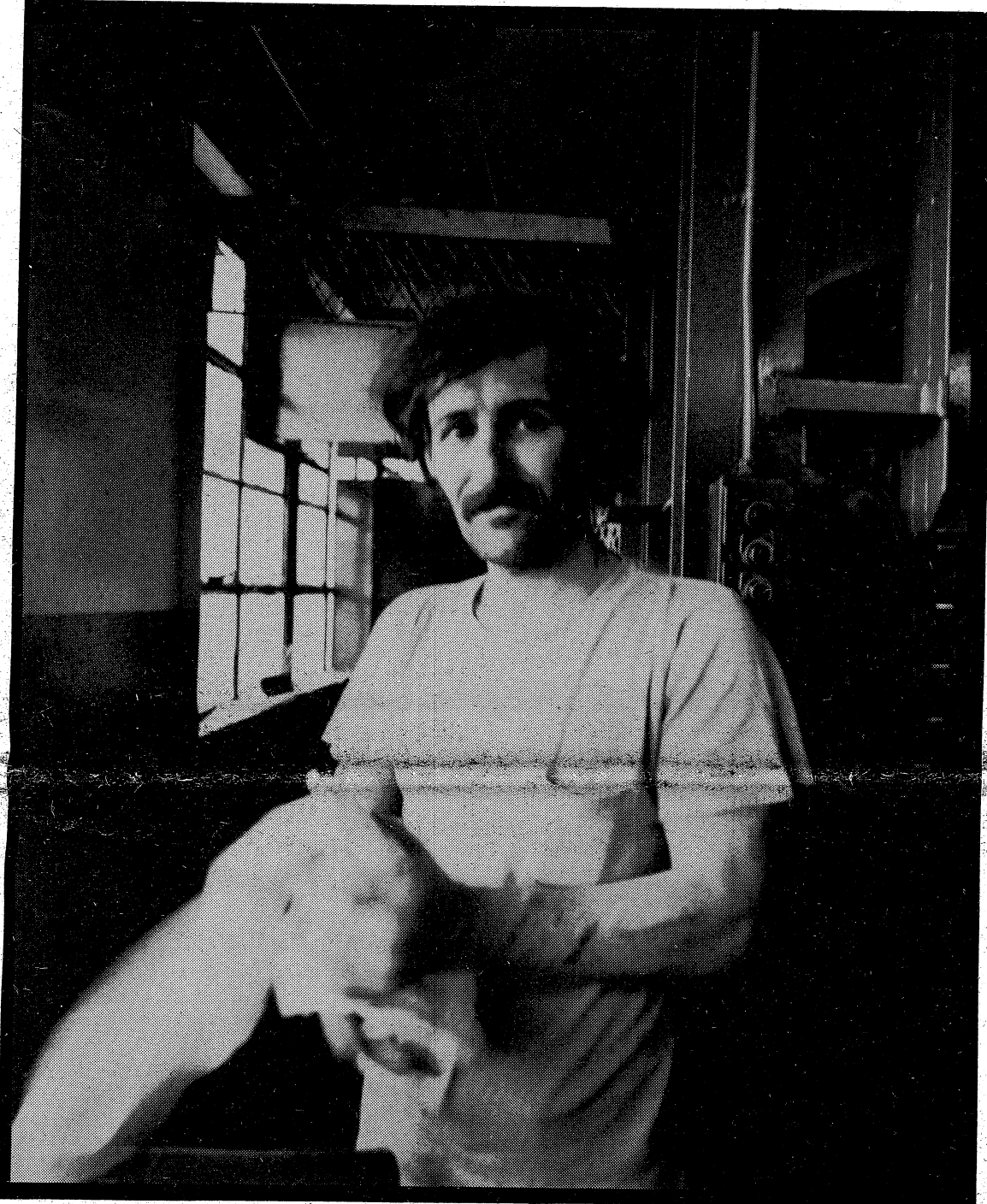


NEPA NEWS

The Voice of The New England Prisoners' Association
Prisoners, Ex-Prisoners & Supporters

Work in Somers Prison



Walpole photo by Richard Kahn

**Solution to Crime Offered
NEPA in Bridgewater
Crime in Rural Maine
Still on the Chain Gang
Project Divide; Sexism
Lock-up & Chaos at ACI**

Franconia, N.H.
Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 12
Postage Paid 0.02

Bayard, Carl
CCI
Somers, Ct. 06071 *

by John Fried

Prison administrators have argued for a hundred years that one of the basic purposes of work in prison is to give prisoners job training so they will be able to compete for well paying jobs once released. Work is for training and therefore therapeutic. However, in most prisons in the U.S., vocational training hardly exists. Prisoners work seems to be directed to the creation of supervisory jobs for prison employees, the gain for the state of a modest but significant profit, and the maintenance of the prison at little cost to the state. This is accomplished by forcing prisoners to work in state industries at exploitative wages, or, in some cases, no wages at all.

A recent investigation by the local Prisoners Union of the work programs at the maximum security prison in Somers, Connecticut has revealed that Connecticut is in the main stream of this exploitation. The Union recently released information on each work program at Somers, using data from the Connecticut Department of Corrections Industries 1972-1973 Annual Report.

What follows is based largely upon the Union's report. The information and analysis is limited by the lack of availability of certain information such as gross sales of prison industry products, and other important data. Nevertheless the information that is available tells an important story.

The work programs at Somers are overseen by a division known as "Industries Administration." Although there are no figures available on the number of civilians employed, they received in fiscal 1973 \$78,387.58 in pay. A total of 13 prisoners are employed and received a total of \$1,952.82. This means that these 13 men received \$150 for a full year's work. You can see why a minimum wage is a priority goal for the Somers Prisoners Union. While the Union and NEPA recognize the need for the administrative function, we doubt if the paying of \$78,387 to supervise 13 prisoners could be justified, even by the U.S. Defense Department which justifies spending any amount.

This staggering amount raises a fundamental point regarding the usefulness of outside supervisory personnel in a well-organized prison. Walpole Prison in Massachusetts was run by its prisoners union for two and a half months in the Spring of 1973 without any prison supervisors; in fact, without any guards. And it was run with virtually no violence, with an enormous, even incredible increase in morale among the prisoners.

It is clear from the Somers Prisoners Union report that its members also view most of the prison work supervisors as useless and unnecessary to an efficient, productive, and satisfying prison work program. And it is unbelievably cheaper. The Industries Administration of Somers lost \$85,515.32 in fiscal 1973 alone. The Connecticut Department of Corrections could have paid each of its 13 prisoner employees \$2.00 an hour, 40 hours a week, with two weeks paid vacation and saved more than \$31,000 in Industries Administration.

(Con't. page 6)

Myth v. Practice; DSU Walpole

by Donna Parker

With the Supreme Court ruling against the constitutional right of prisoners to any semblance of due process, we find the State breaking down its own facade of justice. With it should go some of its equally pretentious programs of 'rehabilitation'.

I am referring specifically to the treatment center in the Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU) at Walpole; a program that purports to use the positive tools of supportive educational, vocational, and therapeutic programs to rehabilitate the 'special offender'. What it does is isolate the so-called 'special offender', offer him a chance to rot in segregation, or, through the development of 'invisible leashes' provided by the suddenly quite friendly administration, redirect one's actions so that he can return to the 'normality' of prison life.

All the programs are developed to meet the needs of the individual prisoners. One prisoner, when he refused to cooperate "in any way, shape, or form", was harassed, threatened, baited, and bolted into his cell. In a desperate attempt to fight back, he was beaten into a coma. Another prisoner was promised vocational programs on the condition that he submit to a barrage of brain wave tests. When this failed to work, other tactics ensued. He waited months for a pair of eye glasses so that he could read the educational tests. Upon the arrival of the glasses, the tests were unable to be administered because only one person had been designated to give them, and he has left for a month's vacation. Yet another prisoner is offered a college program if he will walk through the corridors of the prison to the school room, books in hand, talk to no one, and return immediately to segregation. And the last prisoner is no longer allowed to work in his garden but is confined to his cell.

Obviously, a very successful program; a program which specifies,

"The purpose of such segregation is neither to inflict upon a resident an

Walpole Wife Speaks Out

Reprinted from *Doing Time*, the journal of Families and Friends of Prisoners, Mass.

At one time I was really scared to speak out against the administration or guards at Walpole. I always felt if I did they would find some way to stop our visits or take it out on my husband and somehow find an excuse to put him in Nine or Ten Block.

This is why for years I just sat back and did nothing. This I realize now is not so, because we are not alone. Almost each and every one of us at one time of another have a justifiable complaint of harassment to deal with.

Together we are legally able to solve our problems without fear of repercussions. If we continue together, we will always be able to help each other--but only together are we able to do this.

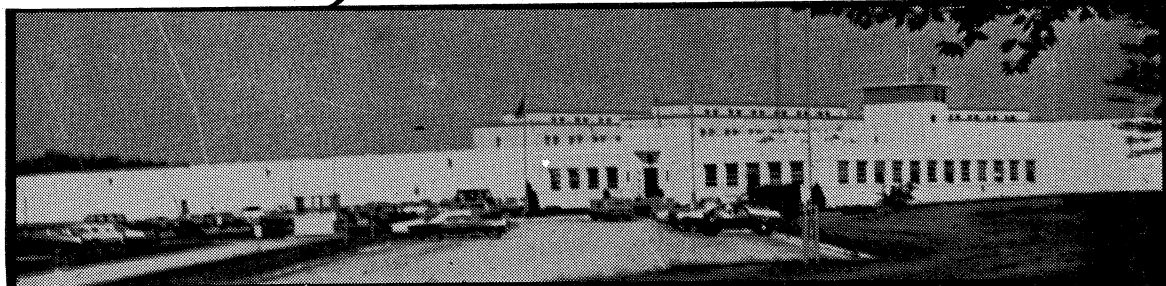
I know this now, but I wish I did years ago. In fact, since I spoke for what I felt was right and proved it, I have not been harassed since.

Framingham Ex Con

Reprinted from *Doing Time*, the journal of Families and Friends of Prisoners, Mass. The piece was written by a woman recently released from Framingham.

The dehumanizing process begins when a prisoner enters an institution: your clothes are taken from you and after a hurried bath and an equally hurried hair-wash with a de-lousing shampoo, you are given a couple of shapeless dresses, a pair of sneakers or shoes, and underwear. By now a number has been written beside your name in a folder.

This is the beginning of lost identity if you allow it to be. If you are being



extended period of confinement nor an unusual degree of punishment".

Yet most of these men have been segregated for nine months, have been harassed, threatened and/or beaten, and have lost privileges. On the one hand, they are offered positive programs by negative coercion, and on the other they are hit with a barrage of oppression if they deviate from the narrowly prescribed path. Suffering the consequences, none of these prisoners are cooperating with this program.

If the Department is in fact as committed to the development of community corrections as it claims to be, it should certainly redirect its energies from this type of activity. The Commissioner says he is working for community corrections, yet we see NOT the implementation of the programs geared toward the reintegration of the prisoner into society, as has been dictated by LAW for two years, but the implementation of a program such as DSU which further isolates and punishes the prisoner. It does not take psychiatric degree to know that this type of strategy can only manifest itself in further suspicion, paranoia, anger, and frustration. Quite contrary to the aims of reintegration and rehabilitation, this strategy of 'divide and conquer' only serves as an additional control device, not only for those directly under its control, but as a constant threat to the entire prison population.

This type of strategy is now prevalent at Walpole. The legislature has just recently appropriated one and a quarter million dollars for fiscal 1975 for the exclusive use of additional security at Walpole Prison which, this winter, underwent a massive installation of steel walls, doors, and bars. What more can they add? While supposedly reducing the population to half its size, they have also hired an additional 25 guards. Next to nothing is spent on positive, developmental programs for prisoners.

It is important that we demonstrate to these people that we will not stand for this type of operation. On Wednesday, June 25th, NEPA attended a meeting with the Commissioner and handed him a petition with the signatures of over 300 Walpole prisoners. We demanded that the date for the public and institutional hearings for the DSU Rules and Regulations be set as provided by law. We also demanded that the testimony of those prisoners now in the program be an integral part of these hearings. The Commissioner said that a date would be provided in the next week or two, and that a thirty day public notice would be given.

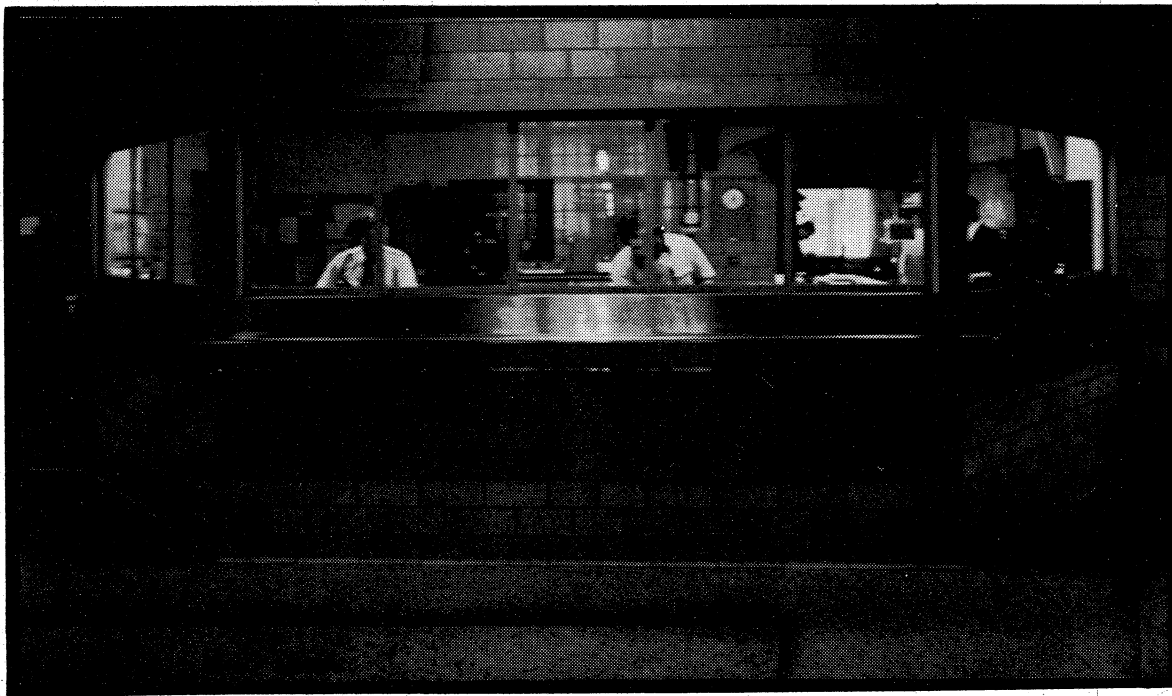
As we go to press the date has not yet been set, but the hearing is expected to be sometime in late July or early August. It is important that we all attend these hearings and organize a unified front against DSU, both in itself and as a symptom of what the Department has planned for Walpole State Prison.

Capital Outlay for FY 1975

For certain improvements to security.

\$1,267,000.

1. New electro-mechanical gang-locking system in minimum for 3 blocks.
2. Replace certain minimum doors with new maximum security doors.
3. Install new maximum security doors to close certain key areas and key openings that jeopardize security.
4. Reinforce certain key masonry walls by installing steel plating.
5. Erect new chain-link fencing and repair existing fencing.
6. Coal fire boiler to be installed in the power plant; Convert the plant to dual gas-oil fuel.
7. Miscellaneous security items.



discussed by a classification board or furlough board, you can be sure the number is read after your name is mentioned. For as long as you are confined, the number beside your name is in evidence.

Any prisoner who accuses an officer of wrong-doing is immediately labeled a trouble-maker. The institution tries to transfer the person, or he/she is quickly given parole.

Visitors at Framingham have been unduly harassed and have been denied entrance to the visiting room because their names are not on a particular list in the front office--even though they were listed in social workers' files.

There is very little communication between prisoners and staff. The need to have prisoners and visitors organized is urgent.

Prisoners Have Solution to Crime

The NPRA, Walpole has realized the futility of attempting to negotiate in good faith with those dedicated to the maintenance of a grayeyard such as Walpole. They have served a formal complaint on 21 defendants consisting of high officials in the Departments of Corrections and Law Enforcement, the Legislature and Educational and Religious leaders of the community. The Complaint charges that all of these defendants have, in various capacities, repressed the CURE for crime. The prisoners know the cure for crime and ask the public, the members of the community, to by-pass these administrators and to come to the prisoners. Together the people will develop programs that will serve to help the community, be it behind prison walls or in the neighborhood. If this move for a public forum is blocked by these administrators, the NPRA will then file their complaint in federal court. The following is a press release from the NPRA declaring their new policy.

June 26, 1974

The resignation on June 21 of Douglas Vinzant as Superintendent requires the prisoners, through their elected representatives, to state their official position.

The facts are that four weeks before that resignation, on May 21, the NPRA unanimously decided to cease permanently all negotiations and discussions with Vinzant or any other prison administrator. This decision was immediately and overwhelmingly endorsed by the general prison population.



Vinzant's resignation is, therefore, a cover-up for his failure as an administrator, a cover-up for his hypocrisy as a social scientist supposedly concerned with reducing crime, a cover-up for the sham and deceit of his agreements and negotiations.

Vinzant was supposed to work with the prisoners for the past eight months to quiet the legitimate unrest of the prison so a timed phaseout of the prison could begin. The prisoners cooperated to normalize the prison routine.

Vinzant used the time to stall and confuse negotiations for reform, rehabilitation and release of prisoners from the prison.

He used the time to build expensive steel barriers--barriers whose only use could be to contain a riot--a riot that could only happen if enough prisoners were kept locked up in hopelessness to start a riot in frustration.

In other words, Vinzant is not a social scientist devoting himself to curing crime--he is a mindless and obedient administrator bent on keeping the ancient unworkable system going at any and all cost.

Vinzant's successors will now have to live with his failure. No matter who takes his place to keep this prison going, the decision of the prisoners never to negotiate or discuss will continue to stand. The prisoners know prisons and their misery cause crime, multiply crime, and they will not be a co-conspirator in the crime of keeping prisons going.

Our position and challenge is stated clearly in the Complaint we endorsed and sent to the leaders of the Commonwealth and criminal justice system.

We want an answer to that Complaint--from those leaders.

Our position and challenge is that we, the prisoners, possess absolutely unique and indispensable knowledge of what crime is, what causes it, and how to cure it.

Our position and challenge is that we can and will set up a program for the cure of crime in the Commonwealth.

To do this we will--on our own and against all opposition and indifference if necessary--bring together the prison reform organizations and send them into the several communities to activate people who want to cure crime in their community.



Let there be no misunderstanding. Prisons cause crime.

We, the Walpole prisoners, have told the prison administration that we will never negotiate or discuss with them again to keep prisons going.

We will not go back on our word. We will not betray ourselves.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Crime can be cured.

We, the prisoners, know how to cure crime. We are going to give the communities who want this knowledge, the means to cure crime.

Those are our positions and challenges. We stand on them. We demand the answers they require. We won't accept substitutes.

John Kerrigan, President, NPRA
Charles A. McDonald, Vice President
Jose Gonzales, Vice President

Salem County Jail

Here are some questions concerning the Salem Jail-House of Corrections that need some answers, from somebody, somewhere.

Why don't we have a work-release program?

Why don't we have an educational-release program?

Why don't we have institutional, educational, or rehabilitative programs?

Why are we, in 1974, using a bucket for toilets?

Why can a man spend two years here, or more, and leave broke, without even his bus fare home?

Why aren't we paid for our work?

Why does a man convicted of a minor crime serve anywhere from 75 to 93% of his sentence, when convicted felons serve much less time, are treated much better, and get paid for working? Why do they have better, longer visiting privileges, and are just treated much better and fairer in general?

It goes on and on, but where or from who do we get the answers? Help us to right these wrongs, any way you can.

Thank you!

A prisoner
Salem, Massachusetts

P.S. One thing I forgot was the dental care here. It amounts to pull or suffer; no filling done. If it hurts, out it comes. Medical care is on a when the doctor gets here basis.

I've been here some 15 months, and believe I know what I speak of. I read where in Walpole they don't have sinks or toilets, or showers in the segregation cells. We don't have them here in any cell. Every time I read about Walpole, I think they should come here for a while, and they'd be glad to get back there.

Check on it; you'll find it all too true.

Bridgewater Prisoners Struggle for NEPA

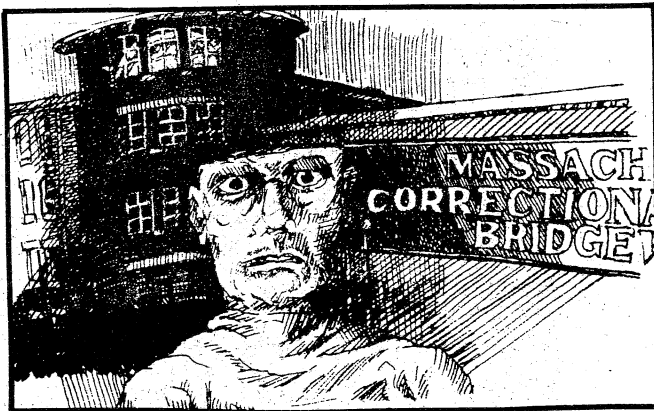
by Donna Parker

On Wednesday, June 26, the prison section of Bridgewater held a work stoppage which was 70% effective. The sole issue of this action was to demand that NEPA become the bargaining agent of the prisoners. The prison population had already submitted a petition to the administration with this same demand.

By the end of the day Warden Gaughan had agreed to negotiate. Later he denied the validity of the petition, charging that the signatures could have been accumulated under "duress". He demanded a vote from the population. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of NEPA as the bargaining agent. Gaughan again attempted to block the solidarity that was pulling together, claiming that this was only a "straw vote". He demanded another vote, this time sending down his "runners" to inform any prisoner that attempted to vote that he could no longer come to Gaughan for any requests or furloughs, and that if the prisoners want a bargaining agent they will have to use these channels from now on.

In reaction to this maneuver, still more prisoners turned out to vote and they voted even more overwhelmingly in favor of NEPA as their inside-outside organization. Gaughan now maintains that the vote holds no water with him. He was merely using it to stop the strike.

In the meantime, NEPA representatives and lawyers have been refused access to either Bridgewater or prisoner James Bell, who is presently filing a suit in Federal court charging the violation of the prisoner's rights to organize and July



meet with outside groups. Bell issued a statement on Tuesday, July 2nd, charging Commissioner Hall with violating Hall's own policy that prisoners have the right to organize and to meet with outside organizations. Bell added that Gaughan has violated this policy and should be corrected.

This struggle has been going on for 5 months and NEPA organizers Russ Carmichael, John Osler, Marty Gyukert and Bob Martin report that unity is stronger each time the administration attempts to block it. Prisoners know this, but the administration is both slow to learn and hampered by their underestimation of prisoner power.

Next month we hope to print a major article on the struggle at Bridgewater. Any information which the brothers in Bridgewater can provide NEPA NEWS or NEPA organizers in Massachusetts will help to present a more accurate and clear analysis of what is coming down in the most oppressive and sick institution in New England.

Lock-up and Chaos at ACI

by Monty Neill

The entire population of ACI, Cranston, R.I. was locked-up for nine days, finally getting out on Friday, June 28. The reason given by the administration was that one person was stabbed by another and that "tension" was very high.

We talked to Ray Blais, who said the real reason is that the administration can't run the prison, they have no "common sense".

"If one guy makes trouble, you lock him up. But here they lock everybody up. They can't run this place, not even basic living conditions. If you want a damn roll of toilet paper, they say, 'See the Warden.' No one will make a decision. The Warden makes all the decisions." The warden is now on vacation.

"There's complete chaos here," Ray said. The aftermath of the lock-up is still having its effects.

"They locked-up most of the Blacks and some of the Whites in segregation. They're still there (as of July 2--ed.). They took

over the place, threw the guards out. So some more guards went in and they negotiated. I don't know what was decided. They're still in there. Hell, there are guys still in there from last year." (The lock-up at ACI last summer--ed.)

Coming off the lock-up, night visits have been cancelled, and prisoners are allowed only one visit every four days on a rotating alphabetical list.

"It's like a god-damned truck going uphill. We get almost to the top, then it rolls back down and we've got to start all over."

Things aren't looking so good at ACI these days, particularly compared to the optimism of the past winter. A series of bills had been submitted to the legislature with the backing of the corrections department. They were all rejected by the legislature. The bills included a Furlough Bill (R.I. is the only state in New England without any furlough program); a bill to pay prisoners \$1.00 per hour; a bill to count good-time toward parole eligibility (it now

counts only toward the maximum sentence); and work-release for lifers.

Two bills pertaining to ACI were recently passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Noel. One allows the Warden to grant up to three days good-time for heroic acts or submission of useful ideas and plans implemented by the state. A second bill increases from 5 to 20 years the maximum sentence for assault, escape or escape attempt by prisoners in the ACI medium and minimum custody units.

Said Ray, "They are sitting on \$7.5 million to build new facilities. They don't build new places, like little houses for 40 or 50 people, community-type places. They just shuffle people around in this place."

One good thing happened at ACI. The awaiting trial people, formerly held in ACI maximum section with no end of resulting confusion, were all moved across the street to a new place, an old "dormitory type" structure. The problem, says Ray, is that the place for the awaiting-trial detainees "is a mad-house."

Still on the Chain Gang

from the NHSP News Bureau

After reading the June NEPA NEWS article by Richard Schofield about work conditions here at New Hampshire State Prison, some of us decided that it would be worthwhile to up-date and elaborate on some of the points Richard brought up, especially since he has not been here for a year. Roger Boberg and Jaan Laaman from the NHSP NEPA NEWS Bureau conducted a group discussion with Bobby Bell and David Lordan. Roger and Dave work in the print shop and Bobby works in the plate shop. These two shops are the main production and profit-making shops in the prison.

Jaan Laaman (JL): What are conditions in the print shop today as far as machines and jobs are concerned?

David Lordan (DL): Most of the machines are outdated and dangerous because of the slip-shod repairs caused by borrowing parts from one machine to fix totally different machines. Also exposed wiring and a lack of safety switches or devices.

Roger Boberg (RB): Only one new machine was introduced here, a press that is hardly used by outside shops these days.

JL: What about the actual work that is done in the shops?

DL: A lot of it consists of printing jobs that outside printing concerns turn down, or at least that is what the civilian print shop supervisor says. Things like temporary cardboard plates, death and birth certificates, stationary, and so on.

JL: In other words, a large part of all state, county, town and village forms and applications.

DL: Yes, that's it.

JL: What are things like in the plate shop?

Bobby Bell (BB): Wow, man!

JL: Well, in general what could you say about the plate plant without a long string of swear words.

BB: Well, the machinery is in lousy shape. The main press jams sometimes and you have to release the air and then the jammed plates shoot out the back of the machine.

RB: Is there any safety device to stop the plates from flying out?

BB: A small one, which is very inadequate.

JL: Has anyone recently gotten hit by any plates?

BB: I have, and one or two other guys have.

JL: What about the rest of the machinery?

BB: It's just as bad. When I was on the plate painter the fumes were so bad that it was impossible to stand there for over half an hour at a time, but they expect you to work for an hour or an hour and a half before you can take a break for some fresh air.

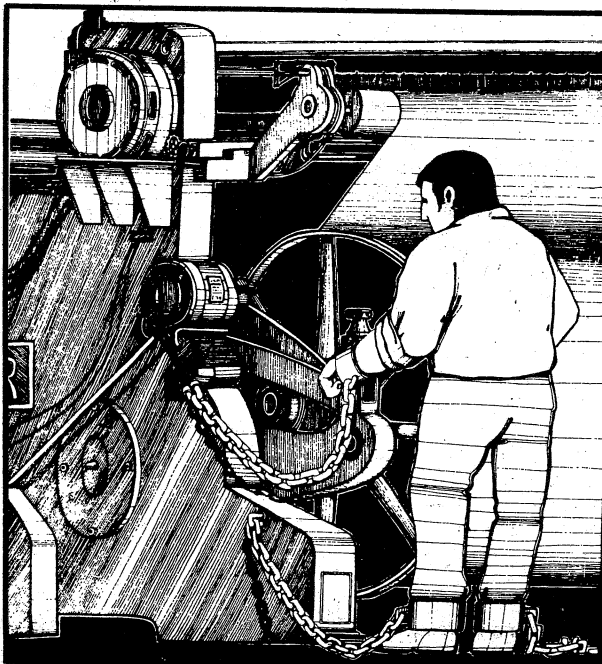
JL: Do they give you any masks or protective gear?

BB: No. None at all.

RB: And you produce all the license plates for the state?

BB: Yes.

JL: About how many is that per day?



BB: Around 3300 per day.

JL: Everyone is paid 75¢ a day here, but what about this so-called incentive pay in the plate shop?

BB: If you put in five days a week, without missing a day, they pay you a whole 75¢ a week extra.

JL: Why do you think they started this program, and do you think the men are satisfied with it?

BB: Because there were too many people staying in their cells because of the rotten working conditions and because the work was so monotonous. And the guys are not satisfied because the guard hassles you all the time. He's always going around, taking counts, making sure everybody is by their machine. If you are not up there

he will tell you once to get back, then he'll write you up.

JL: So besides the nasty working conditions, you guys are producing better than 1500 sets of plates a day, plates which sell for \$25 or more a set, and you get paid \$4.50 a week. Damn, someone is making a whole lot of money.

DL: As far as the money part of it goes, those of us without outside funds find it impossible to purchase even the basic necessities, like soap and shampoo. This isn't only because of our slave wages, but we're paying exorbitant prices in the canteen where we have to buy all our goods.

JL: That's true, almost everything in the canteen is priced higher than things in stores outside. Like, we're paying on the average a dollar or more for a jar of instant coffee.

DL: We either buy what they have or go without, which is just another example of their exploitation of us prisoners.

JL: Do you feel that any of the jobs you are performing now are teaching you skills you can use on the outside?

BB: There is nothing in the plate shop you can use on the streets.

DL: No. According to a survey of three different printing plants which I did, I'd

have to work for two years just to learn the modern techniques and machinery, because of the limited types of work that we do and because of the outdated machines here.

RB: There is presently only one work assignment that could be termed as vocational training, that's the auto repair shop, and right now it looks like the funding will be cut off for this shop soon.

DL: Plus your not allowed to get into this shop unless you're down to two years or less.

JL: The educational program here has recently been expanded.

RB: They offer selected college courses from the Thompson School of Applied Science. It is possible to get an AA degree through this, if you have enough time.

JL: Ya, and if the administration doesn't arbitrarily decide to end the program like they did when Franconia College was offering courses here last year.

RB: The courses offered, though, deal with subjects like forestry, civil engineering, and small business fields.

JL: On paper, N.H. has a half-way house and a work and school release program, but in actuality I think less than 10 men are on work release and at the half-way house. Programs like this are more often used as added means to get men to accept the deplorable conditions in a prison, but here in N.H. they keep the release programs so small that for all practical purposes we can say that we don't even have a release program.

RB: This is something that we have to change, and in fact the NEPA chapter in the prison is working on expanding the work and school release programs, because the law exists for more men to get out, but because of the attitude of the administration, only a very few men are getting out.

JL: From your own experiences what would you brothers suggest for changes in the work and vocational programs here?

RB: If they could get some funding they could offer large machinery training and technical forestry programs, both of which have been successful in prisons out west.

DL: I'd like to see the expansion of the auto school and machine shop. Also, the elimination of the plate shop, and we definitely need an hourly wage system.

JL: You mean at least minimum wages?

RB, DL, BB: Yes!

DL: I'd also like to see an improvement in the caliber of the guards and staff hired here, with a minimum educational level and prior psychological evaluation, since we seem to have a low-caliber staff at this time.

RB: Morons, idiots, etc.

DL: Many of whom display sadistic tendencies, paranoia, and over-all ignorance.

JL: And besides staff and new programs it is time for prisoners to be given some voice in the management of our daily lives as well as longer range programs that will better enable us to live outside. In this regard our newly formed NEPA chapter is working on many of these ideas. Our immediate priorities are a furlough program, parole reform, a new visitation program, expansion of work and school release, rollback of canteen prices, and more yard time.

Project Divide

by Lou Cofone & Antone Pina, Somers

On May 22, 1973, there occurred what is referred to as the "baseball bat incident" at Somers State Prison, Ct. Following a racial flare-up between Black and Spanish-speaking prisoners, which caused many to be segregated and many more to be hospitalized, at least two of the administration had knowledge of plans of a further incident between the Black and Spanish prisoners, but they decided to hold recreation as usual on the 22nd. Tension and feeling of further trouble was running so high that some of the guards who had been assigned to "big" yard duty on the evening of the 22nd pulled seniority on the other guards and traded posts with them to get out of the big yard to safety.

The result of all this tension is that the guards who were in the big yard were assaulted with baseball bats which the prison administration had allowed on the playing field for the purpose of a softball game with the farm team.

The incident was followed by a mass round-up of the persons that the administration alleged had taken part in the incident. These prisoners were placed in the "strip cells" in the segregation unit of the prison, and then placed in holding cells until formal charges could be made. Seven Blacks were charged with the assault. Though the state was pressing for conviction of all seven, the all-white jury could not bring themselves to convict all of them on what was obviously a frame-up. Out of the seven, three were convicted and given long sentences to run consecutively after the sentences they were already serving; one case was nolleed by the court; two others agreed to accept a one year sentence to run concurrently with the sentences they already had; one prisoner was acquitted. All seven prisoners were then transferred to other prisons, some to the federal system.

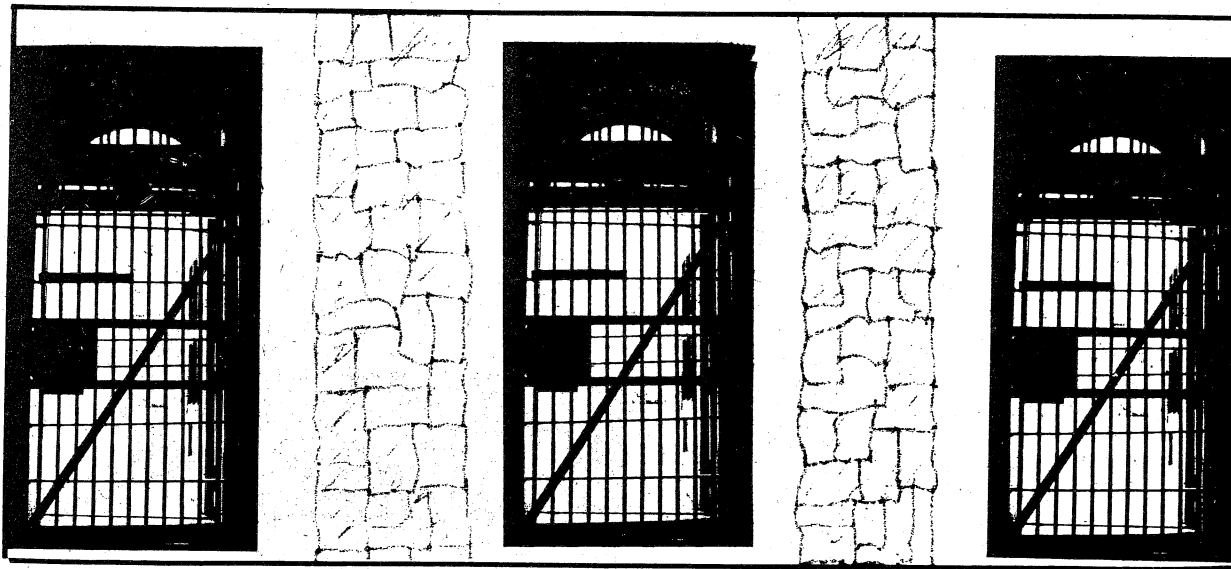
Nearly two years after the incident the repercussions are still being felt at Somers. At no time was it ever alleged that the whole population took part in the incident, but the entire population was arbitrarily punished. Visits were terminated for nearly three weeks after the incident and even attorneys had problems getting in to see their clients. The entire prison was locked-up for weeks and the guard force harassed and intimidated the prisoners on their way to and from the mess hall. Prisoners were not allowed out of their cells except for meals, showers were suspended, and the commissary, when it was re-opened, was only for limited items such as writing paper and cigarettes. Mail delivery slowed down, and recreation was allowed on an every-other-day basis, with only half the population going out at a time.

The repressive measures that are a direct result of the May incident are nothing more than an attempt to prevent a similar incident in the future. They have erected two shotgun towers on top of the Q-Block roofs which over-look the big yard. There is no logical reason to have the towers built inside the outer fences other than to intimidate the prisoners. The only criteria for guards who draw Q-Block tower duty is an ability to carry a shotgun. They have started a "freeze" which, in effect, is an order to cease all movement when an order is given on the bullhorn. If you do move after the "freeze" order has been given you are subject to being shot by the guards. Some prisoners choose to remain in their cells during the out-door recreation period rather than risk their lives in the yard. Guards patrol the yard in pairs and each pair is assigned a gun tower. The duty of the tower guard is to make sure that the guards he is covering get to safety in case of trouble. In the event of a serious disturbance between prisoners, guards in the yard are to leave under cover of the tower guards after the "freeze" order has been given. Prisoners can murder each other at will once the guards have left.

An incident broke out in the small yard in which two prisoners who were

slashed with razors were denied help from the guards. The guards ran from the yard, locking the only exit behind them, while the injured prisoners pounded on the door. Not until a "goon" squad could be formed did the guards reopen the door. Every prisoner in the yard that night had his life in jeopardy from the actions of the guards who not only left their posts but also prevented anyone else from escaping the yard.

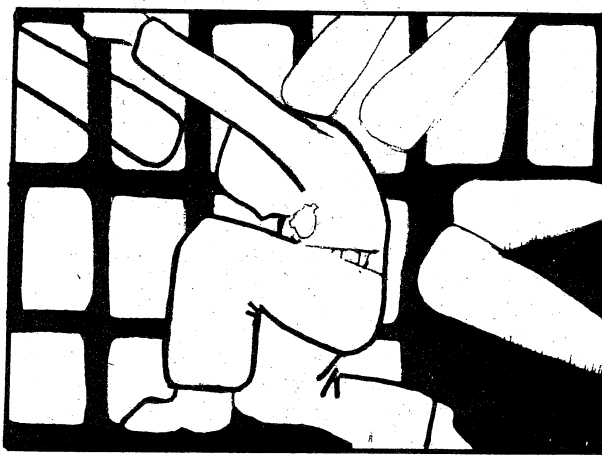
Repressive security measures are still being placed in effect. They have installed closed circuit television in both gyms which are monitored in the control



center. The four cameras (so far) are rumored to cost \$90,000.

The last, and perhaps the most decisive, dehumanizing control project to be started here at Somers is named "project divide" and has been in the planning stages for some time now. An architect has been hired who has submitted blue-prints for the division of the prison and the prisoners. The plans call for two "maxi" blocks each of which will house up to 150 prisoners. Both of these blocks are in existence now, but they are adding a full range of "rehabilitative" programs for prisoners whom the administration will select. There will be no contact between prisoners selected for the maxi blocks (E and F Blocks) and the rest of the population. We have no way of determining who will be segregated by the administration.

It is believed that any prisoner who is a "management problem" will be selected automatically. Since there are not nearly enough prisoners of that classification to fill E and F, we wonder from where the others will come.



Rumor has it that a punishment and reward system (behavior modification system, like START which the Feds dismantled recently) (see NEPA NEWS, Vol. II, #1-ed) will be established and prisoners will be rewarded for good behavior by being released into the population blocks. The intimidation effect of having the maxi blocks will be a decisive factor in over-all control of prisoners. There is not much hope that a prisoner segregated in a maxi block will be given furlough consideration or any type of work or educational release. Those so segregated will be given enough in the way of "rehabilitative" programs to meet legal requirements and no more.

We can get very little information on this program from within. We know they have begun to bring in surveyors for the construction of mess halls, visiting rooms and other buildings that will have to be added to E and F blocks. We know that they divided the big yard with a fence and they plan to build other handball courts in the section without them. There has been no date released for the actual division.

We appeal to all of you on the outside to begin to protest this project which has no rehabilitative value at all and will perhaps endanger society by making the segregated prisoners so bitter and unreceptive to any rehabilitative programs, even the few they now have to offer.

The penal system is directing its efforts toward behavior modification techniques, and Project Divide is Connecti-

cut's contribution toward this frightening concept in corrections. Once Project Divide is established the next steps, toward drug control and even psycho-surgery, will be relatively easy to implement. The fact that such a dehumanizing project can be implemented without any protest whatsoever from the people in society who will pay for it will give Commissioner Manson the green light to further construct his "Brave New World."

Protests by prisoners alone will only ensure their being placed on the maxi list. Project Divide can be stopped with your help. Project Divide is also the best method that Manson could devise to stop the Somers Prisoners Union, as once enough of the leaders are segregated the threat of others being segregated will be sufficient to deter any future Union activity.

For information on the Somers Prisoners Union and Project Divide you can contact Attorney Mike Avery, 265 Church St., New Haven, Ct. 96510 or Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, 311 Temple St., New Haven, Ct. 06510, 203-562-8035.

From Cheshire

Our wages here in Cheshire, Ct. are in three categories: 50¢, 75¢, \$1.00. All positions have the same wages. Depending upon how many people work in each shop determines our pay. For instance, if there are twenty people in a shop, ten will receive 50¢, seven will receive 75¢, and only three will receive a dollar. If the people who are making a dollar are long-timers, there is no chance of advancement for anyone else, since only a certain amount of the people can earn a dollar at any given time (these are hourly rates.) The number depends on the number of people in a shop.

The biggest complaint that we have are the shower conditions. We are jammed into the shower rooms thirty or forty at a time, with only twenty showers barely working. The time that we are given ranges from three to five minutes to shower. I myself have only seen the time extended to a complete five minutes once. If you are still covered with soap at the time the guard turns off the shower, the soap remains on you, and you receive one, two or three days loss of recreation (lockup). We have tried many times to change these conditions, with no satisfaction.

In the Struggle,
Richie Larke

Work in Somers Prison

contd. from p. 1

A close examination of each program of work in Somers reveals the same pattern: the prisoners work; the state profits; and the public watches.

1. Garage/Auto School

The Annual Industries Report fails to give figures on prisoners working in the garage that is distinguishable from prisoners enrolled in the auto school. The staff payroll is for the garage instructor only. (There is also an auto school instructor.)

Prisoners Employed.....12
Prisoners Payroll.....\$4,950.87
Staff Payroll.....\$10,989.79
Net Loss.....\$39,470.02

The Auto School is a vocational training program which is available only to a few selected prisoners. Custody reduction is necessary for enrollment and requirements on the length of time left on one's sentence prohibit many prisoners from taking advantage of a good training opportunity. Expansion of existing facilities is necessary to accommodate more prisoners with longer sentences. Under the existing program many prisoners enroll but never have sufficient time remaining on their sentences to complete the training course.

2. Electronics Shop

The payroll and profit figures on this shop are not available. However, none of the four prisoners employed earns more than the slave wage of .74¢ a day. Expansion of this program is recommended by the Somers Prisoners Union.

3. Small Engine Repair School

This is a federally funded vocational training program employing 15 prisoners at wages of between .38¢ and .74¢ a day. There are no figures on the staff pay or the total prisoner pay. This is one of the few training programs at Somers which is teaching prisoners a marketable job skill. The Somers Prisoners Union recommends that this program be expanded.

4. Clothing Factory

This sweat shop exploits prisoners without giving them even the semblance of a training program which will enable them to compete in the labor force upon release.

Prisoners Employed.....58
Prisoners Payroll.....\$6,499.17
Staff Payroll.....\$24,082.53
Net Profit.....\$20,197.12

This shop has two instructors, one of them an ex-guard who has no teaching experience. The other dispises prisoners. This factory is sometimes used as a punishment assignment. It should be shut down.

5. Data Processing

This vocational training program is in need of modernization of equipment. It also violates prisoners constitutional rights by the administration's refusal to allow drug offenders to enroll.

Prisoners Employed.....15
Prisoners Payroll.....\$3,564.71
Staff Payroll.....not available.
Net Loss.....\$37,261.23

The operational loss of \$37,261.23 is due to the ambiguous listing in the Annual Industries Report of "Misc. Expenditure \$31,760.17." An audit seems in order.

6. Dental Lab

This lab operated at a loss of \$1,900.06 and employed 13 prisoners. There are no figures available on the staff or prisoner payrolls. The Somers Prisoners Union recommends that this program be expanded and that the restrictions against drug offenders be removed.

7. Hospital

There are no figures available on staff or prisoner payrolls or operating expense. One prisoner is employed as an x-ray technician and three prisoners are employed in the medical lab. The Union recommends that a fully accredited training program be established with expansion of facilities to provide training for prisoners. The current restrictive policy preventing drug offenders and prisoners who are on medication from working in the hospital should be lifted.

8. Industries Warehouse

The Union feels that the supervisors salary in the warehouse is an unnecessary expense and that with the guard assigned to the

Prisoners Employed.....9
Prisoners Payroll.....\$920.77
Staff Payroll.....\$10,963.38
Net Loss.....\$8,430.80

warehouse area, the supervisor is not really needed. Prisoners do the work and if paid a decent wage would not need supervision.

9. Staff and Prison Warehouse

There are no figures available on this program. As with the Industries Administration, prisoners do the work and there is no need for the expense of paying unneeded employees.

10. Furniture Factory

The instructors and supervisors in this program, some of them ex-guards with no teaching experience, receive high salaries without contributing one thing to training prisoners. No training program and no real teaching takes place in this sweat shop.



Prisoners Employed.....68
Prisoners Payroll.....\$6,966.63
Staff Payroll.....\$53,969.21
Net Profit.....\$49,213.94

Furniture sanding and spray booth details should be immediately discontinued. There are no jobs available to prisoners upon release who have slaved for years sanding and spraying furniture. Health problems which result from the inhaling of dust and fumes are not treated by the medical department and the complaining prisoner is treated as though he were goldbricking.

The furniture factory is sometimes used as a punishment assignment, and many prisoners have preferred to lose good time and wages by refusing the assignment. And while the furniture factory should be closed down, the state will resist because this factory is a money maker.

11. Print Shop

Printing equipment is obsolete and prisoners trained in the Somers print shop would be hard put to qualify for employment in a modern printing industry. The print shop is not really training prisoners in any marketable job skill; production for state institutions and agencies is of priority and training is secondary. Obsolete equipment like the twenty-five year old printing press recently ordered is common in this training program.

Prisoners Employed.....16
Prisoners Payroll.....\$2,290.51
Staff Payroll.....\$11,569.72
Net Profit.....\$38,755.30

The Union recommends that if the program is to continue, men must be trained on modern equipment.

12. State Shop

There are no figures available on this program. The state shop maintains the

prison. All plumbing, electrical and mason training programs come under this shop. Also, machine, welding and sheet metal work is done in this shop. There are no real training programs; and instructors and supervisors, some of whom are not trained in teaching, draw fat pay checks while prisoners learn on their own or not at all. The obsolete machine shop is useless for training prisoners even if there were trained teachers to teach.

It is the Union's position that a modern technical trade school be established, and work currently done in the state shop would be performed by those in the school.

13. Laundry and Dry Cleaning

This is another punishment assignment, not a training program. The modernization of all equipment, such as presses, washing machines, etc., is of paramount importance. Many injuries to prisoners have resulted because of the use of obsolete equipment, some of which was brought to Somers from Weathersfield Prison ten years-ago, and was obsolete then.

Prisoners Employed.....51
Prisoners Payroll.....\$6,421.91
Staff Payroll.....\$46,672.44
Net Loss.....\$478.27

Although the laundry operated at a loss of \$478.27 in fiscal 1973, the retraining for more useful occupations of the supervisors would allow the prison to pay the prisoners a minimum wage. Prisoners run the laundry, and the supervisors are hard pressed to find enough work to make themselves look busy. There is no logical reason to employ four supervisors, which is only met by exploiting prisoner labor. These supervisors offer not one thing in the way of vocational training to prisoners in this sweat shop.

14. Typewriter Repair Shop and School

This vocational training program is in need of modernization of typewriters used for training prisoners. Existing machines are obsolete and useless for training. Most of the service and repair work in the shop is also done on very obsolete machines sent in by the federal government. Men trained on these machines continue to be confronted with the problem of being helpless when called to service a modern machine in an office on the street. Therefore, there is no real training program in this school and only one modern machine that could be used for teaching and training if the instructor was allowed by the head of industries to set up a teaching program. He is, however, instructed to place emphasis on production of junk machines

Prisoners Employed.....15
Prisoners Payroll.....\$1,906.85
Staff Payroll.....\$9,500.81
Net Profit.....\$7,433.18

The Union recommends (1) the purchase of modern machines, (2) that a viable training program be established, and (3) that a course in salesmanship be introduced since repairmen are also required to sell.

15. Upholstery Shop

The payroll and profit figures are not available on this shop. The one instructor is in the ten thousand dollar bracket. The Union recommends the immediate closing of the upholstery shop as it serves no one but state agencies who have their work done by prisoners. No marketable job skill is learned by prisoners in this shop. There is not a demand for upholsterers and few if any of the prisoners ever seek or find employment in this trade upon release. Still this shop employs 20 prisoners.

16. Kitchen Mess Hall

The kitchen employs 104 prisoners, but there are no figures available on profit or payrolls for this shop. An apprenticeship program was established for training prisoners in baking and cooking, but after the prisoners invested 6,000 hours in courses, the program was discontinued and those prisoners enrolled received no credit for hours put in on-the-job training. The apprenticeship program should be re-established and those prisoners who are still in the institution who so desire should be allowed to continue the courses that were discontinued. Full credit should be awarded for hours already earned.

contd. on next page

Work in Somers Prison

There are problems between the correctional officers and civilian employees in the kitchen. Both tend to give orders to prisoners. The prisoners are confused by contradictions between the orders given and many have received misconduct reports because they followed one order and not the other. Mass confusion is the direct result of an overstaffed kitchen.



grade placements, who work in the kitchen rather than getting into the day school because they can get out of prison faster working at a seven day a week job.

Third, the parole board takes a negative view of prisoners who don't have a good work record. Fourth, most prisoners need the wages. Many men have no money and besides paying for necessities they would like to send money to their families, help pay for transportation of their families to Somers to visit (Somers is out in the woods and a taxi must be taken from the closest train station), and pay lawyers fees. Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut makes sure that they have no surplus money on hand to do these things. When the wages were raised from .38¢ to .74¢ a day, to .50¢ to \$1.00 a day, the commissary prices were raised at the same time.

What then can prisoners do about their exploitation? The Somers Prisoners Union is an important tool in organizing men in Somers prison to stand up together for their rights and work towards self-determination. The Union has met harassment such as censorship of incoming and outgoing mail; and organizers being segregated and transferred. Lou Cofone was segregated for sixteen days without charges after he sent out a Union press release that was printed in the Hartford Courant. Brother Paka (Edward McZeal) was transferred to Hartford Jail last summer, was back for less than a week last October, and was again transferred, this time to Montville State Jail after he and two others were invited to speak at a meeting of the Jaycees about the Union. Unions of prisoners must become stronger to prevent these abuses on fellow prisoners.

The Somers Prisoners Union has filed suit in federal court seeking recognition to deal with these issues. (See last issue of NN).

Success in this suit is an important step toward the self-determination necessary to deal with the problems of work and human exploitation at Somers prison.

(Limitation of space prevented us from including material on Osborn Prison Farm also in the Union report. Readers who want more details should contact Lou Cofone 23940, Prisoners Union, Box 100, Somers, Conn. 06071.)

Freedom's Crafts

We have the following items for sale this month. They may be ordered from our distributor, payment on order with order guaranteed or money refunded:

FREEDOM'S CRAFTS
c/o Anita Schofield
Box 321
Littleton, N.H. 03561

The items for sale are:

Candles--\$2 and up
Crochet Belts (specify size)--\$5.50
Beaded Necklaces--\$3
Cloth Belts (specify size)--\$3 and up
Hand-made sandals (send traced foot pattern)--\$12
Hand embroidery, mending, wallets, bill-folds, pocket-books, crotchet, etc.--price on request
Wooden carved objects including:
seagulls on driftwood--75¢
seagulls and buoy on lobster trap--\$1.25
seagull on painted stump--\$1.25
seagull on rock or wood--75¢

Any idea you'd like to have in leather, wood, macrame, crochet, cloth, etc. send us an order and we will give you a price.

Anyone interested in selling a different craft through us, please write.

What does this information tell us? Out of the 17 work programs at Somers, only six give some kind of vocational training. These six are the garage/auto school, the electronics shop, the small engine repair school, the data processing program, the dental lab, and the hospital. They involve 63 prisoners out of a population of 990 (6.4%). The data processing programs is in dire need of modernization. Three of these programs (the data processing program, the dental lab, and the hospital) have restrictions against prisoners on medication; and the garage/auto school requires a prisoner to have under a certain amount of time left on his sentence. The vocational training at Somers is not only severely limited, but unduly selective.

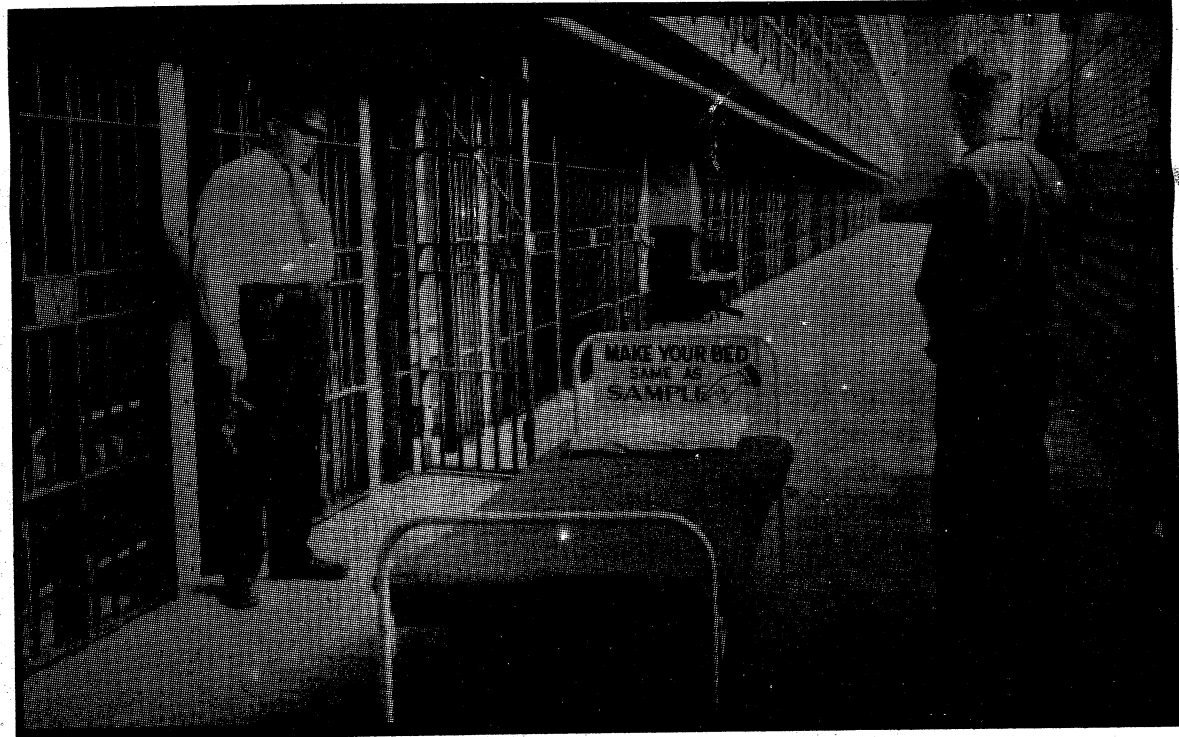
The 1972-1973 net profit of the Connecticut Department of Correctional Industries was \$53,344.13. Although the work programs are in no way efficiently administered, the profit results from exploiting the labor of prisoners. Compare the staff payroll for fiscal 1973 of \$665,738.63 to the prisoners payroll of \$64,633.48. And there must be ten times as many prisoners as staff.

Seven of the seventeen work programs (the Industries administration, the clothing factory, the Industries warehouse, the staff and prison warehouse, the furniture factory, the laundry and dry cleaning plant, and the kitchen/mess hall) employ unnecessary supervisors or incompetent instructors. Much of the profit is absorbed by this waste of money.

The prison could never run on a profit if the prisoners were not coerced into maintaining the prison industries and most of the work necessary to the running of the prison. Thy pay scale for prisoners was recently raised from .38¢ to .74¢ a day; then to a three-step scale of .50¢, .75¢, and \$1.00 a day. The wage is determined arbitrarily. In some jobs you cannot reach the dollar a day step at all, and in others, like the typewriter repair shop, only 5 or 6 out of 15 are allowed to get it. If prisoners were given even just a minimum wage for their work, the profit would be put in the pockets of the producers. Prisons are run by the exploitation of the labor of the prisoners whom prison is supposed to restore to society.

If this is the case, why do prisoners work? The most immediate reason is that if a prisoner at Somers refuses an assignment, he is locked in his cell all day. Second, is the fear of losing good time. The handing out of good time for work is an especially bad practice when you consider that there are prisoners in Somers who have very low

July



Connecticut Coalition

On Saturday, June 8, the Connecticut Coalition on Criminal Justice was formed at a meeting called by the Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, and attended by representatives from several areas of the state. Organizations and agencies present included CBCI, Coming Together, the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, the Connecticut Council of Churches, the Connecticut Defense Coalition, the Connecticut Prison Association, the Group Living Project, NARCO, and Project Fire.

The Coalition selected three immediate priorities. A committee on Legislation was established, to be chaired by the Rev. Dwight Kintner of the Connecticut Council of Churches. It's first task will be to develop proposals for legislation and to supply information to the Sub-Committee on Corrections of the Committee on Corrections, Welfare, and Humane Institutions of the Connecticut General Assembly.

A second priority will be the estab-

lishment of a statewide newsletter which will facilitate communication and information-sharing among the Coalition members. Entries for the first issue, which will be published early in July, should be sent to CBCI by June 30.

Finally, the group hopes to recruit into the new Coalition other groups around the State who are working for change in the correctional and criminal justice systems. Members of the Prisoners' Union at Somers are being kept informed of the Coalition's activities, and their concerns are being brought to the attention of the group as a whole, as well as the Committee on Legislation.

The next meeting of the entire group was set for July 10, from 6-8 PM, at 311 Temple St., New Haven. If child-care is a problem, we may be able to work something out. We encourage interested groups to send a representative, and to come prepared to discuss other priorities. For information, call: 562-8035.

Crime in Rural Maine

by Philip B. Shaw, Director, STEP Center, Portland, Me., and Member, NEPA Board of Directors

Legislative hearings held recently in Rockland, Maine found State Representative Larry Connelly and the State-Wide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) squared off in battle against the law and order forces as to the problems of crime in Maine.

The state police and sheriff's department claim the problem is due to lack of manpower and equipment to adequately patrol the hundreds of miles of rural areas; while Representative Connelly and SCAR argue that crime is a social problem.

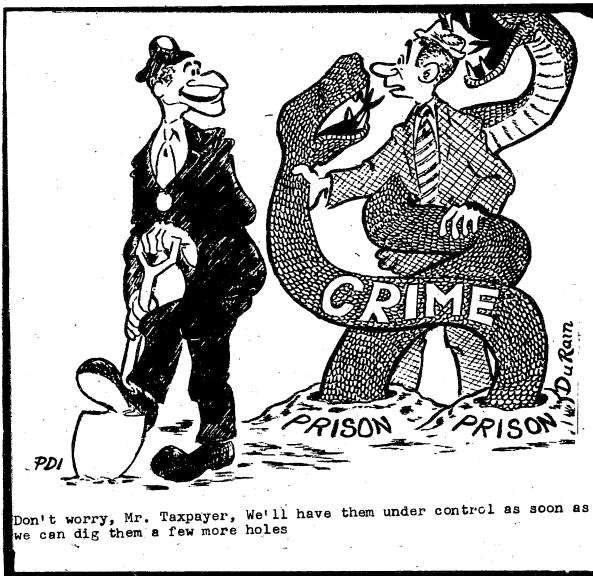
The average voter in Maine and especially one living in a rural area should be shocked to learn that they are paying millions of dollars a year in taxes for police protection and the average policeman cannot even define crime satisfactorily to the legislature. Even more shocking is the epidemic of crime and a rising fear of crime that is raging throughout rural Maine with no end in sight.

What is the police role in relation to crime today? Unfortunately, police work is the art of alienation. Anyone who practices the art of police science is an alienist. Usurped by the Federal Safe Street Act and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the police profession is in a sad state of disarray. The (LEAA) millions has done nothing to improve police work as it is practiced today. Guns and bullets and mace have done nothing to reduce crime or to improve the science. Police work as it is predominantly practiced today needs to be changed radically, that is, "at the root."

The police role is a political activity. People who get caught up in their midst find themselves in a power-structure relationship with one or more human beings. The policeman has influence in the power arrangements of these relationships, the power to further alienate the "offender." Because the police assume the role of authority they become enforcers of domination and because of lack of activity by the offender, the role of the police becomes essentially political and oppressive.

A classic and prime example of this is found in the literature on drugs now being distributed throughout the public schools of Maine by county sheriffs. Somewhere between heroin and cocaine the sheriffs' list the "Horrors" of Marijuana, frightening parents to the point of alien-

ating the child from the family structure by either withdrawing love and understanding of the problem or, as in many cases, simply throwing the child out of the home when it becomes apparent the child is a user of Marijuana.



Don't worry, Mr. Taxpayer, We'll have them under control as soon as we can dig them a few more holes

The distribution of fear literature or the use of fear tactics is in itself a form of oppression. Rather than solving an individual drug problem the police have aided in the creation of a crime problem. In the absence of oppression, human beings will live in harmony with each other, but when force or threats of force by police tactics occurs, we have created a source of human alienation.

When that 14-15 or 16 year old child gets the feeling that he is not part of the human species, or he does not deserve to live, then the child has become alienated. The child, even though unqualified to survive in our complex society, is not stupid. He knows the police are the main reason for the alienation. Is it any wonder that the youths scream "PIG" at the police, that they have no respect for others' personal property or for society's laws? Is it any wonder that the epidemic of crime and the fear of crime in rural Maine is out of control?

The police would have the legislature believe that committing a crime is the "offenders" own fault and therefore his own responsibility. I would argue that all crimes are the result of oppression, about which the oppressed have been mystified or deceived. The result of the acceptance of deception is that the person will feel alienated.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

To stop the epidemic of crime in rural Maine two factors are necessary. The first is awareness. That is, awareness of oppression and the sources of it. However, pure awareness of oppression does not lead to change. Awareness of oppression leads to anger and a wish to do something about it. Anger, therefore, is a healthy first step rather than an irrational, neurotic or otherwise undesirable reaction.

The second factor to end the epidemic of crime is contact. That is to say contact with other human beings, who, united, will move against the oppression. An individual cannot move against his/her oppression as an individual; he/she can only do so with the support of a group of other human beings.

The Maine voter has become aware, and the 6000 signatures presented to the Governor demanding an end to crime in rural Maine is proof that anger is but around the corner. Even the legislature is responding.

And the police? They, too, are aware. Listen to their cries. Give us... Give us more guns, give us more equipment, give us more power, Give us-Give us-Give us. But, power for what is the question every voter needs to ask. Unfortunately, it would be more power for alienation, more power to oppress, and more power to drive the spiraling crime rate even higher so that at a later date they can once again say, "Give us."

We talked to Phil further about the "epidemic of crime" in rural Maine. Phil pointed out that the urban police have greatly increased both manpower and technical resources as a result of LEAA money. Urban police have used this money to make it more dangerous to steal inside the city (in addition to their other result Phil describes above). For this reason, the ever-increasing number of persons looking to steal simply drive into the country, particularly summer resort areas, and steal from houses that are empty for most of the year.

So the question Phil raises is brought up once again. Will the voters of Maine look to spend untold millions to turn rural Maine into a police state, a task that will probably prove impossible anyway. Or will the voters see the solution as SCAR or Phil Shaw sees it, a re-structuring of society to eliminate the causes of crime and, as a significant first step, changing the role of the police so they will cease to be professional alienists.

Upholstery Shop at Thomaston

Dear NEPA NEWS,

My name is Pierre Loyer and I am a prisoner here at Thomaston, Maine State Prison. We inmates of Thomaston feel that NEPA NEWS is an important tool in educating the many people who have been duped by the capitalist press. I hope the idea of prison reform and the NEPA NEWS will continue to get stronger and stronger.

I thought you might be interested in the following statement of facts:

I have worked in the prison Upholstery Shop at Thomaston for approximately one year. The shop did not have an upholstery instructor or teacher, but a shop officer was in charge. He had no training in upholstery.

1. Beginning Sept. 15, 1973, for the first time, an Upholstery course was offered. It was two nights a week, a total of four hours.

2. I applied for the upholstery course. A week later I was notified by the Classification Committee that I would not be allowed an opportunity to participate in the course. The committee did not give me reason for the denial.

3. On Sept. 24, 1973 I was informed by my shop officer, Mr. Giles, that the apparent reason for my being denied from the course was that Warden Mullaney alleged that I had four warrants pending against me.

4. I then wrote the warden a letter explaining that I did not, in fact, have four warrants pending against me,

and that I was aware of only a single detainer pending against me.

5. As a response to the above-mentioned letter, Deputy Warden Finney called me to the guard room to discuss issues mentioned in the letter that I addressed to Warden Mullaney. I stated to Mr. Finney that I was never notified or received copies of four warrants pending against me, and that I believed that the four warrants were completely fabricated, and part of a series of fabricated excuses used by Dep. Finney and Warden Mullaney. I asked Dep. Finney exactly what the four alleged warrants were. Dep. Finney stated:

1. Murder
2. Escape
3. Violation of Parole
4. Dep. Finney did not know what the fourth warrant was for.

6. I then wrote to my attorney fully explaining the administration's accusations of the existence of four alleged warrants. My attorney sent me a letter stating that, to his knowledge, I had a single detainer pending against me, from Canada. I had a photo-copy made and gave it to the Warden.

7. I requested to meet with Warden Mullaney to discuss my entering the upholstery course. I met with the Warden, and he stated words to the effect that he hoped I was not going to ask about the upholstery course because I had been caught drinking in the COAST-LINE office (prisoner newspaper). I

said that was not true, I was merely present when home-brew was found. The Warden stated that he would consider the matter in a couple of weeks; and then he dismissed me.

8. Two weeks later the warden sent Dep. Finney to discuss the matter with me. Finney said that my request to enter the upholstery course was again brought up at a Classification meeting and again denied. Dep. Finney further informed me that he was on the classification committee, that he had denied me, and furthermore that I would never get an opportunity to work or take classes on the outcount, because that required a minimum security classification. Dep. Finney also stated at that time that the warden had received a letter from an officer who was on duty in the upholstery shop stating that I had been observed passed out in a chair, the result of taking LSD. I asked to see the letter. He would not show it to me. Inmates Kenneth Denault, Kenneth Diecke, Richard Picariello and I asked the officer who had supposedly written the letter if he did in fact write such a letter. His answer was that he did not write such a letter, that it was ridiculous, and that even if I had been observed passed out in a chair, how could he possibly tell that it was the effect of LSD.

contd. on p. 13

Letters to the Editor

Dear NEPA NEWS,

Richard Sanborn and I were recently fired from the prison bakery in retaliation for recently exposing the systematic stealing of state food commodities by prison guards Donald Lunt, Jay Carlson, Elliott Brann and Richard Hall.

We had observed over a period of five months that the men stole in excess of 11,500 pounds of bulk food through the use of a prison truck. More than five tons of food in less than a year, and there have been frequent reports of food stealing by the guards ever since Donald Lunt was assigned to the kitchen 2½ years ago.

Prior to Lunt's assignment to the kitchen he worked as a common guard. Prior to that he skinned fish at a local fish factory. Backed by those qualifications he was placed in charge of all food preparation ???

He immediately began to use the kitchen toilet area as a storage place for bags of beans, coffee, salt, oatmeal and other food products. On occasion water from the over-flowing toilet seeped into the bags. I and Richard Sanborn informed the I.A.C. of that situation. Consequently all food was removed from the toilet area.

My account of food stealing was published by a local newspaper. Within an hour of receiving a letter from another newspaper that was interested in publishing further details, we were fired.

By accepting the defensive lies of the guards involved in the stealing and rejecting the facts which could incriminate the guards, Warden Garrel S. Mullaney has concealed their guilt while handing out lies to the I.A.C. members, to the population and to the press in his determination to cover-up a long-existing situation.

Due to his inexperience, Mullaney has resorted to the use of the BIG-LIE to cover up the failings and lack of co-operation of his administration. Lies to the population, to the press and to the guards. As a result of his continuing array of lies, it is becoming well-accepted within and without that he is indeed the most inept man to have held the post of Warden in the past fifty years.

Incidentally, 4 I.A.C. members, in an effort to get a majority opinion, agreed that a petition requesting the Warden to restore us to the bakery should be circulated. The entire population signed it with the exception of 2 inmates who are self-appointed sniffing apologists for every guard above the rank of sergeant. In keeping with the wishes of those two creeps the Warden insulted the population by rejecting the petition.

(signed) Albert Paul
Maine State Prison
(Thomaston, Me.)

Let it be known that on Thursday, the 13th of June, John Butler demanded what was entitled to him by the prison staff at NHSP:

A Bible, and in view of the extreme heat caused by the Boiler Room adjacent to the hole and the outside temperature, some salt tablets.

Dear NEPA,

I recieved your letter and am glad to reply quickly. The note I dropped you before going to solitary confinement was a quick one to be used as reference when my demands were not met, as I knew they wouldn't be--demands never seem to be met in this institution--whether it be lack of money provided by the state or interest, I don't know which--perhaps both--however, I do need that reference documented because I'm quite sure the Warden and Dep. Warden disregarded my notice which I provided them before entering the hole. I'll see them in court about the matter and should see then exactly who is behind this institution, and why. The hole still exists, despite it's threat to proper human functions and dignity.

Thanks a lot,
John Butler
a distant friend.

Dear Gene Mason:

It has come to my attention that a representative of the New England Prisoners Association has contacted a juvenile probationer with the intention of recruitment.

I am sure this was done without your knowledge, but you should be well aware that this office will not condone anyone from your organization tampering with juveniles under our supervision.

If you have any questions about this matter, either Mr. Fowler of this office or myself would be happy to discuss the matter with you.

Very truly yours,
E. Keith Cochran
State Probation Officer

cc: Central Office

Dear Mr. Cochran:

I was astounded to read your letter stating that your organization would not condone the efforts of NEPA organizers to recruit juveniles you supervise.

Since you chose not to familiarize me with the particular case to which you refer and precisely who was involved, there is no way for me to ascertain if a NEPA organizer did recruit or attempt to recruit juveniles under your supervision.

However, I think confusion over what joining NEPA means should be clarified.

NEPA is a membership organization of prisoners, ex-prisoners, and supporters.

We encourage all who agree with our statement of purpose, printed on Page 2 of the enclosed recent issue of NEPA NEWS, to join with us in affecting that purpose.

Many people who support these goals are under the age of majority; and many juveniles under court supervision are members of NEPA. We frequently have juveniles referred to us for our support by probation officers.

Our purposes are both legal and desirable, and we intend to accept into membership all who agree with them.

We encourage you to join with us in these efforts.

For your interest I am enclosing a copy of an article by Milton Luger, Director, Division of Youth, State of N.Y., which describes why organizations like NEPA are critically important sources of support for youthful offenders of the law.

Yours truly,
Gene L. Mason
NEPA Board of Directors

Dear NEPA,

I am writing to let you know that the prison people sure have a damned good way of getting at a person who tries to get along with other prisoners here at the prison. Like this, they called me up to the office and the deputy asked me what had I been into the night before, and I told him that I had fallen down the stairs because the steps were icy and hit my head when I fell. The deputy warden said that wasn't the way he heard it, and I said that is what happened. So what does he do, because I put in a suit against the warden for neglect of duty? He tells the courts that I was beaten up because I had worked for the pigs on the street and told him that there was a bunch of guys in on it. So what happens? The mail clerk opened the letter from the attorney-general's office, and for some reason this has brought a lot of heat onto me, because it is thought that I am a rat. I would like to make this clear to anyone thinking bad of me. I would never say any such things to the prison personnel, as they are just like a pig: they like to hold their jobs to make them feel like gods of some kind. To me they are the dirt of the streets; they don't care who they have to step on, as long as they get what they want. They even told my folks I was over in protective custody, because I was lazy and refused to work. I would like to have this letter printed in NEPA News. Thank you.

Herbert Eldridge
NHSP

NEPA NEWS



"Yes, it's old fashioned, but it gets the job done."

Brothers and Sisters,

Eclat salutes you from the Midwest! I am writing to you from the plush Grammar School in Anamosa, Iowa.

I guess the people here are pretty satisfied with our conditions. We have things that probably make other prisons look like the nightmares they are.

Yet, it's all 100% pure bullshit! Sure, we can have our own TV's, radios, and cassette players. And we get paid from 80¢ a day to \$1.20 a day; not to mention our miniature golf course in the yard. We even got Playboy magazine allowed in here about a year or so ago.

We have a level system:

- 1.5-1 new men
- 2 punishment
- 3 middle class
- 4 good guys
- 5 suck-asses

We have eight of nine vocational skills courses and a high school GED program. I don't know if they still have a college program. A new Warden even. Pop machines, and ice machines in the cell houses.

I guess it sounds pretty good. But is it worth it? It's just like it sounds, too good to be true. Sure, we have all of this, and more, but the only way to get it is to let yourself be stepped on by every cop in here. After you have it, it is even harder to keep it, because once you start letting them step on you they'll make you let them wear their spiked shoes on you so you can keep what you have.

You can buck the system here all you want. They'll let you get away with it for a while, and then they just send you to the Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa.

I call the Fort transfers "Sissle's Witch Hunts"

They don't just send someone down there every month or so because they are a real problem. They send them down there because they are suspected of using drugs, being radicals, or wheeling and dealing or gambling.

I am 21, and I'll probably be going down there before too long. In fact, I was told by the classification people that I'm at the end of my rope. One more mess-up and off I go. You know something? I couldn't care less any more. Sure, the conditions are worse down there, but I just don't care any more.

I've been in here since I was 18. I'll be 22 in September. I'm doing 10 years for B&E, but that's only because I won't be these bastards' shoe-shine boy.

I guess my only reason for writing this was to let people know that even though this place looks like the Hilton Hotel, it's not.

Truth, Freedom, and
Peace

Dusty

News from New England and Around

We are making these news shorts a regular feature of NEPA NEWS. As you can see, not all states or prisons are represented. Therefore we would like all persons, inside or out, to send us any news they have for this column. We would also like a regular correspondent from any prison or organization in New England to get us this material. We would also like to come up with a good, appropriate and catchy title for this column. Send us your ideas. The copy deadline for our August issue is July 22, Wednesday. Please try to get your stuff to us by that day, it really helps.

Breest Sues

Robert Breest has just filed a suit against N.H. Governor, Meldrim Thomson, for the latter's refusal to allow NEPA NEWS to interview him. Breest is the Spokesman for the Prisoners Reform Council at New Hampshire State Prison.

The Governor allowed a reporter from the Concord Monitor to interview Breest, but is trying to say NEPA NEWS is not a newspaper because it was not listed last year in the newspaper publishers' yearbook.

The Department of Corrections has contracted with a group of health experts to inspect and review health needs in all of the institutions in Vermont. The DOC defines health needs as not only absence of infirmities, but also as physical and social well being.

It is obvious to all in the state of Vermont who are in any way familiar with Windsor Prison and its mini-counterparts (Correctional Centers) that the report will be very poor. Heading this august team of experts is a doctor, a shrink type that at one time worked at the NHSP and has been overheard as recommending darkened rooms with complete sensory deprivation for the handling of unmanageable prisoners. This same doctor is also reported as sponsoring and supporting a mental health clinic attached to the courts. Progressive peoples in the Upper Valley of Vermont and N. H. banded together to fight this. This 1984 Orwellian nightmare was too evident not to be seen by any but the naive.

On the day of a church fair in the town of Windsor, local citizens, involved in visiting prisoners at the prison,

When Windsor County's State Attorney, Paul F. Hudson, stepped down he called the prison his biggest worry: "something has got to be done about that prison" he stated, adding that he spent a great deal of his time prosecuting escapers.

He may well have been following the State Attorney General's lead. Kimberly B. Cheney recommended that Vermont's criminal rehabilitation programs be entirely removed from the state's criminal justice system and its prisons. He called for a special separate agency to carry on this work. Cheney said a separate agency is needed because prisons have not been enormously successful in rehabilitating prisoners. In addition, he said the present situation leads to a cruel game of cat and mouse in which the prisoner's behavior becomes a factor in his stay at the penal institution. In these conditions discipline is maintained by a threat of more time, and the prisoner is encouraged to manipulate his behavior.

"You can't change people by coercion. The person has to voluntarily want to change. If he doesn't want to change, he manipulates," said Cheney. He also explained an unconfirmed report he heard where corrections officials give good behavior reports on hardened criminals in an effort to have them removed from their jurisdiction while, at the same time, filing poor reports on well-behaved prisoners in order to retain them.

Commissioner Stoneman, in a recent interview, came up with the best of all the looney statements. Talking about the amount of contraband drugs, he claimed that the recently installed chain-link fence has cut down on the smuggling of contraband drugs. We guess the Comm. has it in his mind that people were walking up to the prison, throwing dope over the blocks or walls, or passing it through the barred, wire, screened windows.

Audit, audit, who has the audit? The taxpayers of Vermont have been waiting for a year now for the fiscal audit of Windsor Prison. This audit, completed in the Spring of 1973, has been held in "Review status" by the Auditor of Accounts since last summer. It was the first in almost twenty years, and who knows what kind of scandals it could hold. No one seems to know anything about it except, it is under "Review".

Maine

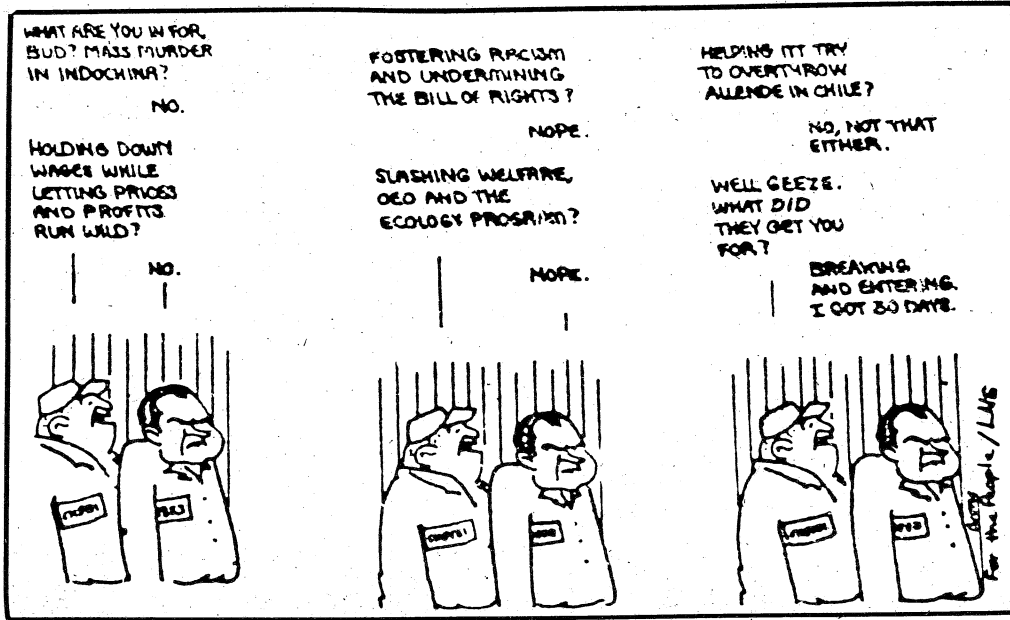
Inside SCAR sponsored a family day at Maine State Prison, Thomaston, Me., on Sunday, June 23. Brothers inside set up the whole day, which included such projects as building swings for the kids. Unfortunately, the administration would only allow women and children from the outside to come into the prison. SCAR hopes that men will be included next time.

SCAR's TIMES Radio Show--SCAR has a radio show every Sunday at 4:30 pm on WBLM-FM in Portland, Me. Shows have included such topics as Sexism in Men's Prisons, SCAR news inside and outside, Family Day, and discrimination against women relatives of men prisoners. Though the show is only for 15 minutes, the response has been very good (the show is heard in Thomaston) and SCAR hopes to expand the length in the near future.

Council elections at Thomaston are coming up in the near future. Currently all Council members are also members of SCAR.

Canada

Canadian prisoners have been granted the minimum wage, \$2.20 per hour. Some of the money is deducted for rent, a certain amount must be saved, and prisoners must buy their own toilet articles. Despite the forced deductions, this is clearly a step in the right direction as prisoners will now have spending money, money to send home, and will be able to hit the streets with some cash.



Vermont

Vermont State prison at Windsor had a two day lock-up on Tuesday and Wednesday June 4 and 5. This lock-up shows a great deal of progress on the part of the guards at Windsor. They used to take two and three weeks to accomplish the same thing.

Approximately two or three weeks before some people were busted for grass. It is not clear at this time whether or not they will be prosecuted.

In a recent interview Warden Moeykens blamed the escapes of Vermont's Houdini, Wayne Carlson, on the "plan" itself, and assured the reporter, "I am sure other men could do the same thing if they put their mind to it." Who said warden's hold their prisoners in low esteem?

The Woodstock Prisoner Support group held a picnic for the men and women locked up in Woodstock prison. Good food, volley ball and a lot of fun for the time they were out was had by all. There were no escapes from the picnic, although Woodstock itself has been having problems keeping people inside the walls.

The editor of the Valley News, a newspaper out of Lebanon, N. H. that has good circulation in Vermont, suggested that Vermont people SEND A CON TO COLLEGE. With some straight figuring, the editor pointed out that the state of Vermont could save \$900,000 a year by closing Windsor Prison and enrolling all 94 prisoners at the University of Vermont. Or, if UVM wasn't good enough, send them to Dartmouth College and still save \$700,000.

But if those insisting on protection are to be heard, then Vermont could save \$750,000 a year by sending 94 guards with the prisoners to UVM; or, if they sent them to Dartmouth College, \$200,000. All of these figures are derived from the estimated \$1,216,749 spent on the Windsor facility, which breaks down to about \$22,122 a year per con.

brought refreshments to the prison and gave them to a guard at the main gate to be given to six prisoners locked in Windsor Special Adjustment Unit. This kind gesture on the part of concerned citizens was met two days later with a new rule applying to all prisoners and their visitors: No one can bring anything to a prisoner unless they are going to visit a prisoner. The effect of this is to keep people from showing any support or kindness. It makes us wonder how much the Department of Corrections, and specifically Windsor prisoners, really want the citizenry involved.

Rev. Theodore Kohinke, who was the chaplain at the prison, has, upon his leaving that job, issued a volley at the Corrections Department. Kohinke pointed out the pathetic state of work and rehabilitation programs and demanded explanations for the policy of foot dragging on programs which are depriving prisoners of opportunities. Unfortunately, Rev. Kohinke saw as the source of problems at Windsor a lack of communications and poor leadership from the Dept. of Corrections. He never saw that such a facility, by its very nature, is doomed to failure, unless you measure its success only by whether or not it warehouses its men well.

Another expert is being called in to give Windsor Prison a boost. The last one, Abbott, was here to beef up the security. A parting testimony to his effectiveness was Carlson's escape from the Special Adjustment Unit, the place that is supposed to be the maximum security unit of all of the prison. This new man is supposedly named Conrad and God only knows what he is supposed to do or what it is going to cost the taxpayers of Vermont.

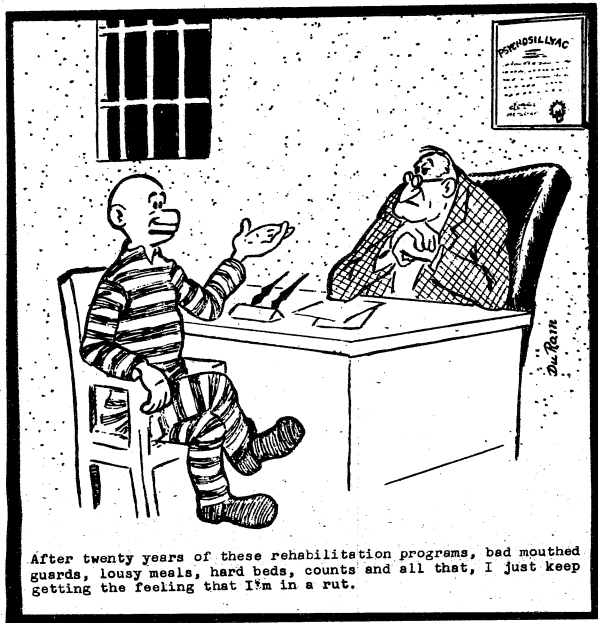
More News

Norfolk, Ma.

Frank Salamme, Secretary of the Italian-American Civic Club, was elected Co-Chairman of the Norfolk Resident Council. He succeeds Tom Guerro. Frank won on a prison-wide vote of 374 to 144. His opponent was Steve Doherty, who is a full-time University of Massachusetts student.

Seventy Norfolk prisoners received diplomas June 15. Theme of graduation: "More money for education instead of money for steel walls for Walpole."

Radio Free Norfolk has recently expanded. We are now broadcasting over four stations and reaching 500,000 people: WBUR-FM 90.9 (Boston) Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m.; WCOD-FM (Hyannis) 106.1 Sundays at 11:30 p.m.; WICN-FM (Worcester) 90.5 Mondays at 1:00 p.m. & Fridays at 9:00 p.m. Starting July 1st WROR-FM (Boston) 98.5 (the Golden Oldies Station) will carry our program on at 11:30 p.m. Any New England prisoners who can get a half-hour tape together, we'll broadcast it. Any New England prisoners support group who would like to do a show: write Joseph Rembizeski, General Manager Radio Free Norfolk, Box 43, Norfolk, MA 02056.



After twenty years of these rehabilitation programs, bad mouthed guards, lousy meals, hard beds, counts and all that, I just keep getting the feeling that I'm in a rut.

Howie Taylor is building a racing car inside the walls--completely from solicited parts. Howie hopes to be able to get furloughs so he can race his car in competition at local tracks. If he doesn't get furloughs, he'll race it around the tree on the quad. This should make Emile Palange, the Supervisor of Industries happy. He has been against the hot rod since the beginning.

Governor Sargent recently asked for \$112,000 for a new roof for the Industries Building. Meanwhile there are no dishes to eat off, food is atrocious, no clothes..., but we do need a new roof so civilian instructors won't get wet.

After 3 years of trying, telephones are now in Norfolk. Only collect calls can be made and no incoming calls are possible. The telephone company also won't allow collect local calls, so prisoners with families living around Norfolk can't call.

Work Release is suppose to start at Norfolk July 1st, almost two years after the law (Chapter 777) came into effect. The Department of Correction moved fast on this one.

Chapter 528 of the Massachusetts General Laws giving 2 & 1/2 days a month good time for involvement in rehabilitation programs is not implemented yet. The law passed July 10th, 1973.

The Norfolk Guards Union has taken the Warden to court to have him stop the prisoners from putting towels over the cell door peep holes. The prisoners are allowed to put a towel or other such blocking device over the peep hole for 10 minutes at a time to go to the toilet in private. Absolutely no inference should be drawn from why some people would want to watch other people go to the bathroom.

July

The Yugoslavian Temperance Society, capitalistic sector, has voted 412 to 5 to make Norfolk a Middle Class Prison.

The American Veterans Movement has a chapter at Norfolk. Richard Cote is the prisoner representative. He says the biggest problem is getting the Department of Correction to coordinate the educational benefits of prisoners who are veterans.

Susan Richmond was hired as administration assistant to the warden, Larry Meachum. Susan's husband works for Commissioner of Correction Frank A. Hall. Her hiring brings to 4,386,204 the number of relatives now working for the same company.

Help Wanted

Clinical psychologist to administer large Skinner Box in suburban haven. Will be responsible for the custody of 450 bipedal creatures. Must be proficient in the use of chemotherapy, mace, and blackjack. Lack of moral sensibility no obstacle. Minimum wage guaranteed. An equal ignorance employer. For further information contact the Massachusetts Department of Corrections.

Connecticut

A bill requiring the erasure of all arrest-related records in cases where a conviction was not obtained passed the Connecticut General Assembly on June 17 over the Governor's Veto.

In response to complaints about the mail situation at Somers, the Ombudsman, James Bookwalter, is preparing a report which we understand makes recommendations for sweeping changes in mail regulations.

Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union are preparing a handbook on prisoners' rights in Connecticut which will hopefully be printed and ready for distribution this Fall.

Representatives from CBCI and the People's Bussing Committee (which operates the bi-monthly bus to Somers and Enfield from New Haven) are meeting regularly to develop plans for a Family Center in New Haven.

A group of private citizens from Bridgeport, Conn., is in the final stages of planning a bussing program from that area to Somers and Enfield.

Twelve private agencies in the Hartford area who contract with Department of Corrections under the PREP Program (funded with LEAA money from the Conn. Planning Council on Criminal Administration) to provide services to ex-prisoners have recently formed a coalition to look at ways of working together, and providing more integrated social services.

CBCI and CCLU are trying to recruit volunteer attorneys and law students willing to aid in setting up a prison legal project which would help with litigation or by providing legal advice to the many prisoners who are requesting such help.

LEAA

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended by the Crime Control Act of 1973, now requires that each state comprehensive plan must establish "goals, priorities, and standards" for crime prevention and reduction in that state. LEAA expects each state to begin to incorporate "standards, goals, and priorities" into its 1974 comprehensive plan. By fiscal 1976, each state - to meet the statutory requirements of the Safe Streets Act - must have a comprehensive set of standards and goals that can serve as a guide to funding.

In the process of developing standards, LEAA expects that each state will review the report of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (a \$6 million study released by LEAA in 1973) to determine if the standards in the report are necessary for their criminal justice system.

NHSP

Raymond Helgemoe, former commandant of the Portsmouth Naval Prison, now closed, has been appointed as Warden at New Hampshire State Prison, Concord, N. H. We hope he will work with NEPA and the Prison Reform Council to improve the conditions at NHSP for the prisoners.

On Friday, June 21, 1974, the first Christening ever at NHSP was held. Dawn Marie Howe and Mozell Howe were baptized by Msgr. Murray. The father is Ronald Howe, a prisoner at NHSP, and the mother is Sylvia LaWanna Howe. Mozell's Godparents are Edward McMillan, prisoner, and Patricia Knight, former teacher at NHSP. Dawn's Godparents are Robert and Madeleine Vicaire. NEPA NEWS offers its congratulations and hopes that soon Dawn and Mozell will have their father home.

Bob Breest, recognized jailhouse lawyer at NHSP and newly elected chairman of the Prison Reform Council, has filed a civil rights suit against Governor Meldrim Thomson. Breest is one of several prisoners who have requested and been denied the right to be interviewed by NEPA NEWS (see Vol. II, #3). Breest, charging his First and Fourteenth Amendment rights and his Due Process rights have been violated, argued that if Concord Monitor reporter Roger Talbot can conduct interviews with numerous men, consecutively, for hours at a time, then clearly discrimination exists against NEPA NEWS. Bob and many other prisoners are now waiting to see what the court will do.

Two of the four Prison Reform Council spokesmen, Roland Bilodeaux and Paul Groux, have resigned. In a new election Bob Breest was elected Chairman, Russ Collins also remains a spokesperson, and they are joined by Robert Moody and Ron Gelinas.



Believe me, Pilate, punishment is the best deterrent to crime

Protest

Buffalo, N.Y. (LNS)--"This is my acknowledgement that a convicted murderer has been freed. And as long as he (is) wearing my uniform, I can't wear it," said Marine Captain Daniel J. Callaghan after hearing that Lt. William Calley was free on appeal of his conviction of killing 22 Vietnamese civilians. Calley had been serving his time in an apartment under "house arrest."

Commenting on his refusal to wear his uniform, Callaghan said, "I am doing this because I have the feeling there are a lot of Americans whose conception of right and wrong is not much different from mine. They cannot justify a guard kicking a prisoner in the face, which I saw at Attica, and they cannot justify the killing of babies at My Lai."

While NEPA NEWS applauds Callaghan's protest against brutality against prisoners and Vietnamese, we do have one question. Why did he not take off his uniform in protest of the mass slaughter of Vietnamese ordered by Calley's superiors under the guise of "warfare", or in protest right after the Attica massacre?

Sexism in Men's Prisons

Prison life on the inside is a microcosm of society on the outside. Men attempt to function as 'normally' as possible given the situation they are forced to contend with. Imprisonment. Institutionalization. Isolation.

When a particular need is denied the imprisoned man, he attempts to recreate that need. He may carve dice out of a bar of soap to gamble, make homebrew in the toilet bowl to get high or work in an industry for 25¢ a day. He also makes women.

Though there are no biological females in the prison population, sexual relationships exist as much as they do in outside society. Those convicts engaging in the male (aggressive) role are considered strong, competitive, superior, and manipulative. They deny that they are homosexuals, considering homosexuality to be an abnormality. Those convicts engaging in the female (passive) role are considered to be weak, inferior, effeminate, manipulated, and sexually abnormal.

It is prisoners who play the male role in this relationship that recreate men in the image of women (female role) and who define the nature of that relationship.

The female role is played by a male who is forced to submit to the control and manipulation of male partners. The servitude of the male parallels that of master and slave. The servitude is sometimes voluntary or involuntary depending on what sort of technique is used by the male in acquiring his female partner. Some type of coercion is most often used.

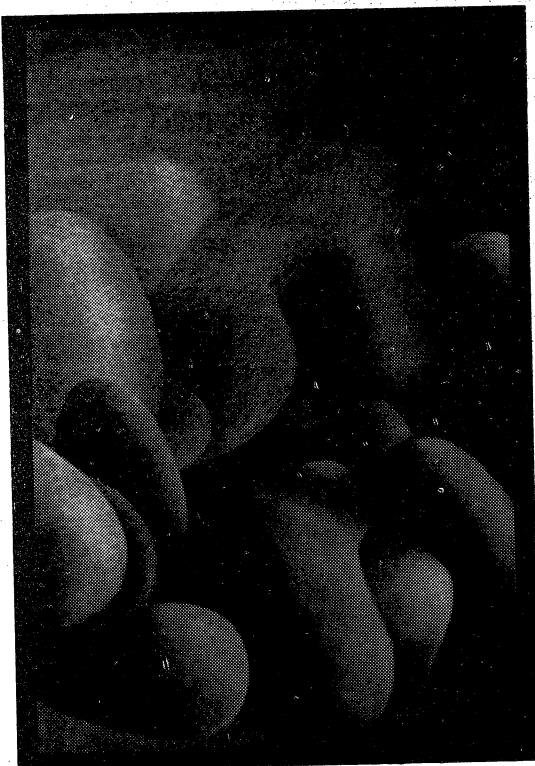
"When a biological male is described as a 'cunt,' one gets a better notion of the meaning of the word."

Kate Millet

Once a male has granted sexual favors to another he is considered a "hole," "punk," or "pussy." These labels reveal a status and power definition based on the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of sex roles. The man who acts out in any way a female role is on the next to the last rung of the social hierarchy. Only the informer falls below him.

The rigidity of the female role is evident in the use of the word "kid" to describe a convict's female partner. If someone is known as another's kid it means he is the possession of his male

partner, i.e., his "old man." In 1972 four prisoners were killed in the Tennessee State Prison as a direct result of fights contesting the "possession" of another human being for sexual purposes.



Peter Makarevicz

It is the duty if the "old man" to protect his "kid" and it is for this reason that young prisoners sometimes submit voluntarily to anal intercourse to protect themselves from sexual assaults and abuse from many other convicts.

"Kids" are forced into roles in which their physical, psychological, and spiritual growth are seriously hampered. Their potential to develop as full human beings is denied.

Those convicts playing the male role are in constant competition with each other. As the rumor circulates through the prison that new prisoners have arrived at classification, convicts from the population begin to look over the prospects. They sometimes pick out part-

ners before they even leave classification. They look for the known homosexuals, the young, weak, or naive. I know of one case where a prisoner was sexually assaulted because he was an easy mark... he only had one arm. The easiest way is always the best.

An older convicts can put a younger man into a 'trick.' He buys the young man "zoo-zoo's and wham-wham's," i.e., tobacco, candy, toilet articles, etc. He runs up a large tab over a period of weeks during which time the older convict is with him as often as possible keeping other competitors at bay. Weeks later the older con will ask for payment of the bill, which the younger prisoner does not have the money to pay. He then has a choice - either become the older con's female partner and submit to anal intercourse or get stabbed or placed at the mercy of the many other cons still waiting for their chance.

"Bitch," he might say, "shit on my dick or bleed on my knife."

Once he has submitted he will be related to as female, somebody less than a man, the rest of his days in prison. It will be like hell, he will do everything his "old man" wants in turn for security and protection. He will clean his cell, do his laundry, give him his money and whatever sexual favor be required of him. If the "old man" gets hard up for cash he may prostitute his female partner to someone else on the block. The submission is total to the dominant male partner.

While all prisoners live under the most oppressive conditions, the female role playing prisoner experiences an additional dimension of that oppression. There have been many situations where they have "checked-in," i.e., voluntarily placed themselves in segregation (solitary) for their own protection. They'd rather be in the hole, in this case, than be treated as one.

The administration benefits from this type of oppression. They benefit from any situation in which one group oppresses another.

We should remember this - the viciousness of sexism, and the exploitation of prisoners as a class. Anything that divides us, only serves to oppress us!

Reprinted from SCAR'd Times

People to People

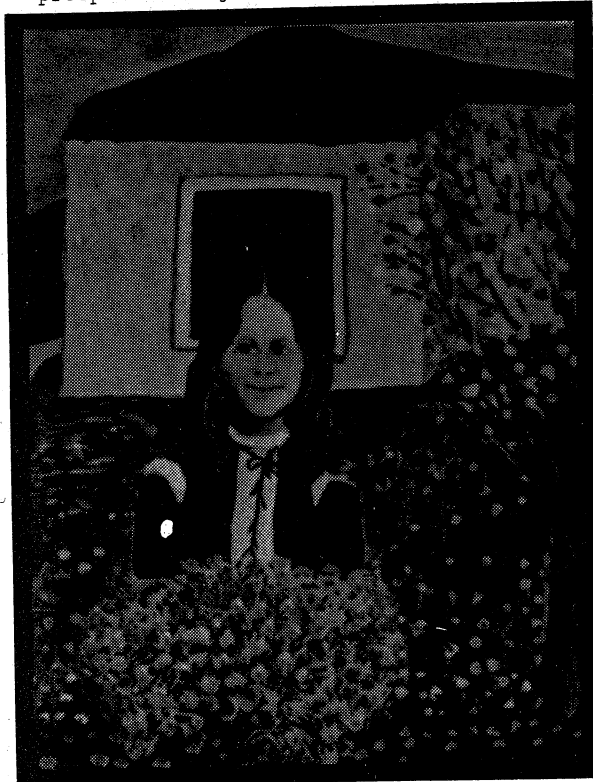
by Chandra Gouridine

Karl Grunert is the main coordinator and originator of NEPA's People-to-People, a correspondence program that has the double purpose of educating people outside the prisons to life and conditions inside and of relieving some the loneliness of the prisoners inside who have few or no outside contacts. At approximately 9:30 AM on Saturday, May 7th, Karl Grunert's mailbox was bombed. Karl explained that the police conducted an extensive investigation but have produced no results to date. He added that there was no way of telling if his mailbox was bombed because of the People-to-People project, but that it had to be intentional.

Karl first became involved with prisons and prisoners in 1971, due to an investigation by a reporter named Louisa Woodman, formerly with the Portsmouth Herald. She published a controversial story on conditions in the Rockingham County Jail that led to a panel discussion which Karl attended. He wrote a letter to the Herald about it which was read by a NHSP prisoner. The prisoner wrote to Karl explaining the conditions at NHSP, which led Karl to become more involved. He later corresponded with the Rev. Francis A. Talbot, Chaplain Counselor of the NHSP, and with the founder of Others, Inc., Maurice C. Smith. Others is an organization that has corresponded with prisoners since 1947. In June of 1973, Gene Mason, a member of NEPA's Board of Directors, wrote to Karl, asking him his views about starting a program to aid prisoners in need of correspondence. Karl agreed to organize the project, and to begin with New Hampshire.

Karl's efforts to form a correspondence program were futile prior to a memorandum

Page 12



William Purcell: "Girl"

by NHSP Warden Vitek dated Nov. 14, 1973, discontinuing the special mailing lists for prisoners. The belated rule change was forced by a 1972 court ruling by Judge Hugh Bownes, U.S. District Judge of Concord, N.H. It took Karl months of letter-writing to obtain even a small number of prisoners' names in NHSP. His first outside writer, Jane Anderson, sent letters to prisoners in October of 1973. Her letters were rejected by the administration, but she kept trying. She later became a visitor of prisoners, and a member of the John Yancey Defense Committee.

Through publicity in NEPA News and other publications, People-to-People now spreads beyond the range of the New Eng-

land area, although it was intended to be solely for the six New England states. It has approximately 100 prisoners and outsiders involved in corresponding with one another. The need for People-to-People is clear both to those prisoners who need someone to correspond with and those on the outside who wish to learn more about what life behind bars is really like. Karl someday hopes that the continuing contacts started in People-to-People and other programs like it will develop into the kind of relationships that will "completely change our prison systems."

Karl told me that he would like more women prisoners to become involved and that he now has eight prisoners in need of outside correspondents. People-to-People will have more such prisoners in the future, so all interested persons, inside or outside, should write Karl or one of the three other coordinators:

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

Rev. Francis Gibbs
Box 14
Concord, N.H. 03301

Rev. Gibbs handles mail from inside NHSP

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

Jane will coordinate people from anywhere in New England.

Amy Davidson
311 Temple St.
New Haven, Ct. 06500

Amy will coordinate for Connecticut only. Former coordinator Anita Schofield has decided to devote all her energies to Freedom's Crafts, a NEPA project to help prisoners sell their crafts.

American Justice

by Norman Porter

Regardless of what Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski tells us or what Federal Judge George L. Hart tells us, the deal they made with former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindeinst stinks.

Jaworski and Hart agreed that big-hearted Kleindeinst could cop out to the criminal indictment against him. The smelly deal not only assured Kleindeinst of an insignificant sentence, the deal also assured Kleindeinst fo a drop in charges from perjury to testifying inaccurately. When he sentenced Kleindeinst to 30 days and a \$100 fine, suspended wi with unsupervised probation--shades of Spiro Agnew--Judge Hart explained the reason for the deal to those of us who still somehow listen and believe in equal justice. We were told that a feather's brush of justice was all that was needed for a man of "highest integrity". Judge Hart made another light pass with that same feather of justice and lo, Kleindeinst's criminal acts were no longer criminal. It was at this moment that the magic of the smelly deal reached its glory moment of insult especially to those of us who have spent more than one night in jail. Judge Hart swirled his judicial robes and poof...Kleindeinst's criminal acts vanished somewhere into a "heart that is too loyal".

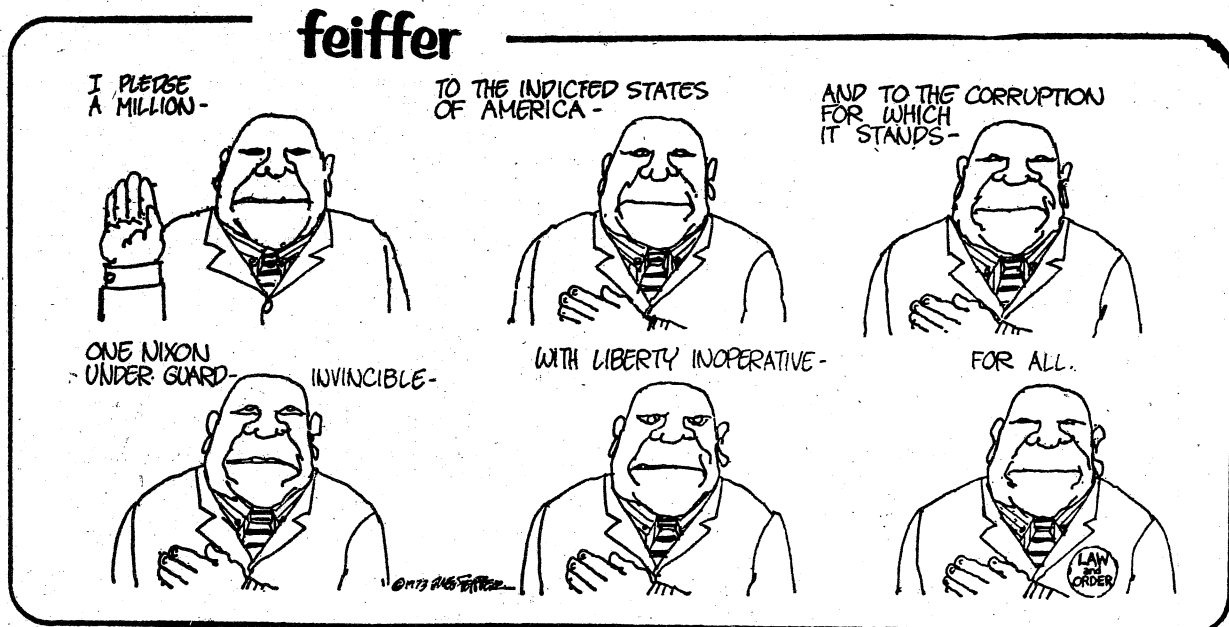
Poppycock. Even though our system of laws requires intent to be proven, it doesn't say intent can be used to overlook a crime simply because the crime was committed to protect someone else.

No. All that convoluted legal mumbo-jumbo by Judge Hart was simply to obscure and make palatable the sweetness of the injudicious deal made with Kleindeinst. We all know right well the judge couldn't say bluntly that the was giving Kleindeinst the least possible sentence because Kleindeinst was a former biggie and was still pretty well connected.

Kleindeinst couldn't have received a better deal if he donned his former

attorney general's robes and went over to Monty Hall's TV studio and said to Monty, "Let's Make a Deal." For all the insidious deals Monty Hall has made, he would never offer as much forgiveness for so little real integrity behind Door #1, Door #2 or Door #3 that Kleindeinst was offered and got behind the door of a federal courtroom.

This article was first presented by Norman Porter as part of Radio Free Norfolk (see Norfolk News this issue).



Watergaters

As many of us have noted, the persons who have been convicted of crimes around the various illegal activities of the Nixon administration have been handed short sentences at the easiest joints in the Federal System. Her is a list of those convicted, their former jobs, what they were convicted for, and the length of their sentences:

WATERGATE COVER-UP

Frederick LaRue, CREEP fund-raiser, obstructing justice, sentence deferred.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, CREEP higher-up, conspiracy to obstruct justice and defraud the U.S., 10 months.

Herbert Porter, White House staffer, false statements to the FBI, served 30 days of a 5-15 month sentence.

Charles "Chuck" Colson, Nixon hatchetman. Charges dropped after pleading guilty in the Ellsberg case.

ELLSBERG CASE

Charles Colson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate Daniel Ellsberg's rights, not yet sentenced.

Egil Krogh, White House aid, served 6 months of a 2-6 month term.

G. Gordon Liddy, two counts of refusing to testify before a Congressional committee, 6 months on each, to run concurrently, suspended.

Three others have yet to be tried, including John Erlichman.

WATERGATE BURGLARY

G. Gordon Liddy, former CIA agent and boss or the break-in, is still in the Washington, D.C. lock-up.

Bernard Barker served one year and E. Howard Hunt 10 months. Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzales and Frank Sturgis were paroled shortly after sentencing.

ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Herbert Kalmbach, formerly Nixon's personal lawyer, federal campaign law violations, 6-18 months.

Eleven corporations have also been found guilty of violating campaign laws and have been fined a total of \$53,000 (including Gulf Oil, Goodyear Tire and American Airlines). Twelve officers of these corporations have pleaded guilty and been fined a total of \$14,500.

DIRTY TRICKS

Donald Segretti, distributing illegal campaign literature, served 4 of a 6 month sentence.

George Hearing, same count as Segretti, served 6 months of a 12 month sentence.

July

FBI

James O. Nopher, Special Agent in charge of the Boston office of the FBI announced on June 20 that the FBI was conducting a special symposium for selected law enforcement personnel on "The American Penal System as a Revolutionary Target". Known to have attended from New England are: Joseph Higgins, Chief of Security, Massachusetts Department of Corrections; Det. Lt. William A. Miller, Massachusetts State Police; Fred Butterworth, Chief Security Officer, MCI Walpole; and Associate Warden Robert E. Houle, ACI, Cranston, R.I.

The symposium was held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This is one of a series of specialized schools which the FBI sponsors to foster "professionalism" in law enforcement and related fields.

According to Nopher's release, the symposium afforded key correctional officials of federal and state prisons an opportunity to discuss revolutionary and extremist propaganda and its influence on prisoners. His statement said the symposium will contribute greatly to improving the penal system in our country and eliminating confrontations between prison authorities and inmates.

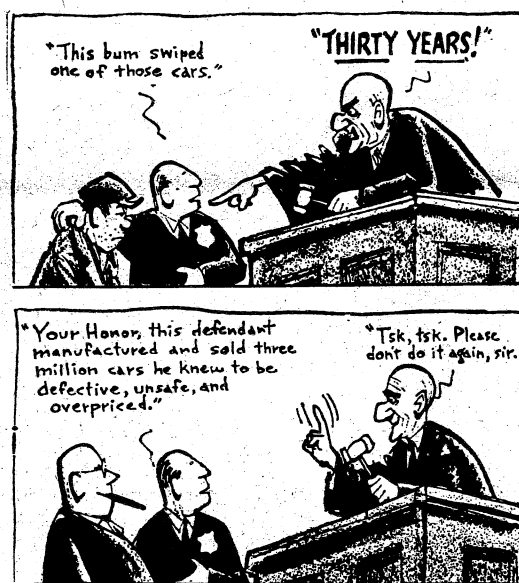
Although most of our readers will, regretably, be unable to attend this remarkable event, we can do the next best thing by writing our congressman and asking that he send the following document: "Revolutionary Target: The American Penal System," Report by the Committee on Internal Security, House of Representatives, 93rd Congress, 1st Session, Report No. 93-738. It is mostly about how forming a prisoners union to work for self-determination is communist.

Upholstery Shop

9. Warden Mullaney was touring the shops, and as he entered the Upholstery shop I confronted him with my request to enter the Upholstery course. He stated that there was another Upholstery course starting in a few weeks, and for me to get my tack hammer ready, as he was sure that I would be able to attend the next course.

10. Approximately three weeks later, Officer Giles informed me that I wasn't going to be able to attend the upcoming Upholstery course. I asked him why; he replied simply, "Orders from the warden."

(signed) Pierre Loyer



Dwight Chapin, former White House appointments secretary, false statements to a Grand Jury, 10-30 months, out on bond pending appeal.

ITT

Richard Kleindeinst, former Attorney General, refusing to testify accurately, one month and \$100, suspended.

Ed Reinecke, Lt. Governor of California, faces trial on three counts of perjury. More indictments around ITT are expected, as well as further indictments around campaign contributions and the milk producers deal.

As we have seen, these criminals, the essence of whose crimes do not really involve simply money or perjury, but rather an attempt to completely re-shape the U.

S. government by totally illegal means, have received very short sentences and usually served only a fraction of their sentences. Most of them have done time or will do time in the easiest joints in the Federal system: the Federal Prison Camps at Allenwood, Pa. or Lompoc, Ca. Further, most of these criminals were given one to three weeks to "wrap-up" their affairs before "reporting" to prison. And then some of them have such things as personal telephones in their cells.

It sure is nice to see the equality of American justice in action.

Courts and Censorship

by Fred Findling

Procurier v. Martinez

This case heard on April 29, 1974 is significant in two points. First, the court rejected mail censorship regulations in California due to their vagueness, unconstitutionality under the First Amendment, and violative of the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of procedural due process.

Secondly, the court affirmed the lower court's judgement that the ban on the use of legal paraprofessionals and law students abridged the right of access to the courts through interviews with these people.

Previously, both incoming and outgoing correspondence was screened under the following guidelines:

1. phrases that "unduly complain" or "magnify grievances."
2. "expressing inflammatory political, racial, religious, or other views or beliefs....."
3. containing references to criminal activity or are otherwise lewd, obscene, or defamatory.
4. contain foreign matter or are otherwise inappropriate.
5. would in the judgement of the warden or superintendent subvert prison discipline.

After the District Court held the above guidelines as being unconstitutional the Department of Corrections developed the following rules which were approved by the court:

1. Outgoing letters could be disapproved for the following:
 - a. containing threats of physical harm or threats of criminal activity.
 - b. blackmail or extortion
 - c. concerns sending contraband on or out of institution
 - d. escape plans
 - e. plans for activities in violation of institutional rules
 - f. plans for criminal activity
 - g. is in code or otherwise not understood by reader.
 - h. solicits gifts or goods or money from other than family.
 - i. is obscene
 - j. the letter contains information which if communicated would create a clear and present danger of violence and physical harm to a human being

Outgoing letters can be disapproved only for the above reasons or if the addressee is not an approved correspondent.

Incoming letters may be disapproved only for the above reasons or if the letters contain "material that would cause severe emotional or psychiatric disturbances."

When a letter is disapproved, the writer must be notified in writing of the disapproval and the reasons thereof.

Material still may be placed in a prisoner's file if it violates the above regulations or is deemed by correctional employees as "relevant to assessment of the inmate's rehabilitation."

Material which is not in violation of paragraph one (outgoing mail) may not be used in disciplinary proceedings. The prisoner must be notified in writing when such material is placed in his file.

The new guidelines approved by the district court don't amount to an end of mail censorship. The censorship is still permitted to exist, but is highly defined and gives more latitude to first amendment considerations, i.e. the expression of political, religious, racial, etc. views.

A better decision for prisoners, but one that is binding only in Western Kentucky but may be used by prisoners in other Federal Court Districts in the continuing struggle against censorship, is the case of *Preston v. Cowan* 369 F.Supp. 14

John Preston, a former Kentucky State Prison prisoners and now in the Arizona State Penitentiary sued Kentucky Prison officials for tampering with his legal mail correspondence. The Federal District Court for the Western District of Kentucky recognized the following as part of the claim:

1. Refusal to mail a letter addressed by the inmate plaintiff to his attorney of record.

2. Motion for writs of habeas corpus addressed to the United States Supreme Court.

3. Mail Addressed by the plaintiff inmate seeking to employ Raymond Schultz as attorney in a law suit to be filed.

4. Letters addressed by plaintiff to former Governor Louis Nunn, of the State of Kentucky, and the deceased Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover.

5. The placing of the plaintiff in administrative segregation on January 9, 1973.

Preston felt the mail censorship regulations in both LaGrange and Eddyville were unconstitutional and should be revised to meet "constitutional standards."

On January 9, 1973, Preston wrote a letter to Robert Sedler, his attorney of record in a case pending in the Eastern District of Kentucky. The letter contained the following paragraph:

"With a view in mind toward discussing with you the advisability of initiating further litigation for constitutional deprivations, I would request that you accord me a visit if you visit this area. There are other business matters I would discuss with you were censorship not so stringent. I would prefer, then, to talk with you in person."

The letter was brought to the attention of Warden Henry Cowan. He called Preston to his office to discuss it. Cowan claimed

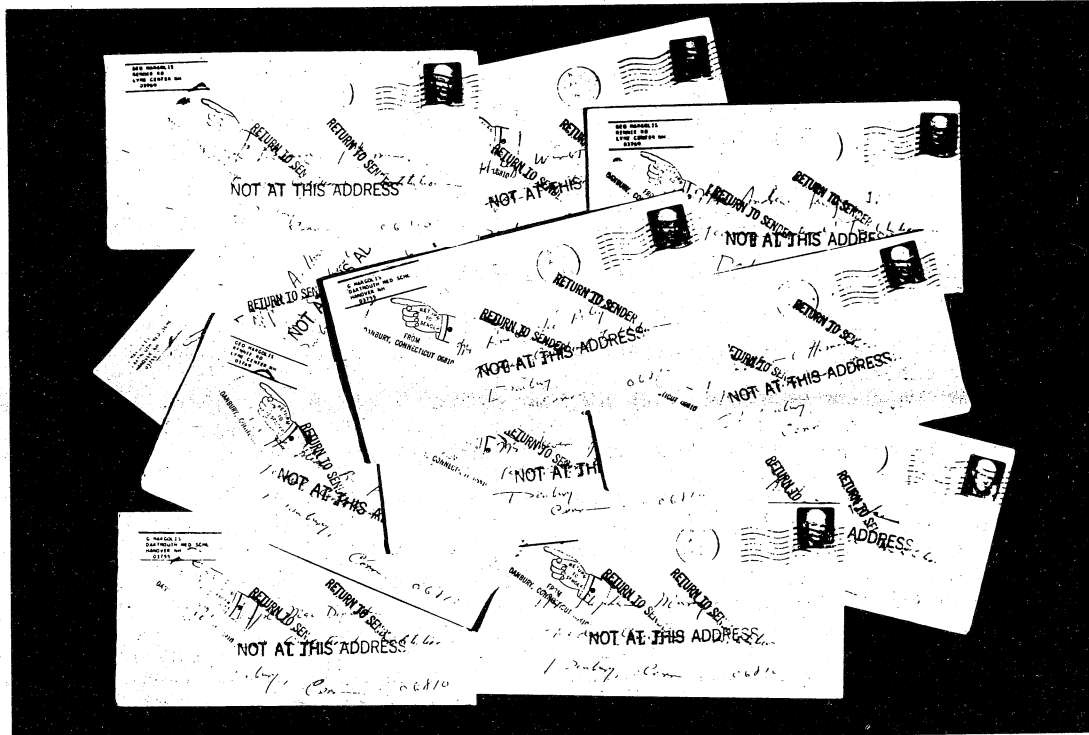
being mailed.

Preston had earlier had a motion for a writ of habeas corpus that was addressed to the U.S. Supreme Court censored. Former Warden Wingo stated that the document in question was refused because it may have contained "abusive, profane, or insulting language or unnecessary statements tending to cast aspersions on the acts, character, or conduct of any public officials."

Again the court held that this violated Preston's Sixth Amendment rights and principles laid down in *Ex Parte Hull*, 312 U.S. 546, 549; 61 S.Ct. 640, 642; 95 L.Ed. 1034 (1941). The court ruled that Preston's transfer from LaGrange to Eddyville was not unconstitutional as no case has yet held that intrastate transfer amounts to a constitutional violation.

Preston contended next that letters to Raymond Schultz, an attorney in Paducah, Kentucky were refused. The letter dated February 20, 1969 to Mr. Schultz speaks of retaining him in an impending suit. The prison authorities stated the letter was refused on the grounds that Schultz was not an attorney of record. The court held the prison could not censor correspondence dealing with potential litigation

On February 13, 1969, Preston attempted to send letters to Governor Nunn and J. Edgar Hoover. Both letters stated that his rights had been violated and asked for an investigation of the matter. Both were censored for obvious reasons. The court ruled that the defendants did not violate



that Preston was harassing the administration over mail censorship. Following the meeting with the warden, Preston was written up by the screws for utilizing the mails to intimidate and threaten the Superintendent of the institution and seeking through harassment, thereby imposing undue hardship, to force the superintendent to make him a special, revolutionary (sic) case rather than follow the regulations which control and govern the other inmates of this institution.

A hearing was held the same day and found him guilty of writing such a letter. He was transferred to Arizona the next day. At the time the letter was written, the policy at Kentucky State Prison was that all Attorney-client correspondence was to be sent through the prisoner's caseworker. The only uncensored mail was correspondence addressed to the Governor or the Commission of Corrections.

On October 26, 1972, the Department of Corrections revised the regulations concerning attorney-client correspondence. The new regulation allowed the prison to seal the letter before it was sent to the mail room. However, this regulation was not put into effect before February 26, 1973.

Warden Cowan felt that he was justified in refusing to send the letter because it was intimidating and harassing. The court held that this was in violation of Preston's Sixth Amendment rights. The court also held that Preston was entitled to nominal damages of \$25 as a result of the letter not

Preston's rights and his claim for damages was denied.

Preston's claim that his confinement to administrative segregation was unconstitutional was not sustained by the court being that Preston had the opportunity to present evidence and have a lay advocate from the prison population. The confinement lasted only one day which the court didn't consider barbarous.

Shortly before the trial, Preston made the court aware that he wanted this to be held as class action. The court held that the above complaints were typical of prisoners and that injunctive relief was appropriate with respect to the class as a whole. See rule 23 (a&b) F.R. Civ. P.

In conclusion, the court ordered:

1. The authorities at Eddyville and LaGrange could not censor outgoing mail or limit the number of correspondents to whom such outgoing mail may be sent.

2. That said authorities could not restrict the number of correspondents which send mail to prisoners and are enjoined from opening any privileged correspondence except for the detection of contraband and then only in front of the addressee.

3. Incoming mail may be censored only in regard to escape plots, plots to overthrow prison authorities, or proposed criminal activities.

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

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

Canteen

In the near future we would like to run an article on canteens in prisons. We would like prisoners in different prisons to send us as much of the following sort of information as possible, as well as anything else you think is important: Goods sold, brand and size (where applicable) and price (Example--toothpaste, Brand X, 6 oz. 89¢); profit made, where profit goes, in theory and in practice, number of non-prisoner employees of the canteen and their salaries. We will compare the information sent us with prices on the outside, as well as comparison of one joint to the next. Thanks for your help.

Norfolk Visiting

Monday through Friday 9:00 to 11:15
12:30 to 3:30
Saturdays, Sundays 9:00 to 11:15
& Holidays 12:30 to 3:30
Nights: (No holidays)
Monday through Friday 6:00 to 8:15
(These hours are for Norfolk only)

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.

Friday nights: Leave Dudley at 5:15 p.m. Leave Fields Corner at 5:30.

Concord: Sunday nights.

Leave from Central Square, Cambridge, at 6:00 p.m.

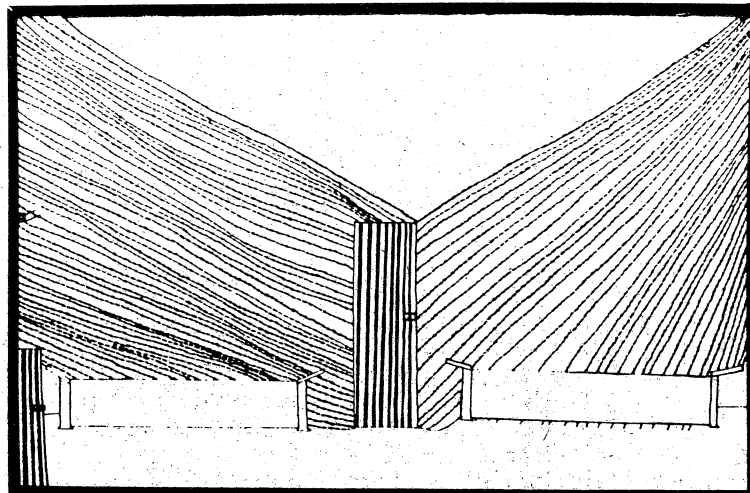
To reserve a seat, call 265-1583 at least 48 hours in advance.

Legal

The editors of the Prison Law Reporter recently published a special edition: Prisoners' Legal Rights: A Bibliography of Cases and Articles. This 40 pp. edition can be purchased by sending \$2.00 to Prison Law Reporter, 15th Floor, Hoge Building, Seattle, Washington 98104.

Copy

The copy deadline for the next issue (August) is July 24, Wednesday. The best bet is to get copy in the mail by Monday, July 22.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

- () I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.
() I am a prisoner. Here is my subscription in the amount of \$ _____
() \$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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

Notice

Yes, we still are working on the Resource Manual. A drastic shortage of labor power has prevented us from getting the manual together as quickly as we had hoped. For those of you who have sent us money for one, we have your names and will send you a copy as soon as we can print them. Sorry for the delay.

We will finally be printing the membership cards in the next week or two. A card will be sent to all of you who have enrolled in NEPA.

Thomaston

Warden Mullaney has sent us a list of all prisoners at Thomaston who are no longer there and to whom we had been sending papers. We will no longer send copies to those names. If a mistake was made, send us your name right away and we will restore you to our list. In any case, we have now solved the problem of sending papers to people at Thomaston who are no longer at Thomaston.

Monthly Review

"...There is no news from here at Vacaville. Days and nights just fly past in constant, tedious routine boredom. Books are my windows on the world as are newspapers and periodicals. Your prison reading program is a beautiful reality which helps to balance the environmental psychosis which reigns here...."

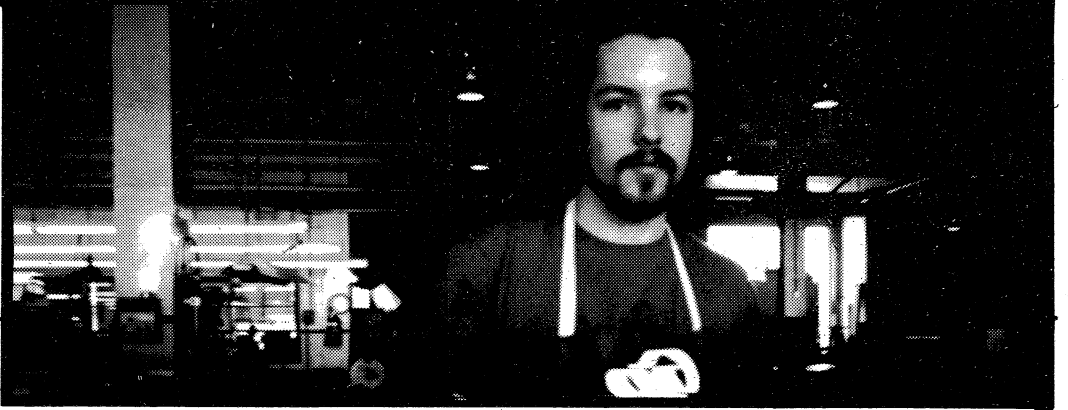
In response to a growing demand from prisoners for socially relevant reading material, Monthly Review, an independent socialist magazine and publishing company began to send out free books and magazines. In the more than three years since this initial response, the program which began with 2 volunteers and a handful of prisoners has grown to a group of 12 volunteers in touch with over 1300 sisters and brothers in prisons around the country.

The tremendous expansion of the program, brought about largely by prisoners spreading the word, is evidence of the recognition of the lies and contradictions oppressing us all, and a growing awareness of the need for tools of struggle and change!

The MR program offers to any prisoner 1 book, 1 magazine, and 1 pamphlet each month. The costs are great. Many of you have contributed in the past three years and have helped make its tremendous growth possible. We thank all of you. If the program is to continue and to grow, however, new sources of funds are needed. All contributions will be highly appreciated.

We also need people to work on the program. Those in the New York area who could give time should call us at 691-2555. Those outside the area who would like to correspond with prisoners should contact us at 62 W. 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

New Prison Films



With Intent to Harm

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

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

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

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

3000 Years and Life

A Film by Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki

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

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

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

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

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

Vermont State Prison

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

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

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

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

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

New England Prisoners' Association
Public Education Program
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580
603-823-5266

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



"MY, IT LOOKS PEACEFUL AND SAFE IN THERE."

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