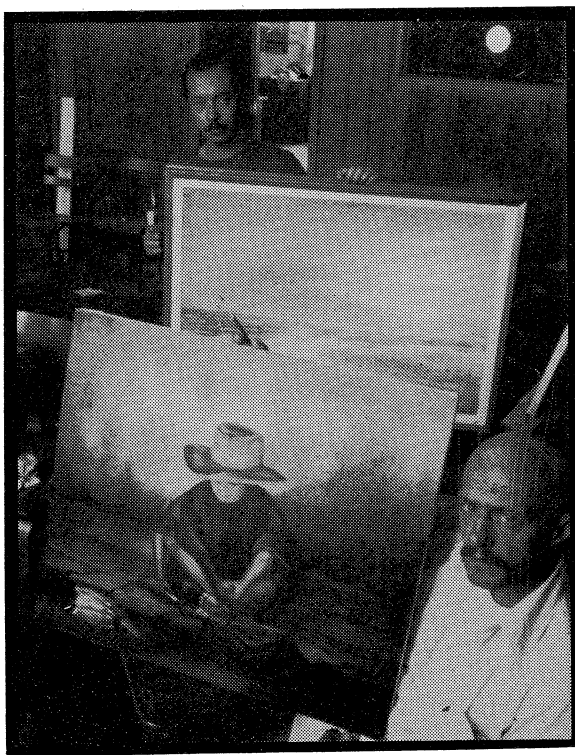
by Robert Marquis

A bill to abolish the present grand jury system in Rhode Island, has been passed by the R.I. Legislature and sent to the Governor for final approval. This bill would provide for the by-passing of the grand jury in all, but capital offenses, plus do away with preliminary hearings. A number of people who opposed this bill in its initial stages, contended that it would be detrimental to defendants and deny them due process of law. Is that really the case? Let's examine the facts!

A grand jury is a group of citizens, usually (23) in number, selected at random to hear and evaluate evidence on felony charges to determine whether the evidence is substantial enough to warrant the issuing of an indictment. Bear in mind that an indictment is only an accusation. This may sound reasonable, except that neither the defendant nor his attorney can participate in these proceedings. All evidence is presented by the prosecutor and indictments are returned in over ninety per cent of those offered for consideration. In essence, this is similar to a "kangaroo court".

A number of criminal charges, such as murder, rape, burglary and robbery are non-bailable in Rhode Island's district courts. Because grand juries meet only three times a year, a number of defendants remain incarcerated, without necessity, for lack of bail awaiting the inevitable indictment. This is a contributing factor to the overcrowded conditions at the A.C.I.'s awaiting trial section. Most of these inmates are released on personal recognizance or surety bail when they are indicted and arraigned at the Superior Court level, often resulting in months of "dead time". It may be pointed out that defendants have the right to request a bail hearing in Superior Court on these charges, but many who are arrested for the first time have no knowledge of this, since they are without benefit of a competent attorney and are totally ignorant to procedures.

As for the so-called preliminary hearings, they border on a farce, as they stand now. A preliminary hearing is conducted at the district court level, basically in the same manner as a regular trial. The presiding judge, after evaluating the evidence pre-



sented at this hearing, may either release the defendant for lack of evidence, or bind him over to the grand jury's next session for their disposition. Although the defendant has the right to request such a hearing, the prosecutor also has the right to immediately present the case to the grand jury, even while it is pending in the district court; and it is a common practice for the local prosecutor to merely postpone the preliminary hearing until an indictment has been returned. Even if a defendant should be fortunate enough to get his hearing before the grand jury acts, and he is NOT bound over, this still does not prevent the grand jury from handing down a "secret indictment", resulting in the defendant being re-arrested. This action in itself would seem to be "double jeopardy".

Rhode Island would do well to follow the example of Connecticut's judicial system. Their circuit court system, equivalent to our district court, empowers a judge on this level to impose a sentence of up to five years. Consequently, a number of felony cases are quickly disposed of through "plea bargaining". On any major felony calling for a sentence in excess of five years, or on any case in which a defendant insists on a jury trial, this case is immediately turned over to the superior court, negating any grand jury action whatsoever. The result of this system is that 85% of criminal cases are disposed of in less than two to three months.

All this brings us back to the original question. How effective is Rhode Island's grand jury system? Does it really benefit and protect the defendant? The facts would indicate otherwise. Its only purposes are to contribute to prison over-crowding by unnecessary incarceration and slowing down the judicial process to a snail's pace. So what superficially seems to be protection of a defendant's rights, is essentially just another of many tools utilized by the courts to keep "defendants off the street".

This proposed bill would do much to alleviate this problem. I only hope that Governor Noel has the foresight to recognize the value and feasibility of this bill, and wastes no time signing it into law.

Community Based Support Sought

Excerpts from Providence Journal-Bulletin
Writer, by Don Abood

All Rhode Islanders must realize they have a stake in the future of the Adult Correctional Institutions and accept a fair share of the responsibility for the criminals that come from their communities.

That's the tough, unpopular, some say liberal, view of Anthony P. Trivisono, who for two years as state corrections director has held what Governor Noel has called "one of the hottest seats in state government".

Criminals do not come from one community in the state. They come from many communities in the state. Therefore, the director reasons, minimum security inmates should be kept in facilities throughout the state.

"Providence County, the major cities in Providence County - basically Providence, Pawtucket, East Providence, Woonsocket, and Central Falls - I think, have a serious commitment to make here, to allow the state Department of Corrections to come into towns or cities", Trivisono said.

"Most of the (prison) population comes from those towns and they just can't wash their hands of this anymore. They should help us come into their towns and be part of it," Trivisono said.

Trivisono firmly believes most convicts should be in community based programs throughout the state and he thinks the public would be better off having some inmates serving time in halfway houses than incarcerated at the institutions in Cranston.

The \$70,000 master plan, which Trivisono considers his biggest achievement in the last two years, supports that thesis, recommending a network of halfway houses for minimum security inmates be established as soon as possible.

For Trivisono, the halfway house concept is "the most important part" of the massive document which also recommends establishing an "intake service center" for inmates awaiting trial, another center for inmates who need to be confined 24 hours a day and a high security center for about 60 prisoners.

"I would hope that the whole concept of decentralization would be a very major issue and that we could have correctional facilities, be they halfway houses, group homes or minimum security or work release centers



in at least three or four areas of the state." Trivisono said, commenting on what he thinks should be the first priority for the future.

In order to straighten out the ACI, as we know it, we must remove from the ACI people who are removable and then concen-

trate on the rest of the population when it is reduced. If we had to rebuild the prison to meet the (population) needs we have now, we wouldn't be able to do it wisely. There are just too many under one roof," Trivisono said.

The answer to the problem - and Trivisono considers it a "pragmatic, realistic" response - is the halfway houses.

The master plan, which Trivisono has termed "a study of alternatives," suggests abandoning the maximum security section of the ACI as a prison and converting it to a state warehouse and using the medium security building to house a Rhode Island court complex.

Prisoners in maximum and medium would conceivably be transferred to new or renovated buildings, either in the Howard complex or at another location.

The master plan contains programs which Trivisono believes would prepare convicts to return to society, make them less dangerous and hostile and lower the rate at which prisoners return to prison.

At the same time the plan "would give us more security, a good kind of security. The men wouldn't be fighting it all the time," he said.

"We still need prisons. There's no question about it, but different kinds of prisons. Our whole code is based on retribution. There is a time when some people need to be removed from society as a punishment, but that is the punishment - loss of freedom. It is irresponsible to say lock them up and throw away the key," Trivisono said.

"I am hoping my successor will be the type of man or woman who will fight as hard for these principles as I have," Trivisono said when asked who would defend his controversial views after he is gone.

Family & Friends at Thomaston

by Pat Gros, SCAR

The visiting room at the Maine State Prison at Thomaston is a small stuffy room with a guard or two at each end observing the conduct of the visitors and prisoners. Tables separating the visitors and wooden chairs were recently removed from the room thanks to the present Inmate Advisory Council composed almost entirely of SCAR members. Now there are more comfortable chairs in a circle and, although it is slightly more relaxed, people can't smoke and children have to be watched and quieted constantly.

Other ways for prisoners to visit with their loved ones happen rarely, such as a Jaycee function. I attended the last Jaycee dinner, which was lobster and cost \$4 a head. Those who can afford it, and who haven't been written up recently, can sit for a three hour dinner, listen to endless speeches and sexist jokes, and try to talk in the time between speeches.

The prisoners have other ideas as to what can be done to improve visiting. On the last Sunday in June, a Family Day Picnic was put on by the IAC. It represented a lot of hard work and planning, negotiating with Warden Mullaney and ensuring it was pulled off without bad incidents.

All visitors arrived by 11:00am, our names were checked at the desk and our personal articles put in lockers. A few at a time, we were let upstairs, stamped and led into the yard. None of us had ever been to this part of the prison and were surprised to see that grass grew behind those walls.

Music was playing and brothers who weren't attending leaned out windows or sat outside waving to us as we walked through. Blankets were available to sit on; Danny Trask had made a beautiful wooden

swing with a canopy for the children to play on. Our brothers cooked hamburgers and hot dogs over a grill; these had to be paid for by the brothers as none of the visitors were allowed to bring anything in with them.

It didn't take long for most people to relax. On this beautiful, clear day the children ran freely and most people didn't look up to see the walls and towers with guards carefully watching us all. For the first time our brothers could visit with their loved one in a close to natural way. Fathers whose families don't visit any more played with other people's children. Knowing so much love around them, the children were really enjoying the day. They could visit their fathers and not be told they must sit down or be quiet. The looks on people's faces reflected our ability to talk freely; conversation flowed and there were even sounds of true laughter, something I've never noticed at regular visiting.

Warden Mullaney was away on vacation during this Family Day picnic, so he could not see with his own eyes the need for this kind of function. People can meet in a real way, so our brothers have more of a chance to have something to come out to. The ability to have private visits would further this even more.

A family day picnic will happen again in July, and hopefully more often in the future. We also hope it can be expanded to include friends, as now it is limited to family and girl friends. An alternative is being planned for the winter months.

This was a great achievement by our SCAR brothers inside Thomaston. It will help us move toward further change in the institution until it is seen as the inhuman and non-productive place it is and we can do away with it entirely.

Reflection

by Ray Blais, Editor, NPRA NEWS

Just for one moment I would like you to put this newspaper down and give serious consideration to a question I pose. How many articles have you read in local papers in the last two years pertaining to prison reform, disturbances, surveys, etc.? My bet is that you have read far too many, especially since we have not done anything to correct them. Seems awfully funny, doesn't it? If it were not such a sad fact, it would be funny. The funniness ceases when prisoners, their families and officers lives are at stake. Regardless of what side of the fence we are on, we are all human beings. Hell yes, you've heard all these things in the past, but what do we do about our situation now? By now, I mean now, not in one year or twenty. What do top officials need to act? Have the people in the State of Rhode Island not learned anything by previous prison disturbances throughout the country, such as Attica, and, yes, even our own little uprising?

Please do not order another survey. We need immediate action. As of mid-July the ACI is in complete chaos. The administration, superior officers and regular officers, prisoners and other personnel are in a state of solid disorientation. Disaster is facing all of us and must be checked. Does that statement seem exaggerated? From the bottom of my heart I wish it were so. If you think the cries of officials for assistance in this most serious situation are unfounded, then go ahead and sit back on your butts and do nothing. The officials and prisoners here have accepted negative attitudes; time will tell how long they can harbor them.

First and foremost, the Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, the warden and his staff, and representatives of the three prisoner-sponsored organizations must all sit in unison and sincerity to surface all indifferences and lay down the ground-rules. The Governor's office and the Dept. of Correction's Director should also be included in this forum to get this place back together and moving forward. We have the tools, what we need is a "quarterback" who can call the signals without interference from above. We don't need these things in the future, we need them yesterday.

August

People-to-People

by Robert Marquis, ACI, R.I. Prisoner

What keeps a man going after he is sent to prison, and everything seems to fail him? What lifts him up, when he is completely down, and depression tears at his flesh like a living monster? Somehow he manages to stagger back to his feet, grasping at something to hang on to.

I call this extra surge of power, HOPE. The road back to life at the top, instead of existence at the bottom, is up-hill all the way and danger lurks at every turn. His falls are many. The monotonous prison routine, the constant harrassment, and the excruciating pain in his guts, sap the strength from his very soul; yet he continues to move forward.

Something keeps picking him up and he begins the struggling climb back to the top. Some people call this motivating force faith in God and God only; but I believe it is also man's faith in himself. From this faith comes hope, hope that he will not be defeated again. However, man needs more than belief in God and himself to reach this plateau of hope. He needs someone to need him; someone to care that he is alive. Beckoning lights to lure him onward, in the form of visits and love from his wife, children, family and friends. The knowledge that he is important to them, as they are to him, renews his strength and gives him hope.

What about inmates who do not have visits or loved ones to give him hope? Perhaps the only thing that keeps them going is the love of life itself.

As long as man thinks that his life is important, there is always hope. With hope, anything is possible; without it, man has nothing.

Help give HOPE to a con. Join the People-to-People Program, a program of correspondence between people on the outside and prisoners. Write to Karl Grunert, Coordinator, People-to-People, 321 Wallis Rd., RFD 1, Rye, N. H. 03870.



NEPA NEWS

Creative Energy

by Shelley Killen

As part of a continuous art program at the R.I. Training School for Boys, College Community Art Projects initiated a group mural at the Washington County Health Clinic to be painted by members of the Boys School and artist, George Knowlton. The mural was conceived of as a bright, inviting form that would lessen the cool atmosphere of the health clinic and make patients feel more at home.

Prisons are symptoms of a general dehumanization that pervades Americal life. The pattern of rich exploiting poor, strong exploiting weak breeds violence and is the ultimate source of all crime. There is a growing awareness among concerned people that by incarcerating and brutalizing our fellow creatures we finally do injury to ourselves. By turning our energies to creation rather than destruction and substituting understanding for harsh judgement, we become more human and more in touch with reality.

By extending the art program at the Boys Training School to the community of South County Rhode Island, we have begun a reconciliation between the outsiders and the insiders that will hopefully result in a fuller understanding of each other's humanity. Each act of creation strengthens our community just as each act of destruction weakens it.



Weightlifting at ACI, R.I.

by Dennis Wilmot & Steve Jaron, ACI, R.I.

Perhaps more than any other recreation available, many prisoners consider the weight-lifting equipment at the most important. Dennis "Grubs" Pierce, an inmate weight-lifter, explains why. "I've been here sixteen months," Pierce explained, and "I've done my whole bit lifting weights, keeping my mind off my time, plus keeping me in shape."

"I release a lot of tension by lifting, and with the lack of programs in the institution to better yourself, it really helps to occupy my time," he said. Asked about the new weight-lifting machine installed in the gym, he said, "It took us five months to get it in there and set up, but we can't use it as 'state men' cannot use the gym during the day and because of a lack of officer personnel in the evening hours the gym must remain closed."

Asked about his general health relating to weight-lifting, Pierce said, "It's enlightening as far as my physical health and appearance is concerned, and I've also been using health food purchased from the N.P.R.A. store, but now we have a problem because credit has not been extended to the store, from the outside supplier." He explained that health foods are almost a necessity in weight-lifting because institutional food contains too much starch and not enough protein.

With all the difficulties faced by any inmate in prison, we asked what relation, if any, did weight-lifting have to do with rehabilitation. Pierce said, "I can relate weight-lifting to my rehabilitation because as I improve my physical condition, I also strive to improve my mental health and moral character through strict self-discipline."

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Strike & Transfers at Norfolk

Twenty-six prisoners were transferred from Norfolk following the fifth day of a six-day strike over poor medical care and failure to implement reform programs. The strike began after the death of Norfolk prisoner James Cofield, whom prisoners believed had received inadequate treatment in the prison hospital. The prisoners were transferred at the demand of the prison guards. Disciplinary charges have not as yet been filed against these men; no hearings were held prior to the four am action by the Corrections Dept.

Families' Statement

The following is a statement of Families of Norfolk Prisoners who were transferred:

We feel that the action that the Corrections Department has taken against our husbands, brothers, boyfriends and fathers was purely an act of intimidation. It was an excuse for the state police to arrive in full riot gear with their dogs as a show of force against 700 unarmed men. The 26 who were chosen were awakened in their beds at 4 am and herded to Walpole without explanation. The strike-breaking tactics worked and the strike ended the next day. We are sorry about that.

Organizing and Repression

Following an Independence Day demonstration which resulted in ten NEPA members being put in solitary, MCI-Bridgewater's Warden Charles Gaughan has attempted to shut off all communication between inside and outside members. The demonstration came one day after Gaughan said there would "never" be a NEPA chapter in the Bridgewater State Hospital and refused to allow outside members to meet with prisoners.

Since the July 4th incident Gaughan has ordered all NEPA mail to and from prisoners to be seized by guards. He has also begun turning away visitors suspected of working with NEPA members inside and outside the prison. At least four men who took part in the demonstration were shipped to other prisons (Tom Swift to Walpole, Ron Salvucci to Charles St. Jail, and Kevin Ford and Arthur Graham to Billerica Jail).

At the request of 300 men who petitioned for a NEPA chapter at Bridgewater, NEPA organizers have been negotiating with Gaughan and with Commissioner of Corrections Frank Hall for three months. On July 2, NEPA organizers Russ Carmichael and Marty Gyukeri, along with prisoner James Bel, held a press conference denouncing Gaughan's refusal to abide by departmental regulations permitting prisoners organizations. On July 3, Gaughan met with NEPA representatives for the first time, but refused to allow NEPA access to the prison.

On the night of July 4, prisoners William Bailey and Arthur Graham were beaten by guards in the yard of the State Hospital, while other prisoners playing softball looked on. Since these two beatings were just the latest in a string of such incidents, several prisoners decided to demand a meeting with Gaughan to protest the brutality. Ten men climbed an apple tree in the prison yard and said they wouldn't come down until they got a meeting with the warden. After an hour sitting, and after being threatened with fire hoses and tear-gas grenades, the men agreed to come down and were led off to F-Ward, Bridgewater's solitary confinement unit. The guards later returned to the scene of the crime and were seen chopping down the apple tree.

Immediately after the demonstration, Bridgewater guards began confiscating mail to and from NEPA members, while visitors began to be carefully screened. The men who were not shipped out have not been heard from since they were put into F-Ward on July 5. (They are Ralph Geary, Jeff Kaelin, Don Brough, Bob Hamilton, John O'Neill, Steve Nadola, and Paul Kostka.)

As part of Gaughan's crackdown, guards have also confiscated prisoners' copies of the Mental Patients' Liberation Front handbook "Your Rights as a Mental Patient in Massachusetts". This booklet is an invaluable legal tool for Bridgewater prisoners, and for anyone who is threatened with men-

We support completely the right of our men to strike and protest peacefully. In concocting charges against these men, Commissioner Hall has attempted to fool the public. Acting without regard for even the Department's own procedural guidelines, he has ignored the recent Supreme Court decisions upholding the right of prisoners to protest peacefully and to strike.

This move has not only disrupted the lives of our men, perhaps even delaying their release for a few years; it has also disrupted our lives and expectations and those of our children.

To us, this incident is proof that all the Department of Correction's rhetoric about reform and community based corrections is just that--rhetoric. The way these programs have been used as prizes for submissive behavior has produced the frustration and anger that leads our men to strike. The Department's strong-arm tactics are further proof of its failure to respect the men whom it is supposed to be providing with an opportunity for responsibility and self-respect. We are calling on Commissioner Hall to order that these men be returned to Norfolk immediately and that their records be cleared of any reference to this incident.

Walpole

July 21, 1974

You know that we--persons inside and outside the NPRA, individuals and groups-- have been making several legal and organizational moves against the prison administration and against the Department of Correction and the police and political cliques that support them.

It's taken time to put these assaults together properly, especially against the opposition of our enemies, and even against the delaying tactics of some who are supposed to be our friends. But we've had enough people, inside and outside, working together to be ready very shortly to do what has to be done.

One of the main attacks is a Federal suit against the whole oppressive apparatus, and all those in leadership positions who support it. Since we want to make the suit good and tight, we're putting it together carefully even if it takes a little extra time. But it should be ready for filing in a week or two.

We're also putting together a legal organization so that we can follow up the Federal suit properly, and especially so we can take any prisoners case, for any reason he feels he is being unjustly treated, and file a strong suit for him.

We're in the process of having a full-day Seminar of all the outside prison reform and help groups to come into Walpole in a few weeks. This will be, in great part, a Community Project to notify communities that the prisoners here want to work with them to drastically reduce the crime problem and any other problem we can help them with.

There's a lot of other things that are very important, being done by prisoners, singly and in groups. They're working quietly and naturally deserve a lot of credit. They're publicizing their business the way they want to.

BUT WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME: The administration is going to do everything it can to shoot into us to destroy our work and our main goal, which is to eliminate prisons and the crime they produce. The administration has already started with the provocation of the metal detectors in the corridors. Waitkevich and the others know perfectly well this will cause trouble between the line guards and us. We don't want, and don't need, that kind of trouble.

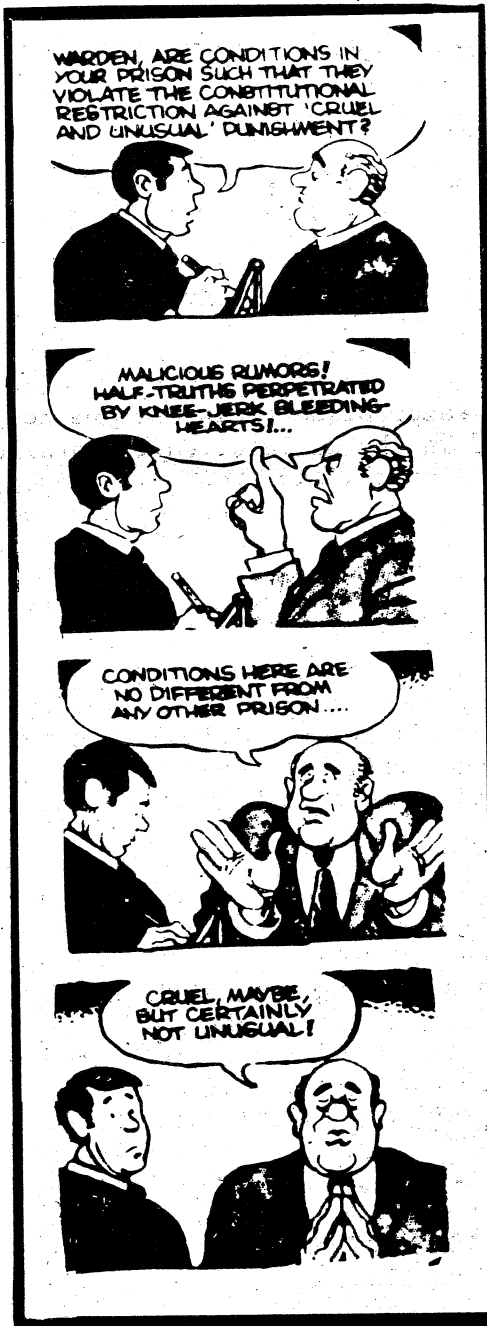
Waitkevich started the last riot, May 16, 1973. Now he and his buddies want to start another one. We can't give them that satisfaction. The line guards have already been told by us that the metal detectors are only a cause of trouble. A lot of them know this and don't like it either. That leaves it to us to play it cool enough to do our business and avoid a violent confrontation over anything, including violence between ourselves. We've been through enough troubles by now to know better.

NOTICE: The tentative date for the seminar is August 17, 1974. For more info contact Joe Sandler, outside NPRA, 742-4729 or 876-7156.

As depressing as the above scene seems, the situation at Bridgewater is not all bad. For one thing, the NEPA members in the prison side of Bridgewater have staged two successful strikes (one led to a ballot in which the men voted to form a NEPA chapter, and the other led to a still-continuing investigation of two guards). Secondly, just the existence of a demonstration in the State Hospital is a sign that the men of Bridgewater have had enough, and are ready to work together to bring change. Thirdly, Gaughan's repression isn't quite working. News of events inside is getting out, though slowly, while outside interest and support for the struggle of the Bridgewater men is building.

The men inside Bridgewater need the active support of those on the streets. Please contact:

Bob Martin
661-9220
or
Russ Carmichael
899-8827



tal f italization. (For a copy, write to MF Box 156, W. Somerville, Mass. 02144, Gaughan even barred a Harvard student who has been teaching a Black Studies course at Bridgewater for two years because he distributed copies of the book in his class.

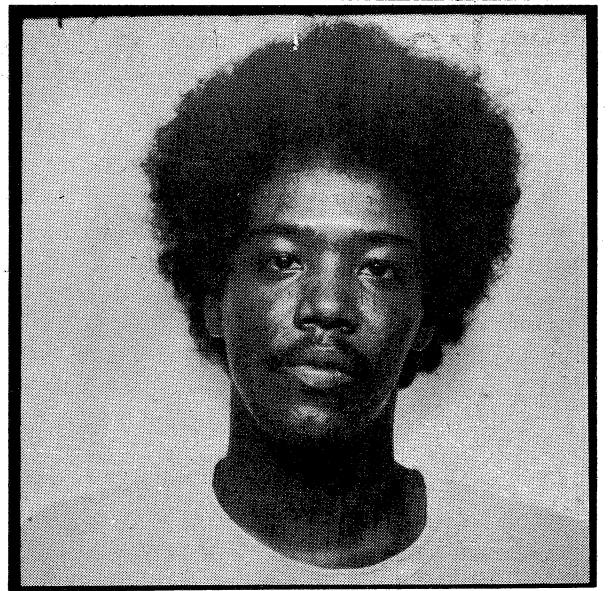
As this is written, an attempt is being made to organize a legal defense for the ten men in the July 4 demonstration, though this is hard because no contact has been made with six of them. Suits are being prepared in regard to the MPLF book and the seizure of mail. For what it's worth, negotiations with Commissioner Hall are continuing.

When You're Right

You Fight

March and Rally in Support of John Yancey

and to Commemorate the
Death of George Jackson



John Yancey
Prisoner from Portsmouth, N.H. in
New Hampshire State Prison

March: 12 noon, Sat. August 24 at First National Parking Lot, Portsmouth, N.H.
Rally: 12:30 Goodwin Park, Islington St.

Speeches and Entertainment

Sponsored by The John Yancey Defense Committee

Drop the Charges Against John Yancey

One of Many

A prisoner is physically beaten in the name of control, is deposited in an isolation cell to command respect, is forced to spend months locked away from the general population of the prison for the purpose of rehabilitation. It is not new, nor is it unique. It is not a technique applied solely to those who threaten the security of the institution. It may happen for no greater reason than such offenses as "being on a tier during night yard". It happens in this country daily, and happens in the state of New Hampshire. It happened to John Yancey, one of the many prisoners throughout the U.S. who have tasted the bitter venom of the penal institutions. Such treatment must stop and it must stop now. John was not only attacked by eight guards, but he now faces a possible 20 year sentence on charges of assaulting the guards who attacked him. The time is NOW to demand changes, to be outraged at injustice, to look with wide-open eyes at what is occurring on the other side of the bars. The time has come to speak it in the streets, to rally and to march, to support the freedom of a Brother and in so doing to support justice for all Brothers and Sisters behind the bars.

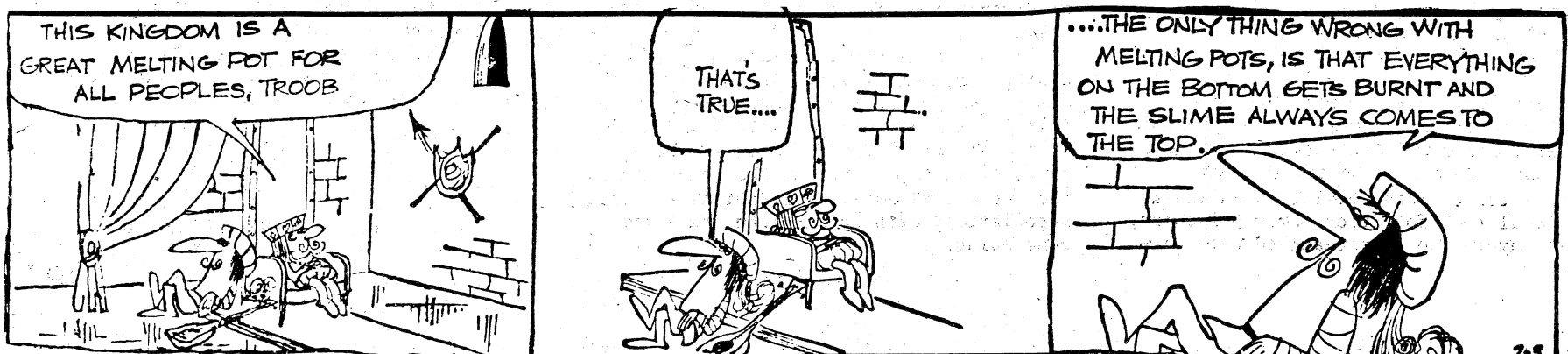
Facts on the Attack

On December 11, 1973 John Yancey was cutting pictures from a magazine with a razor blade (scissors are not allowed in the cells). Capt. LaValley, Lt. Morrisette, and about six guards came to his cell and ordered him to back up to the bars to be handcuffed. John asked where he was going and why. He was told to go the hole (isolation unit where prisoners are stripped and put in this super heated solitary cell indefinitely, sometimes with no mail and no visits). He again asked why, but received only repeated demands to back up to the bars.

Then Capt. LaValley ordered John to be maced. After he was totally blinded and gagging from the mace his cell was opened and he came stumbling out, still holding the razor blade. He was grabbed, beaten, and dragged to segregation. During the attack two guards were cut by the razor blade. Twenty-four hours later John learned he was put in solitary for "Spitting in the direction of Capt. LaValley" and "Being on a tier during night yard". He also learned that he is facing two counts of assault on an officer. Since John was blinded he is unaware of who was cut and how badly; however, the charge could bring him up to twenty years of imprisonment. He was due to get out next year.

From December to August

After a day or two in the solitary cell, John was transferred to the Annex. The Annex is a building separate from the rest of the prison population with a twenty-three hour lock-up, a half hour for a shower and a half hour for exercise on a thirty foot tier. The first couple of months he was denied use of a television set, and eventually the administration took his radio. The other prisoners occupying the Annex were allowed to have theirs. In show of support for John the men in general population pooled their money (wages inside are .75 cents a day) and bought him another radio. They kept him supplied with canteen goods, typed his papers, kept in touch through correspondence, etc. The administration was uncomfortable with such solidarity and began to stop correspondence. Mail from the outside was censored and portions of letters concerning John and the John Yancey Defense Committee began appearing on the front page of the Manchester Union Leader without consent of either writer or recipient. On June 12 he was allowed back in general population and is now working with his Brothers inside to gain a unified support for his trial. They realize that his trial is the trial of all prisoners who live under the daily threat of attacks.



Public Support--March and Rally

It is of primary importance that support be shown in the streets. Without visible solidarity on the outside a quiet and speedy trial may give John twenty years of imprisonment. It is up to us to respond to a call for real justice, to show that brutality in prisons, quick trials which devour years of a person's life in seconds, and general disregard for the rights of prisoners will no longer be tolerated. Come to the march and rally August 24, Saturday.

It will support freedom for John Yancey and commemorate the death of Soledad Brother George Jackson, murdered on August 21, 1971. It is a rally to say NO MORE MARTYRS! Now is a time to Act!

History of John Yancey/Tokio Suzuki

In order to understand fully the attack, it is necessary to have some concept of the forces which have been controlling John's life since childhood.

Beatings have always been a natural element in life to me; like I was oriented with it when I was young in the orphanage in Japan. It's more an institutional philosophy of discipline. And I look at it as something to be expected from them.

John is half Black, half Japanese. His birth name is Tokio Suzuki. The first six years of his life were spent in a Japanese orphanage.

The year I was adopted was 1956, and I was six years old, but by that time I knew how to survive without parental supervision. I say this because the orphanage where I was at (Yokohama) was a gruesome task to survive day to day. I remember a lot of the kids there died of starvation and only the fittest lived.

From the day he was born John has been confronted with extreme forms of racism. There was a caste system in the orphanage. The Japanese children were fed first, then the white children. The children of mixed races, i.e. white/Japanese, black/Japanese, were fed whatever was left.

Many times they went without. Many died. Beatings were the way of life at the orphanage. Before the age of six John learned that his survival depended upon his ability to fight and steal.

At the age of six he was adopted by a black American family. He knew no English. He had to be retaught value systems, simple things, like a person can leave the table and return to it knowing the food would still be there. He had to learn to adjust to a culture he had never known. The effect of such total change was far reaching.

John's school grades fluctuated between average to an A student while facing limitless personality conflicts. When he was quiet and a recluse he was considered a good student. When he was loud and clowning around he was considered a bad student. He was suspended many times for disrupting class. His grades improved to A's with teachers who took the time to know him and treated him with respect.

Eighth grade was spent at Pine Haven, a boy's home in Suncook, N. H. Racism was prevalent. Once he was attacked by a group of 20-30 year old men for dancing with white girls. Yet at the end of the year he was voted the most improved and most popular student.

At the age of sixteen he was put in the State Industrial School for shoplifting.

The reform school was something else, nearly parallels this place. First time I've ever seen racism used by powers that are supposed to govern us and then get abused by ones that are given powers over juveniles because they get the name of the law behind them. There is where I first got a reputation as being a so-called anti-social, anti-law, anti-morals, anti-anything they seemed fit to call me in this state. All because I usually voiced out my objections of tactics they used. John spent over



5 months of a 10 month sentence in segregation. *The guards had every authority to beat you without any questions yet I made it an issue... There was a time when the administration set me up with my peers so I could be transferred to the prison but it didn't work. It had the makings of the dirtiest tactics they used.* This was in reference to a charge that he had masturbated in a friend's mouth. John had to defend himself since juveniles were not allowed to have lawyers in such situations. He won the case.

Such incidents in institutions were not uncommon to him. There was an incident later at Rockingham County Jail, Brentwood, N. H. concerning an attack by a police dog. He had been a week in solitary confinement. A couple of escapees from the jail had just been recaptured. He heard the guards laughing about the possibility of killing one of the men since one of the guards had been shooting blindly in the bushes. John yelled *Shut up, you pigs.* The response was *Pig, eh? We'll show you who's the pig. Get the dog.* His cell door was opened and a guard dog was then given the command to attack him. It is only because he beat the dog hard enough to make the dog cower that John is alive today. There was no order for the dog to cease. His hands were badly chewed, yet he had to wait 24 hours before he was allowed to see a doctor.

While at Brentwood he witnessed a man kill a guard. He testified at the trial, knowing that being a witness might cause repercussions from the administration and police officials. Through John's testimony the man's sentence was changed from 1st to 2nd degree murder.

He did suffer repercussions. In one particular incident, a time when he was picked up for skinny-dipping (the particular charge was using abusive words to an officer), an officer made reference over the police

radio to getting the "nigger Yancey" for the testimony. He was taken to Rockingham County Jail.

Immediately they said I had to get a hair cut. I protested that I was going to be bailed out in 15 minutes and plus they had no right to cut it until I was convicted, so 2 guards and 3 state troopers beat me, strapped me to a chair while spread-eagle on the floor and proceeded to cut my hair. Exactly 8 minutes later my people were down there and bailed me out, with a skin baldy.

Through all of this John kept trying to begin again overcome the marks against him. He received a scholarship from Belknap College and had a

job working with children in Upward Bound while on parole from N. H. State Prison. Things were looking better. Upward Bound was very pleased with his work, yet William Loeb decided to intervene. For the sake of selling papers the Manchester Union Leader used John as a John as a front page topic. Day after day editorials were written about the waste of the taxpayer's money on Yancey. Eventually John became fed up and left the state, breaking parole.

He was arrested in Florida and served a year on the chain gang. A social worker there tried to help him but found it virtually impossible because of the influence of William Loeb on the authorities in Florida. After serving time there he was transferred back to N. H. to finish his sentence for parole violation. He now faces a possible additional 20 years of imprisonment resulting from the December attack.

John Yancey Defense Committee

This committee was formed directly after the Dec. 11 assault for the purpose of getting legal help and public support for John and to make the public aware of what is going on in prison, particularly N.H.S.P.

Its goals are:

1. that the charges against John be dropped--John was the attacked, not the attacker;
2. that Capt. LaValley be fired. He is the man who led the attack, is known for telling racist jokes, and being responsible for past harassments of John.
3. that permission for citizens, public officials and news media to inspect the prison anytime, day or night, be granted, thereby lessening chances of further harassments of and assaults on prisoners.

This supplement was prepared by the John Yancey Defense Committee, Box 401, Portsmouth, N. H. and is being distributed by JYDC and NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580.

The Spirit of George Jackson

Part I: George Jackson's Life

August 21 is the third anniversary of the assassination of George Jackson. He was murdered by guards at the San Quentin Prison in California.

George Jackson was a 29-year-old black man who was one of the most outspoken and courageous of the prisoner leaders. He was killed in a desperate attempt to crush the militant struggle of prisoners for radical change.

Early Years

George was born in Chicago on September 23, 1941. Like most young blacks in U.S. ghettos, George soon discovered that trouble was never far away. He got into trouble with local cops, and he began to be picked up regularly on "suspicion of" charges.

In an attempt to remove George from constant confrontation with the police, the family moved to Los Angeles. But the change of scenery was in vain, for it was in L.A. that the prison phase of George Jackson's life began. He was convicted of robbery and assault and went to reform school. Soon after his release he was picked up on a number of robbery charges, most of which he knew nothing about.

This is a familiar practice of the criminal "justice" system. They clean up the record books of unsolved crimes when they can find a poor suspect with a record on whom they can pin the unsolved crimes. This injustice is a common experience of black and poor youth.

In 1960, when he was 18, George was accused of robbing a gas station of \$70. The D.A. offered a "deal". If he would plead guilty (sparing the county the court expenses), George would get a light sentence. He accepted the deal, but when it came time for sentencing, he was given the infamous "indeterminate sentence"--one year to life. This sentence meant that every year he would have to go before the parole board, which would then decide whether or not he should be released. Never knowing an exact release date, George's future depended on the annual whims of the California Adult Authority Board.

George's freedom was held up before him like a bone before a dog. George explained that most prisoners on indeterminate sentence, particularly black prisoners, only leave when they are dead: they are either dead in spirit, defeated, and walk out, or they are carried out in a casket.

The practice of making deals, known as "plea bargaining", is also a familiar practice in the criminal "justice" system. Well over 90% of all criminal defendants never have a trial. They make a deal in the false hope that the judge will go easy on them. Rich defendants--like Spiro Agnew and most of the Watergate defendants--get a good deal from plea bargaining; but

most of the time poor and working people wind up with long prison terms.



Revolutionary Years

While in prison, George began to read revolutionary literature: the writings of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Mao, Malcolm X, and Ho Chi Minh. He became convinced that the source of crime, as well as of prisoners' oppression, is the capitalist system.

He began to organize among prisoners of all races, putting an end to the racial divisions that kept them too weak to resist the strong-armed tactics of guards and prison administrators.

He was labelled "a militant", the worst thing to be in the eyes of the prison authorities, a prisoner who refuses to become sub-human, a slave.

On January 16, 1970 a guard at Soledad Prison (where George was being held) was killed in retaliation for the murder of three prisoners. They charged three men with the murder of the guard--Fletta Drumgo, John Clutchette, and George Jackson, and they became known as the Soledad Brothers.

One thing was standing in the way of the prison authorities. No real evidence! So, they took extra precautions to keep the three men under control. They were not allowed to get in touch with their families or lawyers, and were held in solitary confinement, locked in the hole. Finally, John Clutchette managed to smuggle out a note to his family which read, "Help! Life in danger."

It is common in prisons to surround a troublesome situation with a veil of secrecy. This allows prison officials to control what information reaches the public. For example, last year there was a "lock-up" at the New Hampshire State Prison, when some prisoners were transferred to federal penitentiaries in the middle of the night and the rest were locked-up day and night in their cells. Visitors and lawyers were not allowed in, and the warden fed the public his

story that the lock-up was ordered to stop an escape attempt. Actually, the lock-up was a "show of force" by the warden to prevent a strike by guards, who believed the warden was being too permissive. As of this writing Charlie Parker, N.H. S.P prisoner charged with the murder of another prisoner, is being held in the hole. He is allowed no visitors, and his sister has been turned away repeatedly.

At Soledad, as in the case of the N.H. lock-up, the organized prison movement on the street mobilized to expose the intentions of the prison officials. Soledad Defense Committees were set up all over the country, and the cry of "Free the Soledad Brothers" was heard.

What had started out as just another trial blossomed into a clear, loud indictment of the prison and court system in this country.

Meanwhile preparations continued for the trial of the Soledad Brothers. John Clutchette, Fleeta Drumgo, and George Jackson were transferred from Soledad to San Quentin.

Death

The power of the peoples' movement to "Free the Soledad Brothers" proved too much for the prison authorities. Instead of killing Jackson legally by giving him the death sentence (under a law similar to the one just passed in New Hampshire, which gives the automatic death sentence to the killer of a guard), they decided to switch to more direct tactics.

On Saturday, August 21, 1971 George Jackson was gunned down.

Associate Warden James Park called a quick press conference to hand out his story. He said that Jackson was being escorted back from a visit when he pulled a .38 caliber revolver out of his hair. He forced the guards to release the prisoners in the adjustment center and then ran out of the building toward the 20-foot wall. He was shot down by a guard in a gun tower, located on the wall, Park said.

But this story had many loopholes, so it had to be changed to cover up the loose ends. In the next few days the Warden issued a number of conflicting reports. The gun was changed from a .38 caliber to a .9 mm revolver (which supposedly could be more easily hidden in Jackson's Afro). It was reported that three guards were killed when Jackson slashed their throats with a razor blade. Then it was reported the guards escaped. Then it was reported the guards were indeed killed, but only one had been slashed. Another was shot, and the third was choked with an electric cord.

Then came the autopsy report on George Jackson, and the warden's story was blown wide open. The autopsy showed he was killed when a rifle bullet hit the top of his head and went through the base of his skull along his spine, and fractured a rib as it came out his lower back. This meant that George had to have been shot when lying down.

The 26 prisoners on the maximum security row of the San Quentin adjustment center, under the ever-present threat of brutality and even death from prison officials,

told the true story of what happened in court a few days later.

They said that on the morning of the 21st, the guards started to transfer prisoners from the second and third floor tiers and brought them down to the first floor cell-block. When they had everyone they wanted down, they ordered the prisoners out of their cells and opened fire.

George knew they were after him especially, so he ran into the yard, hoping to draw their fire away from others. He was shot in the back, and left to bleed for an hour on the ground. When they saw he was not dead, a guard shot him in the head. The gun that George supposedly smuggled into the prison belonged to one of the guards, who threw it down on the ground beside the dead body to make it look like an escape attempt.

The press, obedient to the wishes of the government, carried far and wide the story handed out by the warden, but they hardly mentioned the sworn testimony of the 26 remaining prisoners. No investigation was conducted.

George Jackson was murdered in cold blood by prison officials to prevent him from exposing their corrupt system. He was part of the world-wide struggle of people resisting oppression at the hands of a system run by and in the interests of a few rich bankers and industrialists. He was shot in the back in his last act of selflessness, attempting to protect the lives of his fellow prisoners. George Jackson lives on in the minds and hearts of millions of us who refuse to be bullied any longer.

George Jackson knew what he lived for and what he died for. The epitaph he wrote for himself reads:

*HURL ME INTO THE NEXT EXISTENCE,
THE DESCENT INTO HELL WON'T TURN ME,
I'LL CRAWL BACK TO DOG HIS TRAIL
FOREVER. THEY WON'T DEFEAT MY RE-
VENGE, NEVER, NEVER. I'M PART OF
A RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE WHO ANGER SLOWLY,
BUT RAGE UNDAMNED. WE'LL GATHER
AT HIS DOOR IN SUCH A NUMBER THAT
THE RUMBLING OF OUR FEET WILL MAKE
THE EARTH TREMBLE.*

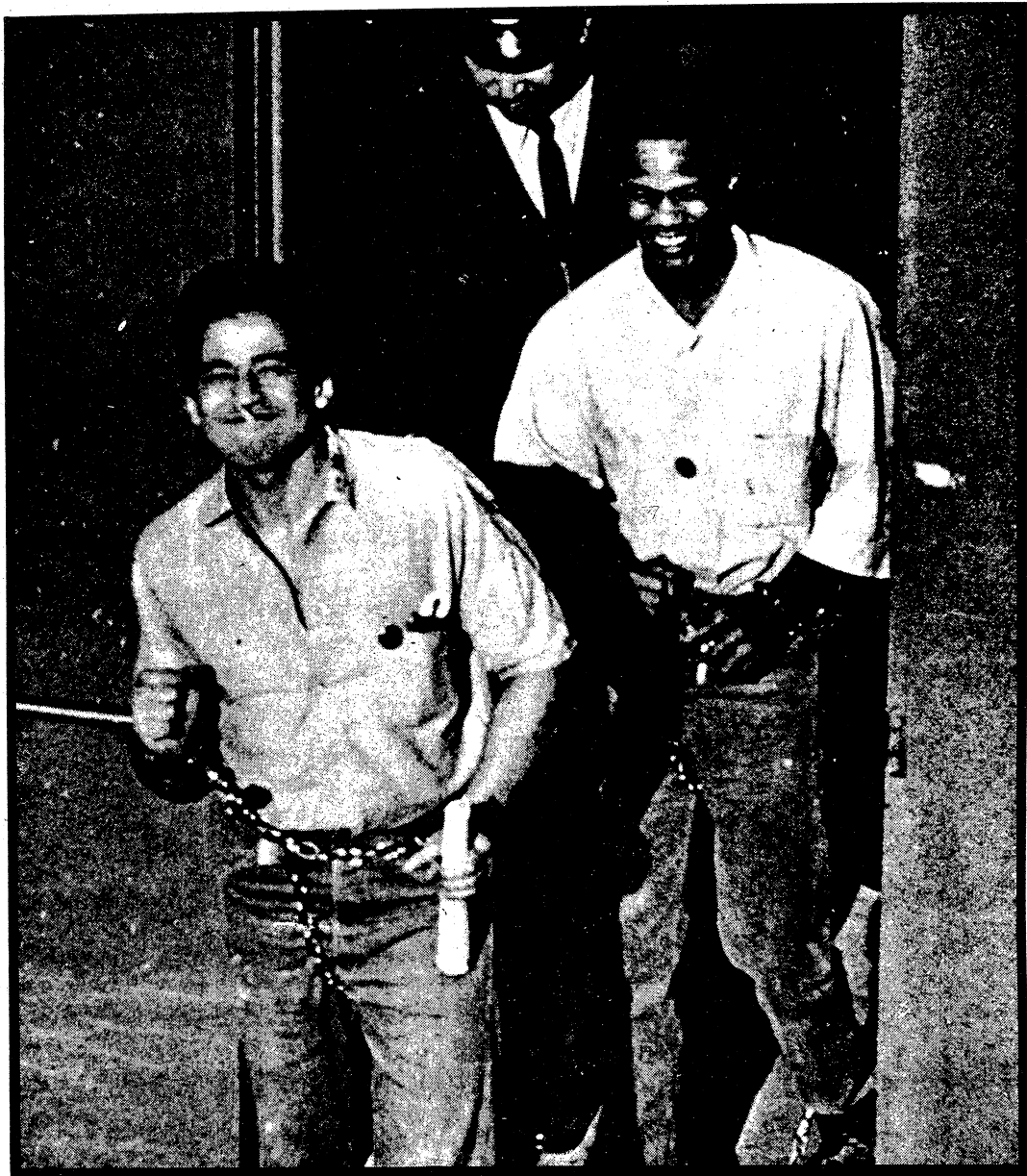
Part II: Prisons In America

Many people have strong prejudices about prisoners. They see them as common hoodlums who couldn't live their lives on the right side of the law, and turned to crime for either fun or profit. They view them as sick.

It is no wonder that people feel this way. The press, the police, the courts, and the politicians go all out to whip up public hysteria against criminals. They do it to hide the fact that it is the capitalist system which breeds crime and creates most criminals.

The vast majority of people in prisons are from working class families. Many were driven to crime because our society is unable to provide a decent life for them.

The system can never provide enough jobs so everyone can make a living wage, and thousands of people are forced into crime so they can live. Together, the number of



people who cannot find jobs and those who have jobs but don't make enough to make ends meet amounts to about 15 percent of the population.

More than 52 percent of the people in city and county jails have not been convicted of the crime of which they are accused. They are awaiting trial and cannot afford bail to get out, even if it is only \$25. And many sit behind bars for months and even years until their trial.

There are very, very few rich people in jail. They have the money to hire a hotshot lawyer and buy off the police, prosecutors and judge if necessary. It is poor and working people who suffer the brunt of the injustices of the criminal justice system.

Of course there are also people in prison who are sick and have committed crimes against people like rape and wanton murder. But the real source of their sickness is our society, which is decaying and becoming increasingly unable to

provide people with anything to live for. Hurting others to serve yourself is as American as apple pie. That's what our economic system is all about. It is part and parcel of the motto, "Look out for Number One, and to hell with everyone else."

If the anti-social people in prison were not poor but rich, they would not be in jail but would be sitting on the boards of directors of the biggest banks and businesses in the country. Then they could steal the people blind like the oil companies are doing with the energy crisis. Or they could commit mass murder by starting a war like the war in Viet Nam. They could harm people in countless ways, and it would all be perfectly legal.

The struggle of prisoners, as George Jackson taught, is not a race war, nor even a war between prisoners and the prison authorities. Their struggle is a class struggle. It is a fight between prisoners, as part of the poor and working classes, against the ruling class of the U.S., the rich men and their politician friends who run the country.

**LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF GEORGE JACKSON
- THE SPIRIT TO FIGHT BACK!**



Letters to NEPA

Dear NEPA:

I am a prisoner at the Vermont State Prison and would like to start off by saying that your paper is the best thing that has happened to New England Prisons in a very long time.

A few days ago the Warden, J. V. Moeykens, placed two other persons and myself in segregation (special adjustment unit) following our escape from the State Hospital in Waterbury 120 miles away from V.S.P. before placing us down here in "the dungeon", with no hearing, I might add - he told us we were all extreme "security risks" and "mentally disarranged". It seems he has taken it upon himself to treat us in his own special way.

We have no idea what is suppose to happen to us as the State Hospital will not take us back for treatment. We asked a Public Defender to speak to the Warden about this matter over the phone but the Warden became hostile and disrespectful toward the P. D.

It would be interesting to run Mr. Moeykens through a psychiatric evaluation, I'm sure everyone would be very surprised, everyone but us inmates who have to live under his thumb. He doesn't seem to care if this prison ever changes.

The conditions are much worst now since he became Warden. There is less exercise, more lock in time, and no work programs to speak of. The lights used to be left on all night, but now they go off at 11:00. It seems to get worst every week.

He once told me "I am the power here, I will give the orders." He not only rules us with absolute power, but he also seems to think he can give orders to our friends and family who call to ask about our welfare. He insults them and uses bad language over the phone and to their faces.

I have been in this sad, gray, dingy prison for six years and have seen what it has done to many of my friends as well as to myself. Ya know, it really turns my stomach. I was sent here at the age of 16, I'm now 22. I have been out once but now there is a good chance that I am back for good, unless the corrections dept. of this state can come up with a meaningful program. I don't mean working in the plate shop making number plates either.

Myself, like others in this human warehouse are a little less together than when we first arrived here and are getting worst all the time. It is no wonder since there is very little to occupy our minds here at the Vermont State Prison. This is one of the main causes why the men who are sent here usually get into more trouble. Many men who can't adjust to this rotten life get into trouble here within the walls and get more time added onto what they already have. I know some men who came here with five years and are now doing 20.

About a week ago a guard that works here told my visitor that we inmates are nothing but animals. He went on to tell my visitor his philosophy. "An animal (meaning inmates) should be chained to the wall and flogged every three hours with a cat-o-nine tails". I don't feel anger toward this so called professional correctional officer, only righteousness knowing that my keeper is perhaps a little less human than myself.

I hope you will print this letter so that people will know what's coming down here at the special adjustment unit, "the dungeon". There is something very wrong here since only two inmates have managed to work their way back into general population this year. All the rest have been pushed to the breaking point and had to be sent to Waterbury State Hospital. I can't begin to give an account of all the suicide attempts there have been. Two men even tried it by means of fire. It's a mad house.

They harrass, humiliate and degrade us out they will never take away our self respect! Thank you for taking time to hear another in struggle.

Sincerely,

Robert Reuschel
V.S.P.

August

This is a copy of a letter sent to Karl Grunert of People-to-People:

Hi, Karl: How're things with you. Fine I hope. As for me, I'm not doing so good as you probably know.

I thought I'd write to you and see if you can do anything at all to help me. I haven't written before because I know how busy you are. But all my efforts have failed and as you know I'm not liked here, and my trip to Leavenworth proved that. So you can guess what they're doing to me now, and getting away with it I might add.

I've been charged with 1st degree murder and since this happened July 4 I've been in the "hole" and now I'm in complete isolation in the prison annex.

My sister has tried in vain to see me. But I'm not allowed to have visits and I've never been allowed a phone call, which is my right. I don't get any exercise. I can't talk to anyone. And I'm kept in this cell 24 hours a day, while these people pass the buck.

I've never seen a lawyer. And they won't allow me a phone call so I can't get one.

My sister called the A.G. (Rudman), and to show how bad things are for me, he told my sister he'd write her a letter and let her know when she can see me. So you can see how interested he is.

I've written letters to the Dep. Warden (Fuller) and he refuses to answer me, or to see me.

Doctor Paysen ordered medication for me and the prison doctor said he'd quit if he gave me medication. They give me thiorazine, but I've refused it because they're trying to make a veg. out of me.

They're doing all this to me as punishment--at least that's the way I've heard it. I can only write one letter a week because Sunday we get a free letter. They won't let anyone send me stamps and I don't have the money to buy any.

I don't know what you can do to help me, but please try, for me. OK, I know you will. Get in touch with NEPA, and spread the word about how I'm being treated.

I'm not asking favors of these people--only to be treated like everyone else that's locked up here.

I'm the only person who is completely isolated from everyone, and not allowed to talk with anyone, or to have a visit from my family, or allowed a phone call. Do what you can for me. Hanging on. Charlie. (Charles Parker, New Hampshire State Prison).

We have been under the impression that one is innocent until found guilty, if found guilty. Apparently this does not hold true for prisoners. We demand that the prison administration cease to persecute Charlie, that he be treated as are the other prisoners, that he be allowed visits, correspondence, exercise and the ability to mingle with the other prisoners. We also demand that Charlie be allowed to call a lawyer. All evidence indicates that prisoners have a very difficult time defending themselves. By preventing Charlie from calling a lawyer the administration is thoroughly sabotaging Charlie's chances for a fair trial.



Dear NEPA,

Residents of the Maine State Prison have been notified that the Media Review Committee will now allow all publications which are lawful for mailing in the United States, except those which depict the manufacture of drugs, alcoholic substances or the use and manufacture of firearms, explosives and weapons.

SCAR, the IAC (Inmates' Advisory Council) and Attorney Thomas Benjamin have contributed much time and effort towards having this new policy change instituted.

Albert Paul

Maine State Prison

NEPA NEWS

Dear NEPA,

I am a prisoner at Maine State Prison. When I was sentenced here, it was supposed to be for "rehabilitation". How can there be any rehabilitation when there is no help or training offered to the inmates? The only jobs there are not beneficial to the inmates, but are beneficial to the State's bank accounts. For examples: The State Roadsign Shop, State Furniture & Woodshop, and The State License Plate Shop. Who in hell is going to make plates or signs on the streets? Nobody!

Why aren't there training programs like welding, computer technology, accounting, or even management training programs, set up for the betterment of the uneducated, unskilled inmates?

I don't see how there can be any talk of rehabilitation in any prison until these wishes and dreams become reality. The reality of the deliberately oppressed.

Are we oppressed ones supposed to bow down to the oppressors, causing more oppression of the poor peoples? I think not. If it takes a fight to end an era of repression and oppression in prison then let that struggle begin now for the benefit of all future mankind! Someday, hopefully in the near future, the prisons will be for the benefit of their inhabitants.

I wonder why inmates can't get together and form a complete mobilization in all of the shops until their demands are met. A mobilization would certainly bring immediate action to our demands. For that matter, I feel that a national prison mobilization could and would force the government to start treating us better.

There is strength in Unity!

Unite today

In the Struggle,

Daniel Covert



In my observations there has been a growing tendency within prison or out in some women's groups to view men as the all-corrupting purveyor of inequities. This is a trap which men fell into countless ages ago when the first woman was discriminated against. I see humanity as the whole of a species, of which man and woman are but two halves. In keeping faith with this belief, it has become a necessity for me to keep my sanity; with the implication that man is the enemy of woman, it also implies the opposite, that woman is the enemy of men. This I cannot stomach. I believe that man and woman should be equal partners in life, giving and receiving of each other in consummate harmony, and that the real enemy is any system that tries to elevate either man or woman over the other.

Speaking as a man (for I cannot speak in any other way), I know that I still have a lot of bullshit polluting my mind, but this is the system's fault. I believe it is the duty of every person to overcome the garbage that has been planted into just about everybody's mind about any kind of "mystique", feminine or masculine. The only mystique valid enough to call it such is that of the individual and in these times one must not try to carry individualism too far. We must all shoulder the burden of revolution together and not try to blame it all on either minority or majority groups or sexual gender.

In building the proper revolution we must recognize the fact of sexual discrimination along with the myriad other discriminations and work toward a solution. The only solution being, of course, complete equality of all humanity. No man is better than the next, and no woman, either. There should be no rivalry between the sexes, ethnic or racial groups; we must all fight for this equality in every way imaginable, or this movement we call revolution will become nothing more than a passing fad, and the true enemy, the system which perpetuates this discrimination, will end in victory.

Roger F. Boberg
NHSP

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News from New England and Around

Quotes

From a striking Black worker at the Dodge Truck plant near Detroit: "We can all be down here calling each other niggers and honkies, but to Chrysler we're all the same color--green!"

"I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."--Richard M. Nixon

"No man is born a criminal; society makes him so, and the only way to change things is to change social conditions."--Kwame Nkrumah, Freedom Fighter and former President of Ghana.



Vermont

Two postscripts from June:

On June 1 there was a prisoners' art show on the Green at Woodstock, sponsored by the Woodstock Prisoner Support Group. It was a beautiful day. Some prisoners were let out on pass, and enough pictures sold to buy materials to build easels to be used within the jail.

On June 17 the following article appeared in the Burlington Free Press with the headline "Gypsies In Barre Demand, Get Bail."

"Barre--Some 100 Gypsies jammed into the police station Saturday night demanding the release on bail of a Gypsy charged by Montpelier police with "false pretence" in connection with the seal-coating of private driveways.

The police began an active search of an available judge to set bail when the visitors threatened to bring in 450 Gypsies from New Hampshire and up to 300 from Plattsburg, N.Y.

"They threatened to line each side of North Main street with trailers," Det. Ronald W. West reported.

West said the Gypsy was released on \$1,000 cash bail.

July 3. Three Vt. State Prison prisoners who were at the maximum security unit in the Vt. State Hospital (at Waterbury) escaped. Bobby Reuschel, Al Zera, and Kennie Noel were all picked up within 24 hours and are now on the Special Adjustment Unit back at Windsor.

July 4. At Vt. State Prison several prisoners appeared to have detained two guards in the kitchen for an undetermined period of time. The incident ended peacefully, although certain prisoners were transferred to the Special Adjustment Unit. Visiting was stopped for 30 minutes while prisoners were brought under control of the guards.

July 6. A few prisoners on C-Block in Vt. State Prison destroyed their cells and threw things around and at guards on the Block. It took several hours for guards to get control of these prisoners who were then put in the hold.

Note: Two unusual things about July 4 and 6 incidents. First, neither were reported in Vermont media. Second, the prison administration did NOT follow their usual pattern of locking up the whole population and having a general shakedown because of the actions of a few.

July 5. It was noted in the Burlington Free Press that the Burlington Community Correctional Center set an all-time record of jailing 104 prisoners at one time. The building was constructed to hold approximately 40.

July 18. Woodstock Prisoner Support Group had its second picnic. Men and women prisoners, as well as community people, came

and had a good time, eating and talking and swimming and playing ball and making music. Woodstock Community Correctional Center staff were invited to come and enjoy themselves too, but none came.

Prisoners within the Woodstock Community Correctional Center are organizing to improve conditions within that jail. As of the middle of July the prisoners appeared to be focusing on two issues: (1) the establishment of a grievance committee made up of prisoners as a liaison with jail staff, and (2) the establishment of disciplinary procedures which would include due process. At present guards and superintendent sit on the disciplinary committee. Prisoners feel this is wrong and that Woodstock should at least have an "outside Hearing Officer" for disciplinary procedures as does Vt. State Prison at Windsor.

A six-week seminar, called Human Development, is being offered at the Vt. State Prison to prisoners and their wives/friends. It covers subjects such as child-care, sexuality, and fair-fighting. It is being taught by outside, independent people: a doctor from Burlington and a local woman counselor, who have guaranteed confidentiality to those who participate in it.

For at least the past year, the number of drug arrests in the St. Albans area has been extremely high, due in part to the efforts of an undercover agent, Paul Lawrence. There have been numerous complaints, until recently ignored, from the community and defense attorneys regarding Lawrence's actions and statements.

On July 12, Paul Lawrence was arrested on eight counts, including acquiring money from police departments for drug purchases which were not made and for perjury allegations.

As a result of this arrest, 35 pending cases are being dropped, Att. Gen. Cheney announced. A review of 28 people already convicted was promised, with priority given to those incarcerated.

In order to collect evidence against Lawrence, another undercover agent, this one from Brooklyn, N. Y., was brought into Vermont.

On July 17 prisoners at Windsor State Prison enjoyed an evening of country western music.

The concert took place in the yard and was presented by Country Cookin. Country Cookin, a well-known Claremont, N. H. band, won the best band of the Northeast award for 1974 in Monticello at the Eastern States Country Music Convention. They were joined on two occasions by inmates for numbers. The combination of warm sunshine, fresh air, and good music made for an enjoyable evening.

Jerry Fox, the leader of the group, expressed a desire to return in the future for another concert. From the warm reception his group received, that prospect will be welcomed by the prisoners.

Conn.

We almost had a NEPA NEWS inside editor for Cheshire Prison in Connecticut. Brother Richie Larke of Cheshire wrote to us inquiring about being an inside editor. We wrote back to him encouraging him. He then wrote to us saying that he would be the editor and asked how he could go about setting up a NEPA chapter in Cheshire.

Before we could send him a reply, we received another letter from Richie. He had been transferred to Somers Prison. This despite the fact that he had only five months to go on his sentence and had already served some 21 months at Cheshire. Strange coincidence, no?

In Connecticut a retired federal prison employee, Michael Kolinchak, is running for the state senate, citing recent political scandals and saying it is time for someone from prison to enter politics. The New York Times quotes Kolinchak: "With so many people in public life going to prison it seemed as a turnabout, fair play, it would be appropriate for somebody out of prison to try to get into public life."

We agree, and NEPA Board Member, Phil Shaw, has a first-rate campaign underway in Maine. Ex-prisoner Shaw is running for Sheriff of Cumberland County.

NHSP

On July 4th at New Hampshire State Prison the administration allowed the prisoners to celebrate "Independence Day" with a fried chicken dinner and a rock band from the outside.

Members of the band were Bill Morissette, Tom Bodner, 'Rogie' Ray Lamontagne, Scott and Frank. All around, it was a really fine day (the music was DYN-O-MITE), with no incidents erupting as a result of the band's appearance.

We thank the band and those who participated in making it a fine day, particularly Carl Peterson and Dapkus.

From: John Butler, NHSP News Bureau

Late word informs us that Bob Breest's appeal to the court to have access to a reporter of NEPA NEWS has been denied. The reason, apparently, is a recent Supreme Court decision that individual prisoners do not have a right to access to personal interviews and, the other aspect, reporters do not have a right to access to individual prisoners. We will try to have a report on this decision of the U.S. Supreme Court next month.

In a related matter, the NHSP Board of Trustees has once again postponed decision on press access. Our editor, Monty Neill, has had requests pending since last February, including requests to interview Bob Breest and John Yancey. The reason this time was that Martin Gross, the only attorney on the Board, was not at the meeting. Given the Supreme Court decision, is anyone willing to bet that Monty will actually gain press access?



Thomaston

In our last issue, Brother Albert Paul of Thomaston, Me. Prison explained in a letter about the mis-management of Food Service at the Prison. Albert charged, among other things, that Officer Donald Lunt, the Food Service Manager, had, together with other guards, stolen great quantities of food. Albert explained how he and another prisoner, Richard Sanborn, had been fired from the prison bakery for exposing Lunt and the others, and how Warden Mullaney had chosen to protect the officers rather than allow the exposure to continue.

However, Albert's efforts may be having some effect. In a letter, he says, "Currently an investigation is being conducted by the Attorney General's office to determine the extent of the manager's involvement in the long-existing mass pilferage of food commodities by prison guards."

Recently Thomaston Warden Garrell S. Mullaney was interviewed on Channel 8 T.V. out of Poland Spring, Maine. He made a number of interesting statements. He said that the cause of crime is social, citing lack of educational facilities, poverty, alcoholism and drug addiction, and the existing of boring and demeaning and ill-paying jobs as causes of crime. He maintained that unless the state can solve these problems, they will not be able to solve the problem of crime. Then, asked if prisons were the solution, Mullaney said, "No."



News Mass.

Last month we reported that Mass. had "no need for a regional maximum security prison to treat its 'special offenders'". It has its own facilities right here in Bridgewater and Block 10 at Walpole." It is important that we demonstrate a hard line against such treatment centers just as we did against the proposed regional prison. For further information, contact Donna Parker, 876-6624, or Bob Martin, 661-9220. If you cannot attend the hearings, which will be held at Walpole, make your views heard by writing to Comm. Hall and Gov. Sargent, both of whom are responsible for this repressive program.

Note: Last minute word says the public hearings will be August 22, 10 AM, Room 1319 at 100 Cambridge St., Boston. The hearings at Walpole are to be held at a later date.

We sadly report that folkhero Bobby Dellelo has returned from mythology to the Monmouth New Jersey County Jail. Word has it that Bobby was caught after his alleged participation in the \$131,000 robbery of an armored car. Supposedly, some localities require only the push of a button to turn all streetlights red and raise all drawbridges, and Bobby was caught at a raised drawbridge.

Bobby was the President of the Walpole NPRA until, convinced that the guards intended to ice him, he made a dramatic escape. Bobby played an important role in keeping the joint together when the prisoners ran the prison in the absence of the striking guards.

Due to the efforts of adult prisoners at MCI-Bridgewater, the Department of Correction may soon be forced to stop imprisoning children in the Bridgewater State Hospital.

Last month, members of the New England Prisoners' Association (NEPA) at Bridgewater got word out that children as young as 13 years old were being held there in the same facilities as adult prisoners. Some of the juveniles had been sent there on court commitments, others had been transferred from state mental hospitals. Last week, a 16 year old girl was being held in solitary confinement in one section of Bridgewater. She was the only woman in Bridgewater at the time. In all, there were between 20 and 30 juveniles imprisoned there.

NEPA members got word of the children's presence out to outside members, who then contacted the press. The result was that an investigation of children at Bridgewater has been started by the State Office for Children and the Department of Youth Services.

Bridgewater Supt. Charles Gaughan said there is nothing new about children being held at Bridgewater. He said he saw nothing wrong with the practice.

NEPA and Families and Friends of Prisoners are both continuing efforts to have children permanently kept out of Bridgewater.

In NEPA's negotiations with Comr. Hall concerning the formation of an inside-outside organization at Bridgewater, the Comr. has repeatedly denied having jurisdiction over Bridgewater except for the BX section. This section involves only 150 prisoners out of a population of nearly 1000. Hall maintains that the Dept. of Mental Health wields the real authority.

Recently, however, Mental Health Comr. William Goldman stated, "Bridgewater is the responsibility of the Corrections Dept. We have nothing to do with Bridgewater with the exception of the treatment center for sex-offenders, where we provide the staff for 120 people in the worst building in the state." He went on to agree that Bridgewater is "alive with violence, theft, physical abuse, bad medical care, racial friction and kangaroo courts."

Chapter 125, sections 1, 18, and 19 of the General Laws state that Bridgewater is, in fact, under the jurisdiction of the Comr. or Corrections. It is about time that Hall face the music. Hall refuses to intervene when his warden, Gaughan, directly counters Dept. policy by refusing prisoners the right to organize and be represented by groups of their own choice.

August

YOUR RIGHTS AS A MENTAL PATIENT IN MASS. is an invaluable handbook published by the Mental Patients Liberation Front (MPLF). The handbook explains your rights during observation, involuntary and voluntary commitment. It provides sample writs for obtaining legal representation, appeal hearings and medical aid. It lists the addresses of all the superior courts in Mass. and about 40 or 50 legal aid services. In addition, it explains all the Mental Health Laws in Mass. Aside from its value to Bridgewater prisoners, it has relevance to all Mass. prisoners who might, as we know, be shipped to Bridgewater at any time.

The handbook can be obtained from: Legal Project, MPLF, Box 156, W. Somerville, Ma. 02114. FREE to all Mass. prisoners.

We have tried to get the report on the beating Danny Martin suffered at the hands of a Walpole goon squad, but Comr. Hall has chosen to give it to top screw D.A. George Burke rather than release it for public scrutiny. Prepared by the Governor's Commission, the report is apparently a scathing attack on the 8 guards and recommends their immediate suspension. Predictably, the guard's union threatened to go out on strike, which would be the best thing to happen at Walpole since they last were on strike and the prisoners proved to the public that they could run the prison better than the guards. However, prison authorities have planned ahead this time as evidenced by steel reinforced doors, walls, locks and metal detectors. Kitchen workers report that the storage lockers are loaded up with peanut butter and sardines, the standard lock-up fare at Walpole.



The QUESTION MARK, the prisoner paper from Norfolk, was banned from the Federal joint in Lewisburg, Pa. because it is allegedly a "pornographic" journal. "Pornography" has been defined by Eugene N. Barkin, general counsel to the Bureau of Prisons as anything which may be "exciting or promoting violence or disorder which would seriously affect the good order of the institution." He adds, "This is not to say that literature which criticizes prisons would not be excluded on this basis alone." Come off it, Eugene.

If New Hampshire should adopt this decision they probably would not be able to make license plates in the joint any longer as they all say, "Live Free or Die."

We wish to offer a rare congratulation to Mass. Corr. Comr. Frank Hall for doing something right, appointing Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch as Medical Director for the Dept. of Corr. In addition to being on the National Advisory Board of NEPA NEWS, Dr. Weisbuch has had a distinguished career as a professor of Community Medicine at Boston University and before that at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Weisbuch is personally known to some of us as a man who matches his professional commitment to quality health care with an abiding fight for the rights of oppressed people. This concern was first extended to the oppressed people of Appalachian coal areas and now to the oppressed persons caged in Massachusetts prisons. He faces a difficult and uphill struggle, but deserves cooperation in his effort to provide quality medical care to prisoners.

A rumor has it that ex-warden Doug Vinzant of Walpole was in fact fired by Hall. This 'forced resignation' supposedly followed on the heels of a minor fist fight between the two gentlemen at a Wellesley cocktail party. Ex-warden Chase of Framingham, according to rumor, was also hatched because she was too liberal. Also included in this spicy rumor is the anticipated firing of "King" Solomon. Rumors don't carry much weight, but it is hoped by many that this last one is true.

When the prisoners of the Berkshire County Jail are moved to new facilities, dogs will take their place as the jail will be Pittsfield's new Dog Pound.

Other News

Maryland Prisoners Organize to Fight Crime: A group of prisoners inside Maryland State prisons have formed the Inmate and Ex-Convict Association, Inc. Their program is working for reducing crime in ghettos and developing alternatives to the incarceration of juveniles. For more information contact Mr. Clarence Crigger, 954 Forrest Street, Baltimore, Md. 21202.

Task Force Prepares Documentary with CBS News: The Task Force, in cooperation with the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches and CBS News, has completed filming a documentary on education release. The program will be aired by the CBS Network on Sept. 15, 1974 at 10:30 AM (EST) and will give an overview of different types of education release programs currently operating in the Massachusetts Correctional System. For more information on these programs contact: Dr. Pearl Waterhouse, Bunker Hill Community College, Charlestown, Ma.; Dr. James Roach, North Adams State College, No. Adams, Ma; Gerald O'Loughlin, Supervisor of Education, Mass. Dept. of Corrections.

Representatives Kastenmeier and Drinan have introduced a bill (H.R. 14594) in the U.S. House of Representatives to restore the right to vote to ex-felons. The bill is currently before the Committee on the Judiciary.

We encourage each reader of NEPA NEWS to write to the Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. urging the Committee to report the bill favorably to the floor of the House. If it passes the Committee and the House it will be able to go to the Senate for a similar process. If it gets through both Houses we think President Nixon will find it in his interest to sign it into law.

Who's Doing What to Whom ?

by Russ Carmichael
Executive Director of NEPA

What's happening to our heads is a question every prisoner has to ask when dealing with the so-called experts on penology. While we struggle with the administrators, state governments, and the federal system which oppresses our human rights, another enemy, more dangerous and deadly, lurks in little academic corners around the world. He is the psychotechnologist, research scientist, doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist, who is bent on controlling our will.

M. Hunter Brown, M.D., Senior Neurosurgeon at St. Johns Hospital in Santa Monica, California, is one of our most feared enemies. In an article entitled "The Captive Patient: A Forgotten Man" Brown pretends he's a fighter for prisoners' rights. He makes a convincing argument for the right of prisoners to have psychosurgery.

He states in his article (which as yet is unpublished) *A majority of the captive patients in our mental institutions and prisons have major neuropsychiatric illnesses such as paranoid schizophrenia, psychomotor epilepsy, or impulse dyscontrol with explosive personality. An enlightened society should face up to their right of medical and surgical treatment. A national cross section of those held for crimes of aggression shows recidivism rates approximating two out of three; treatment that fails so consistently warrants reexamination. If we are able to agree that present policies of the state and the federal government have been a disaster, a fresh approach is needed and not more of the same.*

Doc Brown is not just talking about a few prisoners, even those whom the so-called experts call the 10 or 15 percent "hard-core", but rather a majority. He is part of a growing clique of psychotechnicians who are looking toward mental hospitals and prisons for their human guinea pigs.

Brown is going to do us a great service, or so he proposes: *An enlightened society should face up to their right of medical and surgical treatment. As a prisoner you can imagine the choice we would have with men like Brown around. I can see it now: "If you want a parole, get your head worked on with the knife, kid. If you don't like the knife program (they call it a program), stay in solitary for a couple of years."* Doc Brown is a real humanitarian: About as humane as Doc Frankenstein.

Brown says *If we are able to agree that present policies of the state and of the federal government have been a disaster, a fresh approach is needed and not more of the same.* As prisoners we agree that the present policies have not done anything except help make us very wary of any radical intervention by so-called experts. Doc Brown would probably call our wariness "paranoia with a tendency toward schizophrenia."

In a line Brown goes from policies to "treatment". If he had done any research on prisons he would have found that there are virtually no treatment programs in prison. And the few there are, are of the coercive type (Join the program or no parole.).

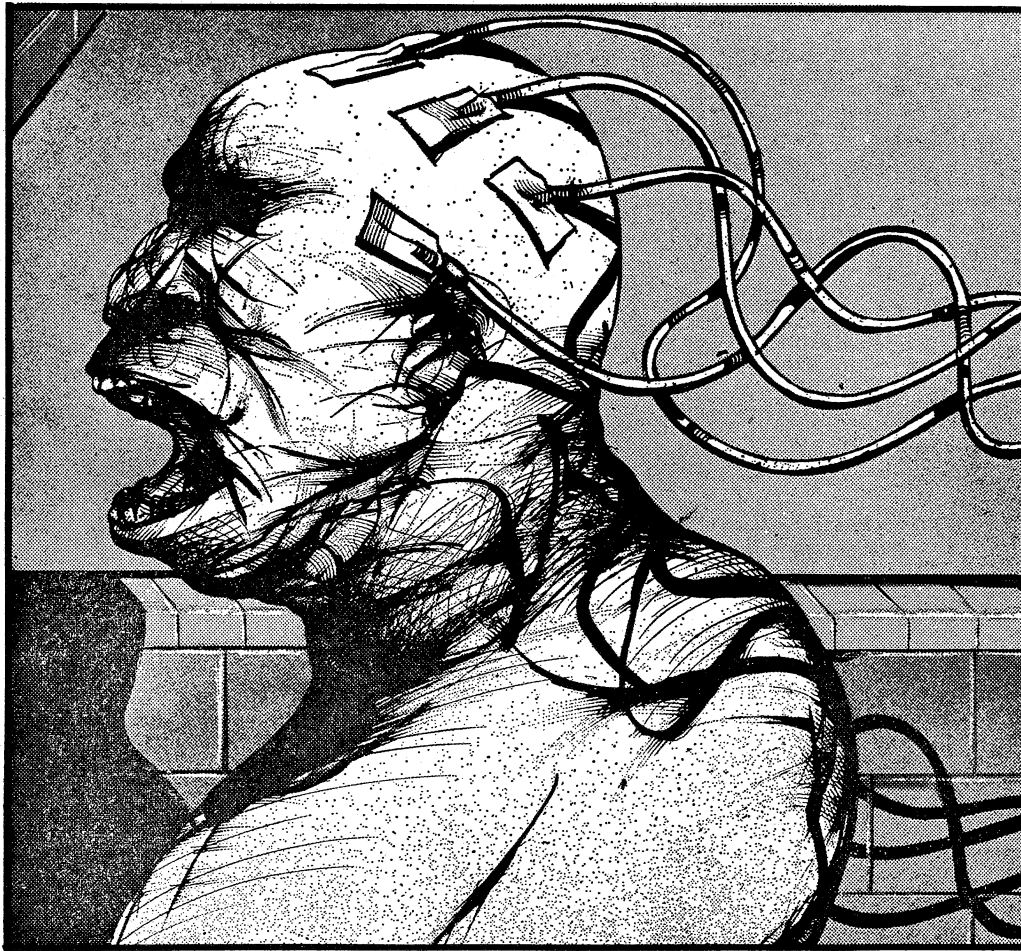
Doc Brown seems to think a majority of us are ill and in need of his "knife program". He states, *It seems to this writer that prisoners, like all normal humans, have a natural desire for freedom; if illness is the cause of their imprisonment, successful treatment should bring the well-deserved reward of liberty.* It seems that these psychotechnicians are hell bent on "blaming the victim." Doctor Brown should take his knife and try cutting out poverty, unemployment, discrimination and oppression from our society and maybe then I could say we live in an enlightened society. Instead, Brown is developing the ultimate in coercion and control for prisoners. Liberty is the reward for becoming an automaton. He speaks of the ultimate prison (the loss of an individual to control his own mind), as something we should not only have a right to, but as something prisoners should rush to.

Mindless liberty, Doc Brown, is no liberty at all.

The alternative to confinement that Brown suggests is not one an enlightened society would offer, but rather one offered by a society bent on keeping light

out. A society that would create mindless robots pleased with living as slaves in poverty and oppression.

Brown has set up moral and ethical guidelines for his suggested treatment. One of these guidelines states, *All cases should have informed consent by parents or spouse, conservator or guardian, and from the patient whenever possible.* This guy is a real gem. Notice he says *should have informed consent not must have.*



More important, what type of informed consent can a prisoner give when his/her only alternative to not going along with the "knife program" is spending the rest of his/her life in the "cell program"? Even with this thought in mind, Brown seems to dismiss the prisoner by stating *from the patient whenever possible.* In other words this gem is going to find a way for the prisoner to go along with the "knife program" whether he likes it or not.

To prisoners this concept is dangerous because it could be operational almost immediately. We have to keep an ever watching eye out for this type of so-called expert. If, for one minute, we can imagine Doc Brown with his "knife program" linked with Doc Curran and his "special offender" programs we can see where these psychotechnicians are leading us: right into the ovens of Auschwitz; only instead of using gas, they'll use the knife.

Brown further states, *There should be concurrence between the psychiatrist and the neurosurgeon, although the decision rests in the latter's hands in the sense that he incurs the prime risk of practice and malpractice.* I interpret Brown as saying, "Neurosurgeons of the world unite." We are going to have the ultimate say because we are the ones with the knife. Brown goes on to say, *In clinical practice no case should be done for an experimental purpose; however, continued study and investigation in the field is necessary in research institutions to advance scientific knowledge in the absence of certain benefits to the patient but with maximum safeguards for his welfare.* This is really cute; they should not do research, but will anyway.

We can guess where the research will be done. Doc Brown says in a research institution. Now that doesn't sound like prison until you read the program master plan for the Federal Center For Correctional Research in Butner, North Carolina which states, *Mental health: The mental health units will provide excellent acute and/or specialized treatment and/or forensic services for psychiatrically ill offenders from Region I-IV in all stages of their sentences. This program will be conducted in the context of a research setting to find increasingly effective methods of referral, evaluation, treatment and aftercare.* The Curran Report

reeked of the same kind of technocratic language.

Brown states that *No patient has or ever will be medically or surgically treated by the writer for a political or racist reason.* Isn't that encouraging! Prisoners can all rest easy because Brown says he won't ever use his knife for political or racist reasons. Adds Brown, *Demagogues have raised these points ad nauseum to prey on public anxieties; if any reader has knowledge of a single case*

of this sort I would enjoin him to name the man, throw the spotlight on the situation and demand a prompt investigation.

The problem with Brown's challenge is that with prisoners one can hide the fact of politics or racism under the veil of criminality. It would be easy to say a prisoner is put to the knife because of his/her so-called criminal illness in prison, except for one fact that Doctor Brown has overlooked: who is in prison? Not the ruling class that Doc Brown comes from. Only the poor are in prison. So I say to Doc Brown, any lobotomy that has been done in prison, was done for political or racist reasons, simply because the majority of prisoners come from oppressed classes of this society and are in prison for political and racist reasons. We prisoners are the poor white, black, American Indian, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and other oppressed people.

Brown continues, *Additionally, we have witnessed a hue and cry from the political activist. They should be reassured that target treatment does not convert the conservative to an ultraliberal or the Democrat to a Republican; indeed free will is not only preserved but honed and sharpened by fresh contact with the real world.* My reaction to this statement is to quote George J. Annas, Director, Center for Law and Health Sciences, Boston University, from his article "The Neurosurgeons' Watergate" (Dec. 1, 1973): *Peter Breggin of Washington D.C. Argued that psychosurgeons represent a threat to traditional American values.... The reliance on professional ethics and medical control over these issues leaves the physicians in charge.. .. And Lobotomy or psychosurgery is an ethical, political, and spiritual crime. It should be made illegal.* Further on in his article, Professor Annas quotes Dr. Bertram S. Brown, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, *There is something very special about experimenting with the brain.... Psychosurgery as a biomedical technique with both treatment and abuse potential, is intrinsically important. But in addition, it also has become a lightning rod for such things as control of behavior, political intent, the rights of oppressed minorities, and the like.*

Professor Annas, in closing his article, states *Let me conclude by paraphrasing Alvin Toffler, author of Future Shock:*

August

Radicals frequently accuse the 'ruling class' or the medical establishment of controlling research in ways inimical to the welfare of the masses. Such accusations may have occasional point. Yet today we face an even more dangerous reality: Many medical abuses are less the consequence of oppressive control than of oppressive lack of control. The horrifying truth is that, so far as much medical technology is concerned, no one is in charge.

The medical profession refused to control the use of psychosurgery. The legal mechanisms of societal control exist and should be exercised.

Brown, at first glance seems to be an advocate for control: An ombudsman, consumer advocate, or simple three-man committee could meet once a month in each state to interview captive patients only with respect to their wishes and to certify the absence of coercion. Current proposals for surgical boards manned by lawyers, ethicists, consumer advocates, clergymen, etc., are arrant nonsense; lay persons would get into a scientific act in which they have no competence.

One thing is clear and runs through all of Brown's writing: He sets himself up as all knowing and all powerful. That in itself makes me question his competence. His ignorance of prison is clear, especially when he hopes to certify the absence of coercion. In his eyes we may be just lowly prisoners with what he defines as an illness, but I do not think there is a prisoner sick enough to state that there is a prison or confinement setting with an absence of coercion.

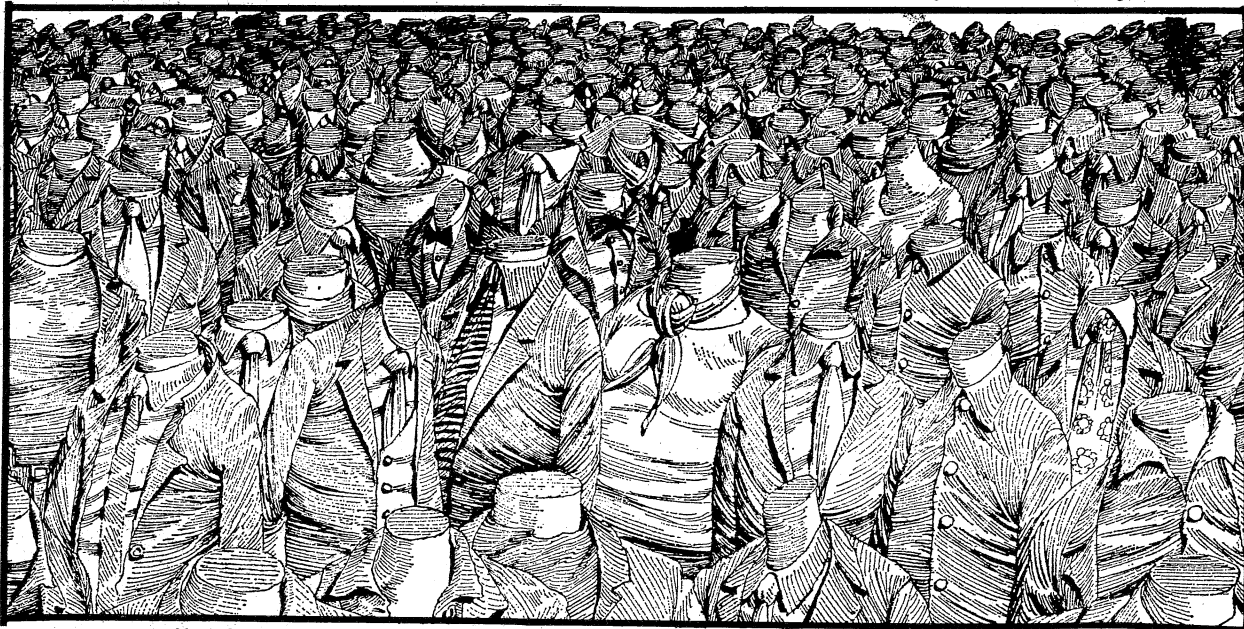
Further, to denounce participation of lawyers, consumer advocates, clergy, etc., as arrant nonsense, is the height of arrogance. One does not have to be a neurosurgeon to study the research and effect such surgery has had on clients in the past, and to make the logical conclusion that it is simply too dangerous to perform psychosurgery on human beings. It did not take me a wealth of formal education to realize that men like you, Doctor Brown, are going to attempt to use prisoners as your human guinea pigs, to further your own interest in researching this dangerous field.

One of the most moving parts of Doc Brown's article, one I feel a real concerned public might fall for, is his account of a young man held in San Quentin. Doc Brown diagnoses this man as *episodic impulsive dyscontrol with explosive personality; paranoid schizophrenia, LSD triggering; psychomotor seizure variants*. Brown states the man's case as follows; He sought treatment in vain for 18 months and will be confined for natural life without possibility of parole if the recommendation of the district attorney of Los Angeles County is accepted. He [the prisoner] writes as follows:

It may seem rather strange but I am one of the nicest and most faithful friends a person who is down and out could have. If I love you, I love you, but if I love you, you'd better watch your actions very close because I might just want to kill if you look at me wrong. That's the way it is when this 'thing' is on me and I don't mind saying I personally would not care to have an enemy like myself. I realize I'm homicidal prone and had it not been for a great deal of self-control that became self-sacrificing when I failed to act on my mass murder impulses, there would have been many more dead. Because of the fact I've lost control thousands of times before, even in spite of my turning these impulses from people to material things, it's still a problem I can't resolve myself. Therefore I am looking to this brain surgery as a means of illuminating the problem by going exactly to where the cause is--that's rehabilitation for me.

But today I still wonder how many others will die before I get help. I am willing to allow any qualified Doctor to perform psychosurgery on my brain--that's how bad I want to get well. But currently and thanks to all the radical population in Berkeley, California, it is doubtful I'll ever secure help because the state of California is scared of bad publicity received in the past. The papers would have the public believing that inmates

were being used as guinea pigs for exotic brain experimentation. Actually only three operations were ever performed. The people who brought on this bad publicity in an attack on the state that was to appear as though it were done for humanitarian reason. I'd like to kill them--Hey, how about that! Why shouldn't I feel this way. They were not my friends when they stand in the way of my being helped. They consider any attack upon the state's credibility as a valuable



contribution to the revolutionary movement now sweeping the United States. In all sincerity, I have spent nearly 5 1/2 years here in the California Medical Facility in Vacaville and can never recall one incident of a Doctor's neglect or failure to act in the best interest of their patient.

This writer has received pleas for help from prisoners in many parts of the country.

I'm sure Doc Brown feels many people will be surprised by the above letter, and humanitarians will be moved to help Doc Brown in his quest for the implementation of his "knife program". It deeply disturbs me to see one of my brothers so desperately and spiritually beaten he is willing to run such a risk and submit himself to the ultimate prison--the incarceration of mind and spirit. His statement does not shock me, for I can understand the total desperation he must feel. An enlightened society would at least try to develop more alternatives than 1/ natural life without possibility of parole; 2/ Doc Brown's knife program or, 3/ drastic over confinement, the most drastic measure I've had friends of mine take.

Ultimately, my support would lie with the right of my sisters and brothers to make the choice of what will effect their own lives and if it is Doc Brown's program one wants I believe it is the individual's right. I can only express my opposition to Doc Brown's knife program and state that I feel one who would choose to take that treatment has, in effect, chosen suicide, at least suicide of the mind; and isn't our mind the essence of our life?

Brown says he has received pleas for help from prisoners in many parts of the country. This does not surprise me. One only need look at the suicide rate in prisons and the many attempts at drastic escape to realize there is a point at which anything, even death, is better than our brutal prisons. What really angers me about Doc Brown is that he makes it sound like he has the answer and it's fool proof with no danger involved. He does not!

The following quotation is taken from Psychosurgery: A Neuropsychological Perspective, by Doctor Stephan L. Chorover.

Results obtained in both animals and human beings raise serious doubts about the purported merits of psychosurgery. The continued performance of the procedure, when its scientific foundation remains dubious and its therapeutic value has yet to be established, may justifiably be considered questionable or even irresponsible. What is more ominous, however, is the increasing promotion and practice of psychosurgery as a technique of deviance control. The development of psychosurgery is another example of the time-honored practice of reducing

complex social problems to the status of personal infirmities.

Doctor Chorover goes on to say, Because the weight of the available evidence indicates that limbic system psychosurgery produces a marked deterioration in behavior, serious impairments of judgements and other disastrous social adjustment effects, and because psychosurgeons have failed to provide balanced accounts of their cases, it would appear prudent for the medical profession and the relevant regulatory agencies of state and federal government to act promptly along the following lines.

First, there should be an explicit recognition of psychosurgery's experimental status as opposed to its allegedly therapeutic role in contemporary surgery. Second, psychosurgery should not be performed upon children, prisoners, involuntarily held or committed mental patients or those deemed to be mentally retarded. Third, a registry and assessment mechanism should be established to collect and disseminate information on present practice in psychosurgery. One function of such an agency might be the systematic psychological assessment of surviving psychosurgery patients and post-mortem examinations of their brain tissue when they die. Fourth, there should be a temporary moratorium on all further psychosurgical operations until its risk can be weighed against the benefits discovered by systematic and impartial review of the field. Finally, basic research on brain mechanisms and behavior should be supported and extended. Carefully pursued and properly interpreted, such research offers the only reliable course of action for increasing our understanding of human brain function and its relation to behavior. A better understanding of this kind, coupled with further education in the brain sciences, should ultimately provide the best possible defense against the simplistic theories upon which much of contemporary psychosurgery has been built.

If one took a simple view of the controversy between the experts of psychosurgery itself, he or she would have to say there is too great a risk to subject oneself to such experimentation. I would hope all my brothers and sisters would heed the words of Doctor Chorover and stand in support of his view.

I would suggest that no prisoners should allow any type of drug or physical experimen-

tation be done on him or her. I very well know the money that prisoners receive for drug experimentation is an extremely large carrot, and under confinement conditions it is hard to say no to such inducement, especially since there are no other opportunities to make such money in prison.

But I have to say to those who participate in these experimentation programs, it is eventually you who allow the psychotechnicians to continue their work of oppression and it is all poor people who will suffer under the knife of psychotechnocracy. So weigh the carrot carefully and remember where that money comes from (i.e., drug companies and the federal government) and where this experimentation is going to lead (i.e., controlling children in schools and people in the streets in addition to us). The taking of the carrot can mean the acceptance of control. I hope that prisoners will not be willing to sell so cheap. I'd like to see prisoners say, "Stick the carrot".

Ruchell Magee: "The Man the People Forgot"

by Monty Neill

"Free Ruchell, It's right to Rebel!" chanted some 80 demonstrators at the San Jose, California courthouse on June 7, where Ruchell Magee is still on trial for murder. The charge arises from the escape attempt in August, 1970, when Jonathan Jackson, brother of George, entered the Marin County courthouse, freed Magee and other prisoners, took the judge and D.A. hostage, and tried to escape in a van. San Quentin guards and Marin County police riddled the van with bullets, killing Jackson, prisoner James McClain and the judge and seriously wounding Magee.

Shortly thereafter, Angela Davis was also charged with murder and being an auxiliary in the escape attempt. Angela's trial gathered national attention and she was rightfully acquitted. But Ruchell is still on trial, his supporters have largely disappeared, and Ruchell has become, in the words of Gary Lawton, himself on trial in California in a politically motivated frame-up, "The Man the People Forgot."

Said Lawton, "The tragic thing is that Ruchell has been forgotten and ripped off. Political groups and individuals used Ruchell for their own selfish aim. They used him to raise money that didn't go to the defense, they set up bogus defense committees, and yet today there is no active defense work being done. He represents an era of political repression, 18 years in the struggle to be free. His co-defendant was Angela Davis and she has left him to rot. Ruchell has done incredible work such as setting legal precedents for other prisoners, yet the people have forgotten him. I recently visited Ruchell and the man is still waging his war on oppression--the right for the slave to rebel."

"Look, my oppression is the same as all poor people, all struggling people...you've got to fight for the end of all oppression; you can't isolate (one) case from everything else."

Yet Ruchell fights on. The state has repeatedly denied Ruchell the right to de-



fend himself. At one point, Ruchell, after fighting for freedom since 1963, beaten, harassed, forgotten by many of his self-appointed defenders, entered a guilty plea. Reviving, he quickly tried to change

his plea. This effort is now being considered in a higher court. Before he could enter an appeal to change his plea, the judge tried to sentence him, but Ruchell knocked over tables and fought, handcuffed, with deputies. The judge left the courtroom without pronouncing sentence.

Ruchell Magee needs and deserves our support. The essence of his case, as Ruchell sees it, is the question, Does a slave have the right to escape?

Each time the system is allowed to re-

press, coerce and beat a prisoner into defeat, the system feels more confident in its ability to use such tactics on any prisoner or any person on the outside it chooses. And each time those who purport to support a prisoner or all prisoners fade away from the scene, leaving those behind bars to rot, more defenseless than before, the system gains a victory.

The movement to free Ruchell Magee is again gathering force, led by the Ruchell Magee Defense Committee and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization. For further information, letters of support or donations, contact VVAW/WSO, 255 E. William St., San Jose, C. Ca. 95112.

Thanks to *Revolution and Winter Soldier* for information used in this article.

Law to End Employment Discrimination Passed

The nation's first law prohibiting discrimination against ex-convicts in private employment has been enacted by the Hawaii legislature as an amendment to the state's Fair Employment Practice Law, making it just as illegal for a company to base personnel decisions on a person's criminal record as on one's race or sex.

The move became effective last month after Hawaii lawmakers approved a bill removing restrictions in public employment and all adverse references to former felons in statutes dealing with occupational licensing. The amendment to the FEP Law was included as a separate section of the bill.

The state had previously outlawed employer bias against those who were arrested, detained, or investigated - in itself the only such measure in the country - but this civil rights coverage specifically excluded all those who had been convicted. That provision was repealed this year.

It is now an unlawful employment practice for an employer or a labor union to refuse to hire, or to discharge, or deny fair employment conditions, or to exclude from (union) membership anyone because of race, sex, age, religion, color or ancestry, or arrest and court record. The latter is now defined as:

"Arrest and court records' include any information about an individual having been questioned, apprehended, taken into custody or detention, held for investigation, charged with an offense, served a summons, arrested with or without a warrant, tried, or convicted pursuant to any law enforcement or military authority."

The law also forbids an employer or employment agency to make any inquiry, either verbal or on an application form, into the "arrest and court record" of a job seeker. The only exception allowed is for a "bonafide occupational qualification," wherein the employer proves that specific jobs require discriminatory selection.

And as in most licensing or public employment measures passed recently throughout the country, the law notes that employ-

ment or licensure may still be refused or terminated if the applicant or employee's crime directly relates to the position or license sought.

Jurisdiction over the amended act rests with the enforcement division of the state's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, which has the power to issue orders following a public hearing if conciliation on a complaint fails.

New laws easing the way for ex-offenders into licensed occupations, and usually public employment, were signed by governors in four more states thus far this year, bringing the three-year total to thirteen states that have removed many mandatory employment restrictions because of a criminal record.

Bills requiring that a direct relationship be shown between the offense and the license or position denied were passed in Iowa (licensing only), Minnesota, New Mexico, and Hawaii. (The latter becoming also the first state to prohibit discrimination against ex-convicts by private employers - see separate story). Legislation remains pending in five more states which have not concluded their sessions for the year -- Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

These actions highlight the growing interest in this subject throughout the country, as thirty of the nation's statehouses have now considered bills in recent sessions, and one is even seeking improvement in a law passed two years ago.

In California, one of the early states to enact legislation in the field, a bill completely striking "good moral character" from licensing criteria has passed initial committee hurdles, and another measure prohibiting employer inquiries into arrests has been introduced but is given little chance of success before the August 30 adjournment.

New laws requiring the direct relationship test passed 1974 legislative sessions in Kentucky and West Virginia, but the governors of both states vetoed the measures, in Kentucky largely because of a misunderstanding over which agency would administer

the bill.

Bills were introduced or carried over this year in Maine, Missouri, Montana, New York, Vermont, and Wisconsin but failed to pass, not according to sources in each state, because of strong opposition but due to priority problems, unrelated amendments, or inclusion in controversial omnibus corrections bills.

In most cases, the successful legislation has been patterned after bills which have passed in nine other states since 1971: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Oregon and Washington, plus an executive order in Maine and an attorney general's opinion in Maryland. The newer bills have tended to build in tighter safeguards against arbitrary actions by certification boards or hiring entities, placing on them the burden of justifying a rejection, and providing for administrative or judicial review.

from "The Offender Employment Review"

Mass. Bus Times

Walpole and Norfolk:

Days: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
Leave Dudley Station at 11:00 a.m.
Leave Fields Corner at 11:30 a.m.

To reserve a seat, call 265-1583 at least 48 hours in advance.

NOTE:

In order to keep the program running, it has become necessary for us to charge a \$1 fee to cover the costs for gasoline, etc.

We also regret to announce that the Friday night run to Walpole and Norfolk has been cancelled because we do not have enough people to put on the bus, and the Concord run has also been eliminated due to not having vehicles, drivers, etc. We would appreciate it if anyone can help us. Does anyone have any suggestions?

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.

NEPA NEWS is published monthly by the New England Prisoners Association and the Community Services Center at Franconia College. Our address is NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580; phone 603-823-5266.

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

Walls and Bars

WALLS AND BARS

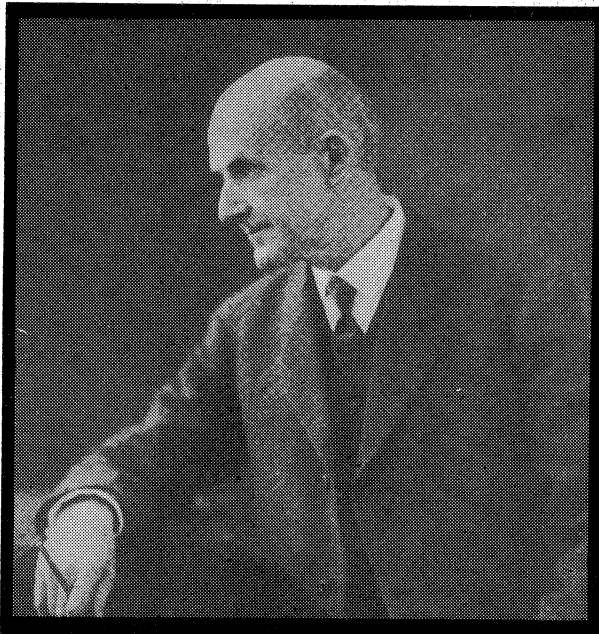
by Eugene Victor Debs
288 pages, paper \$3.50, cloth \$7.50

Prisoner 9653 ran for President of the United States on the Socialist Party ticket from Atlanta Penitentiary in 1920 and polled 919,799 votes. He had been put in Chicago's notorious Cook County Jail for supporting the striking Pullman Workers with a boycott on Pullman cars in 1894. He had served six months for contempt of court in Woodstock Jail. He had been to Moundsville and Atlanta for opposition to the war. And he wrote this book in 1927. Here are some of the things he said in it:

--"Prison inmates should be paid for their labor at the prevailing rate of wages."

--"The prisoners should be organized upon the basis of self government and have charge of the prison."

--"If every jail, every prison, every penitentiary had its doors flung wide open...the harm that would result to society would be vastly less than the harm it now suffers in wasting the lives of thousands of unfortunate souls, breaking up their homes, wrecking their families."



Patrick E. Gorman's Introduction applies Debs' logic to the 1970's and urges organized labor to do something for the working class in jail.

Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company
431 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 829
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Charles H. Kerr is a not-for-profit publisher of books for the labor and socialist movement. Send for our list.

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

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

\$2.50 regular subscription.

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

ADDRESS CHANGE. I am moving to a new address. Please mail future copies of NEPA NEWS to me at the above address.

\$10 Institutional Subscription

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

Forced Work is Slavery

The United States Supreme Court has refused to disturb two orders of New York state establishing experimental work programs for some categories of welfare recipients. It refused to consider whether states and the federal government may impose such requirements while exempting other classes on welfare.

The work programs had been upheld by the New York Circuit Court of Appeals. They were established by the state Department of Social Services and were approved for one year by the federal Department of Social and Health Services. Only Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court favored review.

One program, in effect in 14 New York counties, requires welfare mothers with no children under the age of 6 to take unpaid jobs with public agencies or lose their share of the family's welfare grant. It would also require students 15 and older to take community service jobs at \$1.60 an hour to avoid a cut in the welfare grant.

The other program, applying to 8,000 families, would require parents of children presenting a truancy problem to participate in group counseling by the welfare agency.

Welfare mothers and the city of New York challenged the programs as violative of the "equal protection of the laws" clause of the 14th Amendment and contended that the requirements would "compel destitute families to submit to being used as guinea pigs in an experiment which relates to the very means of their subsistence."

The Court of Appeals held that it was within the province of the secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to undertake pilot projects and for states to experiment "for the good of all."

We seem to be moving rapidly from forced registration for work, which was a part of Nixon's income maintenance program, to forced work. Forced work is slavery, and Nazi Germany was only slightly more inventive in its oppression.

Deadline

The copy deadline for the September issue is Monday, August 26. Please have all copy to us by that time.

NEXT ISSUE: Features on Attica, "Prisoners and Revolution", "Our Prisons Cannot be Reformed", "Alternatives to Incarceration", "Interview with Ruchell Magee's Mother", plus the usual reports, news, etc.

Get Well Soon

Brothers Russ Carmichael and Bobby Scollard are both ill and in the hospital in Mass. We all hope their illnesses are short-lived and they will be back on the streets continuing their fine work for prisoners as soon as possible. Bobby is at the University Hospital in Boston and Russ is at the Newton-Wellesley hospital in Newton.

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 New England Prisoners' Association
Public Education Program Public Education Program
Franconia College or 116 School St.
Franconia, N.H. 03580 Waltham, Mass., 02154
603-823-5266 617-899-8827

Attica Demonstration

The Attica Brothers Legal Defense is calling for a national demonstration to express support for the Brothers.

On Friday, September 13, there will be a Memorial Day to commemorate the brothers who died in the Massacre. It will be a small rally under the slogan "Drop the Charges."

On Saturday, Sept. 14, there will be a National Demonstration under the same slogan. There will be speakers, a march, theatre and a rally.

The trials are scheduled to begin Sept. 3, but the Brothers are seeking a postponement as they do not yet have much of the discovery material.

The demonstration deserves the support of us all. NEPA encourages all of us who can make it to go to Buffalo.

The Attica Brothers are at 137 Franklin St., Buffalo, 856-0302.

Community Centers

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

MAINE

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

VERMONT

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