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# NEPA NEWS

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



Portsmouth Naval Prison photo: Berger & Morey

## An Aura of Treatment

by Monty Neill

Upon arrival here at Springfield I was placed into Unit D, home of project START, and was horrified to witness as I was being escorted into a cell, three men strapped down in their beds, naked and lying in what looked like a weeks supply of urine and feces. The stench was unbelievable, but what struck me even more than this was the fact that all three of them were wasted away to mere skin and bones and looked very much as if they were dead...

You must at all times address the guards as Mr. and answer their questions with yes and no, sir and you never leave your cell unless four guards are present, all weighing well over 200 lbs. Any violation of rules will bring immediate punishment, which consists of, in plain English, a beating

and being strapped down to your bed. And if you decide to protest verbally while strapped down, they have a unique tranquilizer gun such as that used on animals considered too dangerous to approach, and they have no hesitation in putting it to use.

--Albert Gagne, a Walpole prisoner transferred to START.

Project START (Special Treatment and Rehabilitation Training) is one of the first behavior modification programs in the U.S. designed to control prisoners. People such as Dr. Curran, founder of Socio-Technical Systems whose report is summarized and analyzed in this issue, would like to see such programs introduced in New England. In this article I will explore in some depth the realities of behavior mod.

The purpose of START, in STA-

RT's own words, is to, "intervene by establishing a means which will discourage negative behavior and pessimistic attitudes by the inmate." (Note: this and other quotations attributed to START come from two documents prepared by two psychiatrists working with START.)

(Behavior Mod, cont. p. 4)

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### Community Center

NEPA is opening a "Prisoner and Family Service Center" in Concord, N.H. We can't afford an office so we are starting with an answering service. If you need help, please call and we will do our best. Jobs. Housing. Transportation. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 224-3396, Concord Answering Service will take your message and we will contact you. For more urgent needs, immediate referral service and experienced counseling is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For prisoners, write to Paul Gunter, NEPA, Box 641, Concord, N.H. 03301. This service is free.

Dear NEPA,

Included below is something I wish you would print in your paper.

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The above is self explaining on all legal mail. Please put a notice in the paper to all attorneys to use the above on all letters they send to prisoners.

Oh. By the way, I am a state prisoner from N. H. boarded out to the Feds. (18 U.S.C. 5003) and still fighting this.

Lawrence D. Conklin  
 Box 1000 - PMB 87286  
 Leavenworth, Kansas

### Thanks and Goodbye

Several members of our staff have, for various reasons, left us. They are Viktoria Crow, Ted Siegel, Larry Stevens and Jessica Tanno. We thank you folks greatly for the work you have done, and we know that you will be hard people to replace.  
 --The Staff of NEPA NEWS

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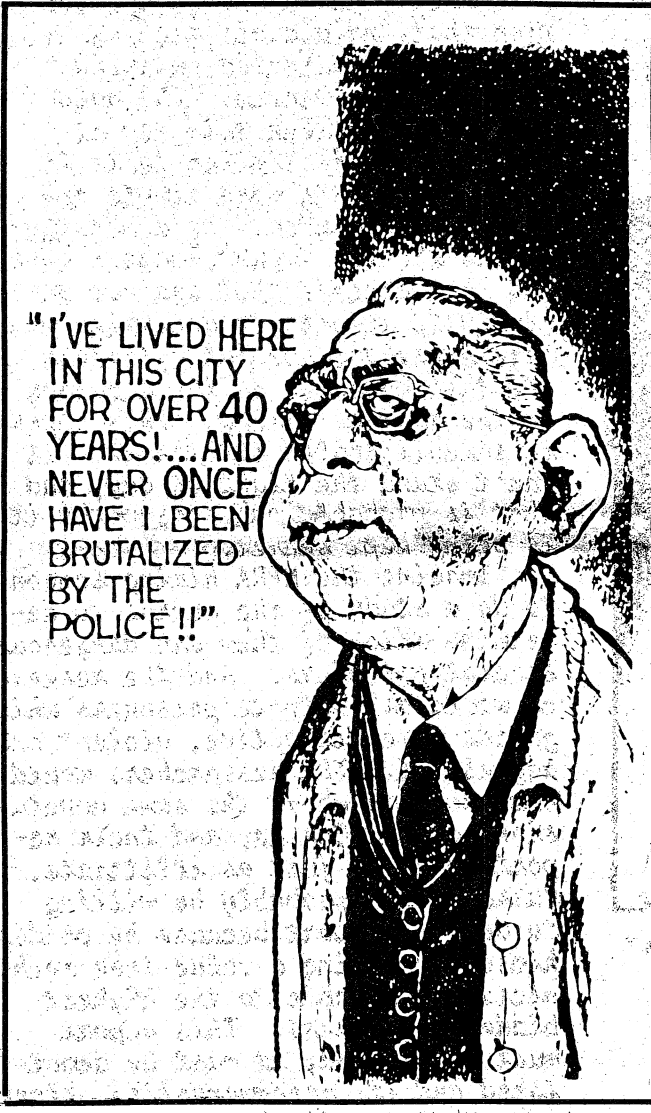
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We wish, first of all, to thank the many people who sent us subscriptions and donations. The money we received enabled us to expand to 24 pages without dipping into our meager savings. However, unless we continue to receive subscriptions and donations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

### Curran Fascism

Mass. Drug Rehabilitation Commissioner Matthew Dumont, recently described the proposals of Prof. William Curran as "technological fascism" in a memorandum to Lt. Gov. Dwight. Dumont said the vagueness of the so-called "special offender" proposal "raises the dangerous possibility that political activists, organizers and protesters will be seen as "special offenders" who require massive and highly professional forms of control."

He went on to say that Curran's proposal "displays an exhilaration about the prospects of psychopharmacology & behaviorist technology which betrays a profound ignorance about them and an indifference to their consequences."



### Help

We are in great need of good, new graphics. As you have probably noticed several of our graphics are used again and again. We feel graphics are vital to a good paper, so please, if you have or can make or get photos, drawings, prints, etc, please send them to us.

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# NEPA v. Curran

by Gene Mason

The New England Prisoners' Association held an action planning session in Boston January 19 around the proposals for a tri-state maximum security prison and the Curran proposal for the implementation of behavior mod programs for the so-called "dangerous special offender." Some sixty people attended from the six New England states.

Those attending heard from Monty Griffith-Mair (the NEPA NEWS staff member researching these proposals), Dr. Matthew Dumont (Assistant Commissioner of Drug Rehabilitation in the Department of Mental Health in Mass.), Professor William Ryan (psychology department of Boston College), Mass. Representative William Owens, and Russell Carmichael (Exconvict, Director of NEPA).

Each of the panelist agreed that their comments on the Curran report were based on the summary report because no one has been able to obtain a copy of the full report, despite repeated requests to numerous officials who have been involved in the production of the document.



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

Mr. Mair described the background of the ad hoc legislative committee proposing the tri-state concept and the background of the Curran study. His report is contained in his articles printed in this issue.

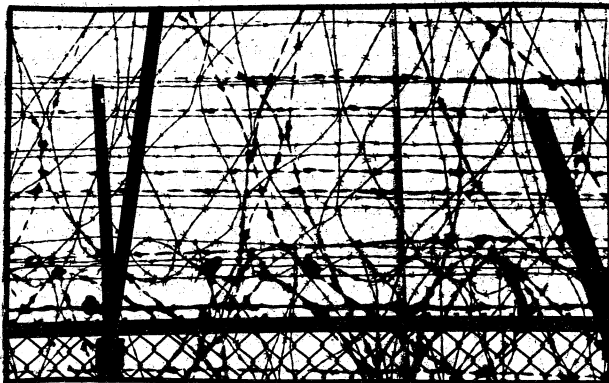
Dr. Dumont said, "the special offender does not exist. If you read the Curran document closely, you will see that the special offender is anyone the institution considers troublesome. This report meets no standards of scientific investigation. They asked the guards who the dangerous special offenders were, and this was the basis for the construction of this useless, even vicious category. Curran says his work is done; he takes no responsibility for the implementation of his recommendations. I have become convinced that professional social control of the future will come from the liberals like Curran. He prides himself on being a value-free technician. This report has a momentum that must be arrested. Other-

wise the recommendations will be implemented. Then when the horrors result Curran will say he was misinterpreted. The warden in charge will say he is following the advice of the Commissioner. The Commissioner will say this program was approved by the Governor. The Governor will say he relied on the extensive recommendations of experts. And the experts will say they have no responsibility here because they were misinterpreted. And that is how fascism comes. This proposal must be stopped and the recommendations must be annihilated.

Professor Ryan followed Dr. Dumont's presentation. He emphasized that there was nothing really new in the Curran report. Following the analysis he made in his most important book, *Blaming the Victim*, Ryan stated, *This is merely the latest in a long history of depressing reports in the law-enforcement area. Curran takes the position that individuals are defective and must be corrected humanely. He blames the victim. The only difference between this report and many others similar to it is that this one is more simple and more simple-minded. He asked the guards who the trouble-makers were, and then checked that against disciplinary reports to determine who were dangerous special offenders. All this measures is the accuracy of the guards' memory. This report is scientifically illiterate. It can't stand the light of day, and that is probably one reason why it is being kept secret.*

Imagine the NPRA hiring someone to do a study of the guards to determine which of them are dangerous special offenders. And the researcher would ask Walpole prisoners which guards were disruptive, violent and aggressive. The researchers would come up with about the same conclusions as did Curran, and their report would be just as illiterate. Curran would probably be willing to do this report because he prides himself on being a value-free technician--available to the highest bidder, of course. This report must be exposed; it must be demolished and its recommendations blocked. What we will have to continue to attack is the assumption that the problem lies within the individual, that he is deviant and that is the problem. Curran's victim blaming report is built on that premise.

Professor Ryan was followed by Representative Owens who said the Curran report was a systematic attempt to set up a concentration camp.



Curran talks of the incorrigibles, when there are no incorrigible per-

sons. But there are some individuals unwilling to be led around by the nose, people with different philosophies. When are the prison administrators going to understand that the men and women in prison must have some part in the decision-making process. Prisoners must have some say about the future of their lives.

How does one determine who is a special offender. We are all special offenders. But most of the men and women in prison are young, and we must understand what our society is doing to the young. It starts with the school which kicks out, forces out, about 50 % of its people. We create unemployed, we create the undereducated, and now we are trying to create the so-called dangerous special offender.

The morning session of the planning conference was concluded by a presentation from Russ Carmichael. He was most concerned about all the secrecy in the Curran report. He said when in prison he remembered laughing about things like this because he did not believe them. He did not believe people would try to set up brainwashing centers. But now, he said, I no longer laugh. I know they are serious. I have studied the proposals of Professor Schweitzgabel who patented wrist bands for paroles, so they could always tell where we are. I have studied his proposals for sexual offenders who might get an improper erection and be zapped electronically. It is not just a few of us that are so suspect; we're all dangerous special offenders.

## Governors Meet

The afternoon session was centered around the New England Governors' Conference on February 7 and 8, and what action might be appropriate for that event. The governors will be considering several resolutions. One is to proceed with implementing the Curran proposals at the Portsmouth site; another is implement the Curran proposals, but at another site; and a third is to implement a new study of the Curran study, to see what "errors" his report might contain. In addition, the planning session decided that NEPA should also submit a resolution and to call the governors' and the public's attention to our proposal with a demonstration in Boston (see p. 24) on Feb. 7. Finally, we will all work to disseminate a legal brief being prepared by Richard Shapiro, of the Prisoners' Rights Project in Boston. This brief explains in cold, hard fact just what legal problems a program like Curran proposes would face. Perhaps if the governors clearly understand that the litigational problems are in our favor and are endless, they will be disposed to vote for our resolution and against the Curran recommendations.

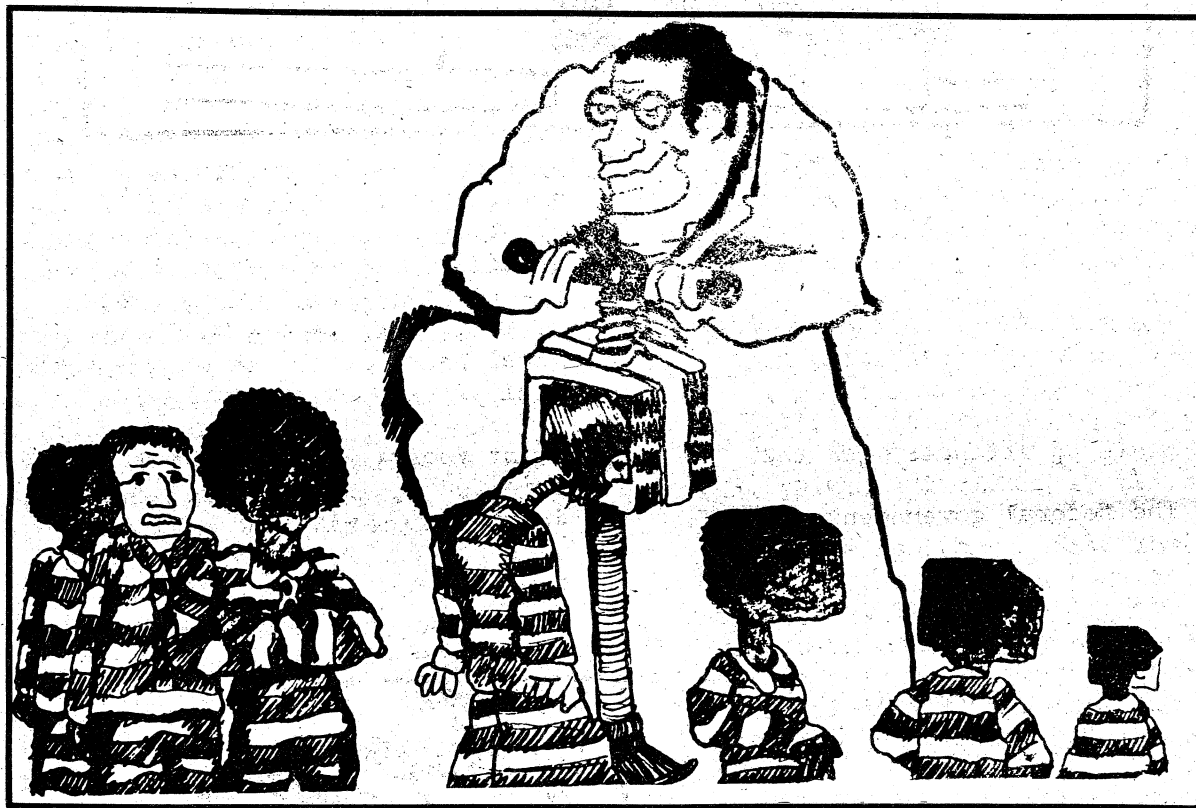
Any suggestions of attorney who might be willing to sign the legal brief should be sent to Richard Shapiro, Prisoners' Rights Project, 2 Park Sq., Rm 616, Boston, Mass. 02116 (617/482-2773). To be useful these suggestions must be received immediately.

# Behavior Mod

The goal of START is, to use START's words again, "enforcement of care custody and treatment of the long-term adult offender in a setting exclusively quarantined from the total institution. Included also is the eventual realization of return to the institution from which the transfer was effected."

Before examining the structure of the behavior mod program at START, let me outline the real goals and underlying methods of START. In a petition filed before the United Nations Social and Economic Council "regarding coerced medical experimentation upon captive subjects," dated December, 1 1972, the Federal Prisoner Coalition charged:

1. Physical removal of prisoners to an area sufficiently isolated to effectively break or seriously weaken close emotional ties to family, friends and community persons.



2. Use of cooperative prisoners as leaders.

3. Treating those who are willing to collaborate in far more lenient ways than those who are not.

4. Punishment for uncooperative attitudes.

5. Total prevention of contact with anyone non-sympathetic to the method of treatment and regimen of the captives.

6. Systematic withholding of mail.

7. Working to build a group-conviction among the captives that they been abandoned by and totally isolated from their social order and the protection of its laws.

8. Disorganization of all volitional group standards among the prisoners.

9. Undermining of all emotional supports prisoners attempt to build into their environment.

10. Preventing prisoners from writing home, or to friends in their home communities, or elsewhere, regarding the conditions of their confinement.

11. Permitting access to no books, periodicals or other publications.

12. Systematic eroding of will power, control, mental capacities and emotional balance.

The Federal Prisoner Coalition further states:

This program and those like it scheduled for implementation in the near future are designed to operate under the aura of "treating the patient" rather than "controlling, dominating and manipulating the prisoner," and seek in this manner to escape traditional Constitutional safeguards against use of such techniques of abusive treatment in systematic fashion...

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons Operations Memorandum (7300.128, 10/25/72) and directives issued in regard to the START program openly and maniacally insist that the intent of this program is to get prisoners to adjust to prison life rather than to society. This despite recent carefully validated studies which show that men most likely to re-adjust to society successfully upon release are those who are most alienated to prison-life during incarceration.

These comprise violations in

every respect similar to those charged against the people of Germany at the conclusion of WWII during the Nuremberg Trials.

Who, then, are the persons placed in programs such as START? START's own description of such a prisoner states:

...he...does much to disrupt normal operation of any institution...he does not respond to disciplinary or external controls... (he is) always projecting adversity onto others...He is usually verbal...the only homogenous faction is that they all cannot adjust satisfactorily in the population of a regular penal institution.

That is, he is a "special offender (to use the language of Socio-Technical Systems). He is a human who does not submit readily to arbitrary authority, endless routine and boredom, being caged, insulted, assaulted and brutalized.

The Chicago Peoples Law Office, describing the prisoners sent to the Special Programs Unit (SPU) at Illinois State Prison in Joliet states:

The prisoners chosen for placement in SPU were by and large the political leaders of the Illinois Prison System. Some were leaders of various gangs, others belonged to known left political organizations, and others were just known as convicts who could not passively accept the inhumanity of prison life.

The purpose, then, of projects like START is to take those men who do not submit to the inhumanity of prison life and, by the means elaborated above, and others, destroy their will and their capacity to resist.

The basic structure of all these behavior mod programs is that of levels. To quote a START memorandum once again:

Inmates begin at the lowest level and progress through successive levels as their behavior improves, and as their behavior improves, they are rewarded by movement to a higher level having more privileges, but also having additional responsibilities. If the inmate fails to meet his responsibilities at any level, he can back to a level at which he can operate efficiently and handle the responsibilities.

At level I the areas of responsibility are Cooperation, Personal appearance and Cell sanitation. The privileges include opportunity for promotion to level II; possession of property to include bed, locker, etc; tobacco, toothbrush, etc; "approved" educational and legal material; shower weekly; one hour yard exercise weekly; locked in cell majority of time; no visits

The criteria for movement to level II are: perfect rating in area of cooperation, satisfactory rating in all other areas of responsibility. More precisely. "He must have at least three weeks without a check on the cooperation rating sheet."

(cont. p. 5)



# Behavior Mod

The primary qualification of a member of the "treatment staff" is an authoritarian personality: "The staff person cannot be easily manipulated, and he has a strong allegiance to established rules and regulations... If a staff member makes a decision he has to remain steadfast on the decision." That is, the staff member must act as though he were infallible, play God.

What does all this mean? It means that if a prisoner shows the slightest disinclination to co-operate with the authoritarian personality who confronts him, he could spend his entire stay at START in level I, locked in a cell, allowed to get out only to shower twice a week, spend an hour a week in the yard, with virtually no reading material, no correspondence and no visits.

Since everyone admitted to START must have two years or more left on his sentence, the prisoner could spend from two years to the rest of his life locked in a cell under the above described conditions. In START's words: "Others will never be considered for transfer because of failure to improve their behavior and they will perhaps spend a number of years in the Readjustment Unit." All this in the name of "treating" the prisoner.



Before returning to the examination of what actually happens in such programs, let us briefly examine levels II and III of START. In levels II and III the areas of responsibility are essentially the same, though expanded to include "Sub-goal achievement," "Unit chores" and "Industry work performance."

Privileges are expanded. In level II they include \$5 per month spending money, two books or magazines from the unit library weekly, three showers weekly, one hour yard-time daily and visit from immediate family (generally meaningless as captives are transferred from thousands of miles away.)

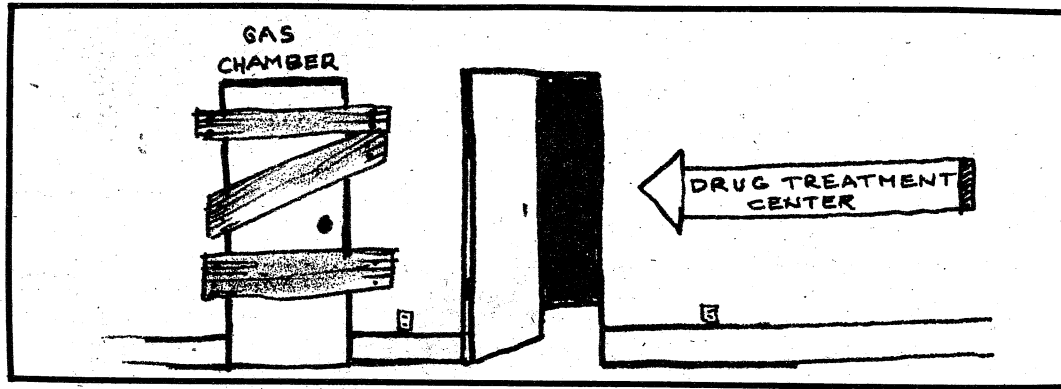
At level three the privileges are slightly more expanded: \$15 per month, subscription to one newspaper and two magazines, daily showers and daily visits to the library are added to the previous January

privileges.

The criteria for movement from level II to level III and from level III out of the program are essentially the same as for movement from level I to level II: cooperation with the program the authorities have created.

Put simply, this program is an extension of Pavlov's experiments with dogs. After proper training, involving reward and punishment, the dog will salivate when the doctor rings a bell.

As we have seen earlier, the Amen placed in programs such as START are those men who are resistant to irrational authority. As



might be expected from such men, they also resist being forcibly placed or duped into such programs. States the Chicago Peoples Law Office:

*The resistance of the brothers coupled with some community pressure and a ruling by the court that SPU was punitive, resulted in the State of Illinois, for the present, at least, abandoning SPU.*

The federal government and project START have been more tenacious. An examination of some of the struggles at START is instructive in how the government has expanded its program to keep prisoners in line when they resist the simple levels program of behavior mod.

In a letter to the Midnight Special, dated April, 1973, brother Edward Martin Sanchez describes the START program and the struggle against the program.

*This program has been widely publicized by movement papers. And we know what this program's aims are and knowing we will help make this atrocity successful not only on us but on others if we cooperate we cannot accept this in any form.*

On Feb. 1, 1973 six of us began our non-cooperation by refusing to work at our assigned work, refusing to shave or get our hair cut, began a law-suit exposing the program and other forms of non-cooperation. The officials immediately retaliated Feb. 3rd by assaulting one of the strikers (Al Gagne; see start of this article.) in an effort to scare the rest of us into submission. We showed our solidarity and compassion for Al Gagne by destroying the fixtures in our cages, plumbing, lights, radios, windows, beds and setting fires. On our belief that human life is worth more than money.

The officials retaliated further by chaining us to metal racks with our hands behind our backs and feet at the ends and refusing

to feed us or give us water. We also were no unchained to use the toilet.

Finally we were let up and continued our non-cooperation. So the officials further tried to scare us by beating Gerard Wilson and assaulting him with tranquilizer drug injections. They re-shackled Al Gagne for 12 days.

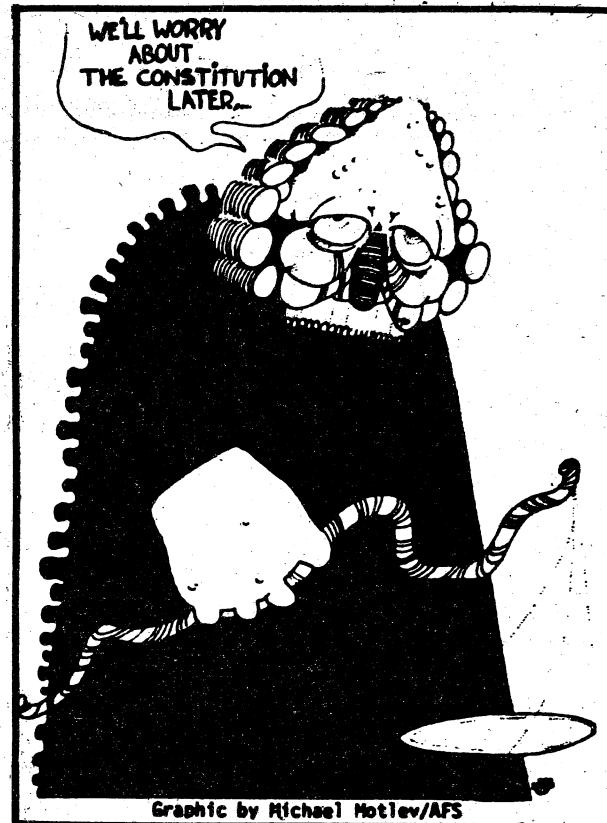
Now for the time being they have let up on us. We are still harassed and given half-rations of food, but it is somewhat less physical.

When the authorities at START met non-compliance they immediately resorted to the old methods of physical brutality. Yet one of the reasons for the creation of programs like START is the long-demonstrated inability of se-

gregation and brutality to quell the spirit of captives.

At START they also used "tranquilizer drug injections." The use of "therapeutic drug treatment" is recommended by Socio-Technical Systems for use on the "special offenders" of New England.

The California Medical Facility at Vacaville, probably the most frightening of all these programs, is the place with the most extensive use of "drug therapy." Edward Sanchez was at Vacaville before being in START, and describes the following:



I was supposedly misbehaving. At first I was put on Prolixin in pill-form. I had to take it three times a day. The effect was I'd suffer muscle spasms that felt like cramps, and I seemed to have lost a lot of my coordination, as my arms would not swing when I walked.

(cont. p. 6)

# Behavior Mod

But the officials did not think this helped me as I still got in trouble. So one day several guards came to my cage and escorted me to the shock-treatment floor.

I was put on a bed and my sleeve was rolled up on my right arm and this doctor got this needle...

He hits me and I right away feel a tingling sensation in my whole body, sort of like when your foot goes to sleep, then like somebody pushed a 200lb weight on my chest. All my air is driven from my body, then my muscles all relax, even my eyes until I can't move nothing.

After a while the shot wears off and I am led back into the hole. This was done seven times. I never consented to it or signed a permission slip, as I was 17.

The first drug, prolixin, is a heavy tranquilizer some 50 times as powerful as thorazine, called "zombie juice" by those given it. The second drug used on Brother Sanchez is Anectine. This drug, which causes the victim to believe he is dying by suffocation or drowning, has been used frequently at places like Vacaville and Patuxent, Md. After being subjected to this torture the prisoner is told he will get it again if he continues to "misbehave."

I don't have unlimited amount of space to continue detailing the horrors the authorities have conjured up to destroy prisoners, or to talk about the many different places where these atrocities take place. The programs include "transactional analysis", called "personality annihilation" by the prisoners. I have not space to detail the racism that these programs seek to foster, nor the racism in the prison system that these programs reflect. They exist in a variety of state and Federal prisons and mental hospitals, from Bridgewater, Mass to Marion, Illinois. I will, however, spend some time on the ultimate weapon which the authorities wish to use: neurosurgery, once known as the lobotomy. What is done is, by several means (surgery, electrodes, radiation), destroy portions of the brain in order to produce a more docile human.

In a letter dated Sept. 8, 1971, R.K. Proconier of the California Department of Corrections stated that if study and diagnosis indicated that a brain malfunction caused aggressive behavior, "neurosurgery would be performed, directed at the previously found cerebral foci."

Three lobotomies were performed before public pressure halted the program. But neurosurgery is far from dead. Drs. Ervin, Mark and Sweet performed lobotomies in Boston while they were on the staff of Mass. General Hospital, though they did not perform the operations on prisoners. The trio are also prime expounders of the idea that a proclivity to violence is biologically based in the "violent individual." This idea, expressed either openly or subtly by

those defenders of the system who refuse to acknowledge that society itself, through its injustices, remains the root cause of most violent behavior. Instead of attack the real causes, they find it safer and easier to attack the victims through behavior mod, drug assaults and lobotomies.

Ervin is now at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute (founded by the California Prison System and funded by money from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration), which is working on "studying" violence and its "cure" from a biological basis.

For further data on neurosurgery see the mid-December The Outlook from SDG, 3 Joy St., Boston, Ma. 02108; also assorted issues of the Real Paper and Phoenix from May-July, 1973, and the Jan. 8, 1974 issue of the Real Paper.

Says Dr. Peter Breggins of Washington, D.C. "psychosurgery"



are on the verge of a new slaughter of inmates--man, women, and children."

The final weapon of the state against those who protest the horrors of the state, particularly the prisons, will be to make vegetables out of humans.

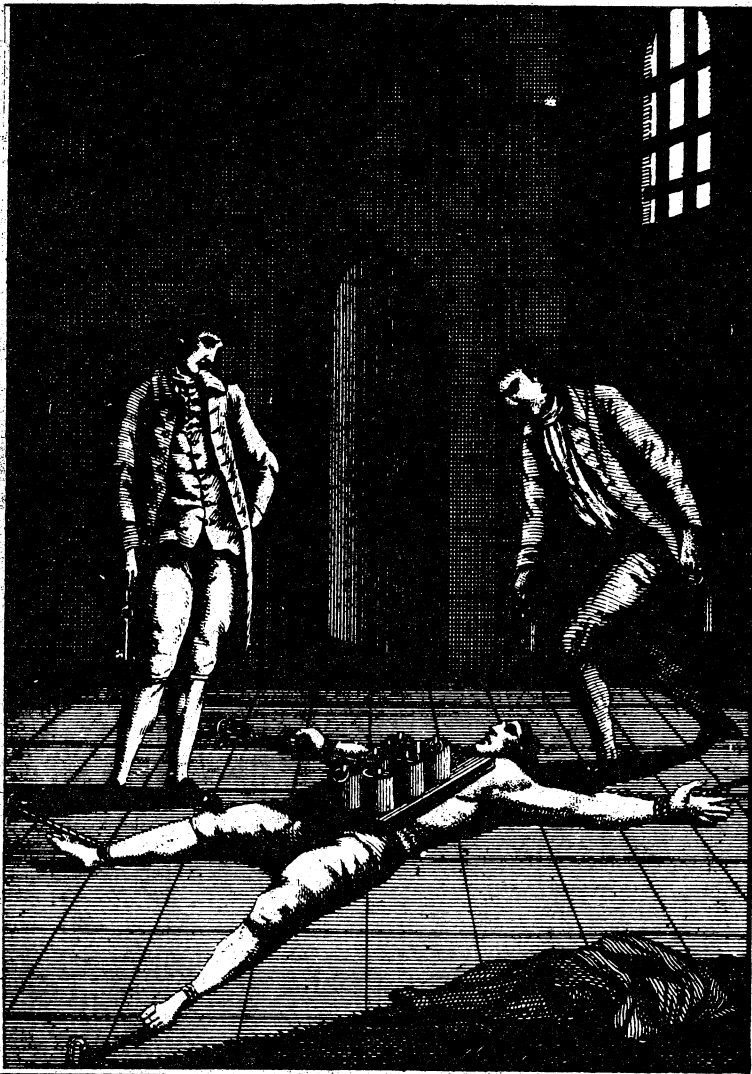
Captives across the U.S. are fighting with all their strength not only to preserve their dignity and attain their freedom, but also to preserve their very existence. To an enormous extent they are dependent on us. We on the outside must see through the legal dodges and the medical deceptions hidden by a screen of "therapy" and "rehabilitation."

As the pamphlet, "Vacaville: Chemical and Psychological Warfare" states:

The most dangerous thing about CMF is that it is a prison disguised as a hospital. It is the result of liberal prison reform, the frantic search to find new methods to control prisoners as old ones break down. Officials at CMF have more power by virtue of the "hospital" cover because they are considered to be "treating" rather than "punishing" the prisoners...

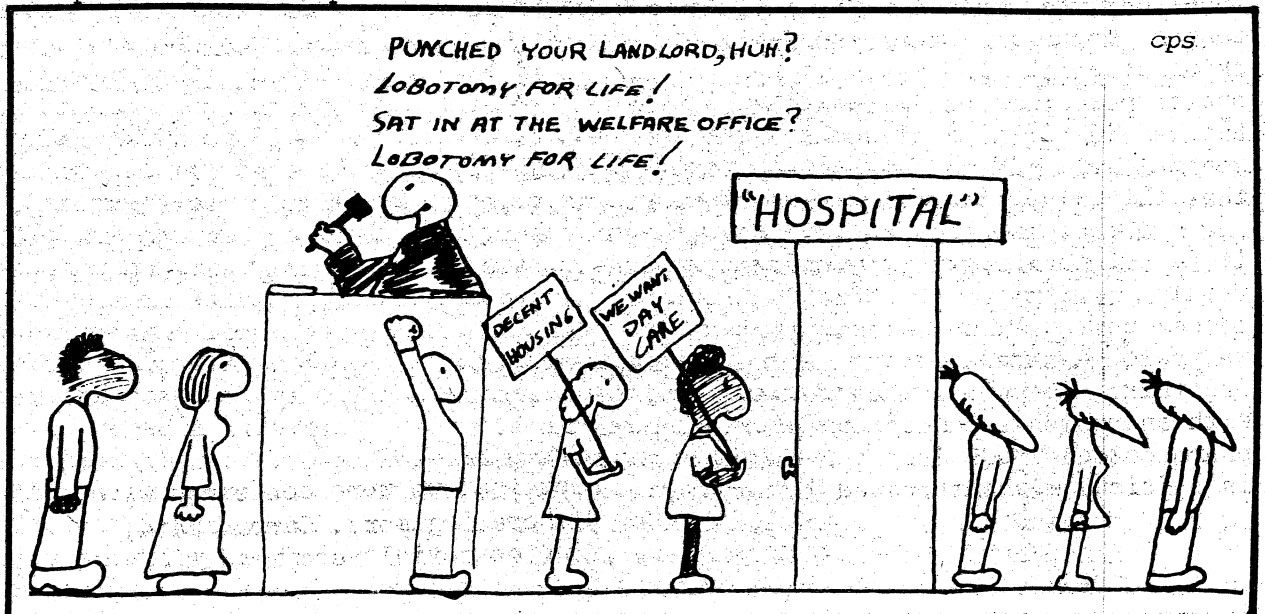
What many tend to forget is that these "techniques" of control being practiced at Vacaville are considered "humane" and "progressive" by liberal prison reformers. Yet, they reflect the most brutal and efficient means of suppressing political awareness and change that we have ever had to face.

Benjamin Franklin said, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." I can only add that if we do not struggle together to prevent the atrocities committed on the brothers and sisters in prison from continuing to occur the Nixons and Currans of our land will see to it that we have neither liberty nor safety.



The Punishment formerly inflicted on those who **REFUSED PLEADING** to an Indictment

will be the ultimate therapeutic weapon for any state hospital superintendent or prison warden--we





# Interview with Curran

By Monty Griffith-Mair  
BOSTON, Jan 7 --

At 667 Huntington Ave., stands a 15 story building, made of white marble and brick. Opened last September, the building is the headquarters of Harvard University's School of Public Medicine. Inside the building, workmen are putting the final touches of paint on the walls, and laying down the plush wall-to-wall carpeting on the floor. Up on the sixth floor the elevator obediently stops....

At room No. 612, Prof. William J. Curran introduced himself, with a broad smile. Adjusting his blue-striped tie, Curran looked about 50 years of age, with black-rimmed spectacles, and thick, short hair going grey at his long sideburns.

As a Harvard Professor of Legal Medicine, Curran is the head of Socio-Technical Systems, a Boston-based organization dealing in mental health research and behavioral modification programs for correctional institutions in the six-New England States. With a \$188,472 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), Curran has produced a 13-chapter Report entitled--A Feasibility Study For The Development Of New England Programs For The Management And Treatment Of Dangerous, Special Offenders. The report has not been made public. Sources within NEPA obtained one part of Curran's Report. Beside the Report, Prof. William J. Curran is the chief proponent of "behavioral modification" for "convicts" in New England.

Back in room No. 612, Curran was interviewed by NEPA NEWS. At the outset of the interview, Curran was asked if he would define his role in terms of his professional status as related to his recommendations for behavior modification programs for "Special Offenders." "My recommendations," said Curran, "comes largely out of twenty years of my career in working with legal, correctional and mental health programs." In the early 1960's, Curran was the head of the New England Training Center in Juvenile Delinquency for five years. "And," noted Curran, "I was in charge of developing new psychiatric programs at the Bridgewater Institution," for the 'criminally insane.'

Asked if women prisoners were considered along with male prisoners as "Special Offender." Curran answered, "No, but one of our research groups is interested in looking at women, and may well be one of our other recommendations. But we did not look at women...in general. It was our impression that that kind of 'acting out' and violence is peculiarly male, it is not the frequent thing in female institutions." "But," added Curran, "I must admit that we would be interested in exploring this. The group that we worked with and which produced our psychopharmacology study is a group that is particularly interested in wom-

en's problems. For example, if we were to look at the problems with women..., we would look at the menstrual cycle significance." With an air of confidentiality, Curran said, "You see, much of the research done in regard to responsiveness, depression, 'acting out' and all, in relation to women...involves the menstrual cycle and other factors which don't occur in the male population. So we would want to shape any study we did there very differently.

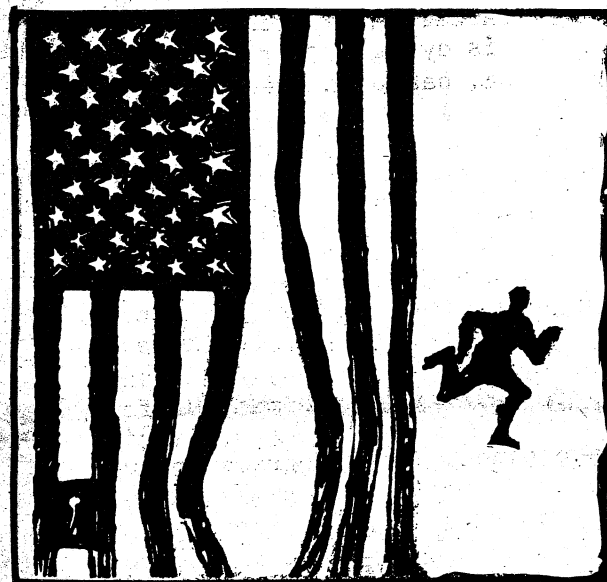
Prof. Curran was quizzed about the "secret" list of 365 names of prisoners classified as "special offenders" by Curran's report. "The names were given to us," stated Curran, "we did not select anyone...and we have not gone into any prison...and actually examined and done a psychological or psychiatric or social workup on individuals." Explaining further, Curran remarked, "We were not interested in individuals, all we were looking for was data!"

How was the data collected? "What we did," said Curran proudly, "is to work with people within the State Prisons...from the Warden's office down to all types of officer personnel, all people in treatment programs, chaplains, and any other kind of personnel that has anything to do directly with the inmate population." Continuing, Curran quickly added, "We used, oh roughly fifteen informants...and then we put together a list (of prisoners) which was a composited list...getting that group together and having that agreement made so that it was not one person's list....it was a composite list up and down the prison....Because our study was of those people (prisoners) who were felt by the institution to be violent...to not respond to programs...to be dangerous to other inmates or dangerous to themselves," informed Curran.

Asked if he thought prisoners would be opposed to his recommendations for "special offenders treatment programs" as they were with the Federal Bureau of Prisons' implementation of the S.T.A.R.T. programs, Curran said, "Yes, I expect there may well be concern about this," from the prisoners' point of view. "We," interjected Curran, "of course, got underway and collected most of our data before the S.T.A.R.T. program was at all in operation." Prof. Curran had more to say: "We were perhaps more aware of the programs of Dr. Groder at Marion (federal pen) Ill., and his efforts down at Butner to project this into the North Carolina institution. So we had no specific data on the S.T.A.R.T. program. We did however find in our discussions with the Federal Government...at least a realization of the problems, because of the fact that many of the people (prisoners) selected for the S.T.A.R.T. program were similar in description to the ones that we were concerned with. Elaborating more, Curran said, "Our essential recommendations we-

re for voluntary programs (inside N.E. prisons). At one stage we recommended that at least for the first two years all programs would be voluntary. Again, those are treatment decisions, but they are related to the legal issues. We have suggested that an effort be made prior to the establishment of any ongoing treatment program, that the legal problems be dealt with as much as possible and be tested. So if programs could be started on a voluntary basis we would favor that. The S.T.A.R.T. program is not voluntary, of course!," exclaimed Curran.

Turning to Gov. Meldrim Thomson's convened Tri-State Maximum Security Prison Committee, Curran noted, "We have a problem with Gov. Thomson...he is concentrating on a high security prison.... you know that is not our's...not our's you know." Later Curran stated, "Gov. Thomson's 'prison' is political....political only."



"At this stage," noted Prof. Curran, "it certainly would be my preference that programs be voluntary, if it is set up on a treatment basis." If the program weren't voluntary, "I don't think behavior modification can work. It's like the alcoholic who goes into Alcoholic's Anonymous, you know. He really does have to say, rather out in public, that he surrenders to alcohol, alcohol has won. Now he's going to be an alcoholic all his life but he's not going to drink anymore. He's going to work with the problem and try to motivate himself to get somewhere. Well, that's behavior modification essentially.

Curran confirmed that the reason for his recommendation of the Portsmouth site was to prevent any public opposition to his programs.

"After all, can you imagine what one would have done if you tried to locate this in any town?"

Concluding the interview, Professor William J. Curran said, "As you can imagine, mine is a feasibility study. Much of what I'm now saying is stage two, in which I might not even be engaged. I hope I will be. I would be willing to try to help. I hope no one would jump in and, you know, have an erection complex."

# Tri-State Committee

By Monty Griffith-Mair

Vermont State Senator Fred Westfall is Chairman of the Tri-State Maximum Security Prison Committee (TSMSPC). Westfall noted that he had received a letter from N. H. Governor Meldrim Thomson stating his full support of Westfall and "the way the developments were going excellently for a tri-state prison." He further informed me that thus far meetings have been held in the early Spring, mid-Summer, mid October and mid-November.

Asked what exactly the Tri-State Prison Committee was intended to do, Sen. Westfall said, "Well, our study is to deal with the problems of hard-core offenders. We have I'd think about 15 to 20 hard-core troublemakers in each of our states..." Westfall explained that rehabilitation of the "hard core" was only possible through "competent personnel, trained to rehabilitate the hard-core prisoners." He added, "I don't think the hard-core troublemakers can be rehabilitated, frankly, but we can at least give it a try. With sharing the burden of rehabilitation and competent personnel among us, it will be better than one state trying to cope with the hard-core convicts all on their own.

I asked if he agreed with Prof. William J. Curran's evaluation of using the Portsmouth Naval Prison as a site for the Tri-State Prison. "Definitely, I would say," said Westfall. "Prof. Curran's suggestion to use the Portsmouth site is the most definitive statement to date." "Where would the money come from if it was decided to build a new prison instead of using the Portsmouth site?" I asked. "Mostly from Federal money," said Westfall, "be it Portsmouth or some other site." Asked if any alternative site was in mind or had been decided on, Westfall said firmly, "No, not at this point."

Westfall indicated that N. H.'s Gov. Thomson was using state money to keep "the committee going." It was Meldrim Thomson who "had raised our hopes for getting a Tri-State Prison." "He's been very good to us."

"We have another meeting next in Maine, with Sen. Hichens, but no schedule has been decided yet. Our meeting should be in January sometime, I'd say the end of January," Westfall said. He added that John Zampierre, Democrat, So. Ryegate, was the other Vermont committeeman.

I interviewed Maine State Senator Walter Hichens, Republican. "The germ (of the Tri-State Prison idea) started," Hichens said, "about three years ago when Sen. Westfall and I and other senators were attending an LEAA meeting in Boston. Some of us senators spoke about the difficulties of mentally ill people in our different states. There was a need to do something to help mentally ill persons get

proper treatment. We thought that if only we could get together on a joint basis to work with the problem of mental patients and provide a facility that would be shared between the Northern States of New England....Some months later I wrote Sen. Westfall a letter to see if he thought something could be worked out with the Tri-

need a new prison where we can get around that ruling, see?" When I said I wasn't quite sure what he meant, Dyer said: "See, there are prisoners who have a lot of ego, ego, ego, where they can show off to other prisoners. By having another place for them, we can take away their ego."

I asked Rep. Dyer how much mo-



Walpole photo: Richard Kahn

States..." Hichens said that Sen. Westfall had been pleased to respond.

The essence of Sen. Hichens' opinion was that they wanted "a facility" for segregating those prisoners who were considered "hard core" or "repeaters" or "troublemakers" because they were only "mental" problems as compared with the majority of prisoners who "want to be rehabilitated and not cause trouble." He mentioned that "all are in full agreement about starting a prison to take 'special offenders' and 'troublemakers' away from the other inmates because they have 'bad influence and leadership' over them." Hichens said, "I spoke to the guards, wardens and prisoners, yes, I've visited all the prisons in Maine, and everyone agrees those troublemakers are a nuisance to the good order of the prisons."

Asked if he had a particular prisoners in mind, Sen. Hichens said: "Gus Heald is the kind we have in Maine," adding that he had spoken with the warden about Gus Heald being on the list for the "new" prison and also on Prof. Curran's list of special offenders.

State Representative Roswell Dyer, Republican, Franklin County, is co-chairman of Maine's State Institutions Committee. Hichens said he and Dyer support each other on the "need for a Tri-State Prison." Rep. Dyer added another dimension to the Tri-State Prison Committee.

"See," he began, "the No. 1 reason is that the Supreme Court ruled that no prisoner can be segregated from the other prisoners for more than 48 hours at a time. We

ney would be needed for such a prison. "I'd guess between 8 and 12 million dollars. 90% would be from the Federal Government, we couldn't do it without Federal money. And before we open a prison, we'd have to get the states to pass an act and then Congress would have to pass an act allowing the transportation of prisoners from one state to another." Rep. Dyer did not foresee any trouble in getting these acts passed.

Asked how the Tri-State Prison would be designed, Dyer stated dryly: "Each prisoner will have a room of his own. Do away with bars but have the prison fully electrified." Dyer confirmed that R. I.'s Gov. Noel was very interested in the prison. Rep. Dyer was asked how Ward Murphy, Maine's Commissioner of Corrections, felt about being included in the Tri-State Prison. "I'd guess she's for it." Dyer said that "Gov. Thomson in N. H. is the man who should be given credit for the work he has done."

Asked if he had any prisoners in mind for the new prison, Rep. Dyer struck the same note as Sen. Hichens, naming Gus Heald.

New Hampshire State Senator John McLaughlin, conservative Democrat, Nashua, is chairman of N. H.'s State Institutions Committee. Sen. McLaughlin has no doubt that the Tri-State Prison is for "rioters and big troublemakers."

McLaughlin's running commentary went like this: "I don't mind us having a Tri-State Prison with Vermont and Maine, or even Rhode Island. But never in your life with those Massachusetts people. They have made a mess of corrections in Massachusetts, like at Walpole. I'm strongly opposed to



# Committee

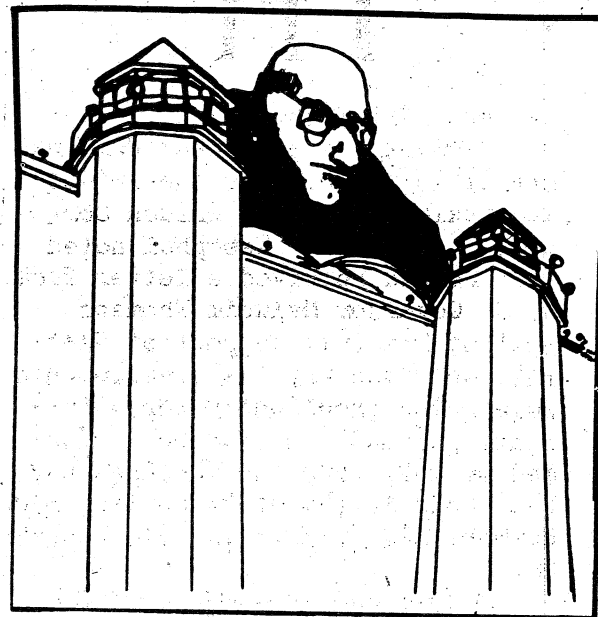
having Massachusetts with us in New Hampshire. I'm against the Portsmouth prison. It won't do. It's too big, it holds up to 1100 prisoners. We want a prison for 140 to 150 prisoners only, for the troublemakers and their ilk."

"Sir," McLaughlin went on, "a maximum security prison is needed, very quickly. That place, that prison, Walpole is a mess. Prisoners just do what they want to do. Stabbings, rioting, troublemaking is all they know at Walpole. Sir, we've got to get to this problem of having troublemakers in prison, quickly. While I am a senator, we are not going to have another Walpole in New Hampshire."

Since he was opposed to the Portsmouth Naval Prison site, McLaughlin was asked what site had been chosen instead. "At this time we have not decided where the prison would be. There is still some disagreement between the three states, but I hope we can agree to terms quickly." McLaughlin refused to say where the money was coming from for the Tri-State Prison. In general he said he supports "Gov. Thomson's stand fully."

Parker L. Hancock, former Warden of N. H. S. P., retired on September 1, 1972 as Warden. Four days later, on Sept. 4, 1972, he became a consultant to Socio-Technical Systems, Prof. Wm. Curran's organization. He was very cooperative, indeed, he didn't believe there was anything "secret" about what Curran and Socio-Technical Systems was doing. "Remember, Monty," he said, "Socio-Technical is only undertaking a feasibility report. We have an awful lot of information concerning the prisoners, about 350 to 400, who present difficulties as far as rehabilitation is concerned. We know the kind of prisoner who must have special treatment, the violent type, the anti-social type, etc., the kind of backgrounds they have, the problems that are affected by them and so on. Our study is very important indeed, so we can know what can be done about prisoners who are the most difficult to handle."

Parker Hancock mentioned that the Final Report was near completion. "Each of the two volumes is about 1 1/2 inches thick and must be well over a 1000 pages with appendices. But, you know, they are running short of money to finish the final report and hope to get more money from LEAA funds..."



## Tri-State Prison Committee

Sen. Westfall: (802) 888-3366 (Home); (802) 888-4931 (Bus); (802) 828-2231 (Vt. State House)  
 Rep. John Zampiere: (802) 584-3604 (Home)(Bus); (802) 828-2231 (Vt. State House)  
 Sen. Hichens: (207) 748-0802 (Home)(Bus); (207) 289-1110 (Me. State House)  
 Rep. Dyer: (207) 778-2822 (Home)(Bus); (207) 289-1110 (Me. State House)  
 Sen. Cleo Heald: (603) 352-9250 (Home); (603) 252-4312 (Bus); (603) 227-1110 (N. H. State Ho.)  
 Sen. McLaughlin: (603) 883-7525 (Home); (603) 883-3386 (Bus); (603) 227-1110 (N. H. State Ho.)

## Attica Speakers Bureau

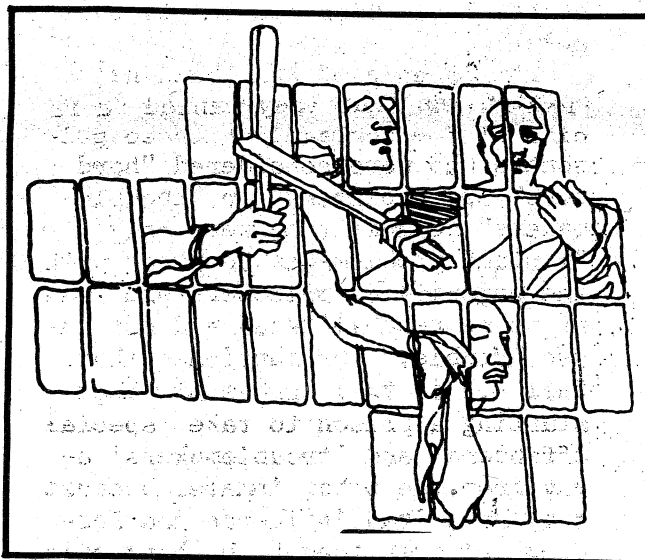
### Press Release:

Rahaam Karanja, spokesperson for the indicted Attica Brothers, has announced the formation of the Attica Brothers Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau is a vital component of the defense of the Brothers. This is a means of educating the public to what happened at Attica September 9-13, 1971, why it happened, and what has been happening since. Through the Speakers Bureau, interested organizations, schools, and community groups can arrange for an indicted Attica Brother to speak. In addition, former Attica Observers, who were at Attica during the 1971 rebellion, and lawyers presently working for the defense are available for speaking engagements. The Speakers Bureau also distributes a feature-length color film, "Attica", which vividly portrays the conditions at Attica during the rebellion and the ensuing massacre by the state.

Attica Brothers Legal Defense (formerly Attica Defense Committee) views this project as an important part of the campaign now underway to defend those Brothers who are facing legal reprisals for having participated in the rebellion.

For further information, contact Ann Clark, Attica Brothers Speakers Bureau, 1370 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14209 (716-884-4423).

Contributions to sustain this important project should be sent to Attica Brothers Defense Fund, c/o the Challenger, 1301 Fillmore Ave, Buffalo, New York, 14211.



Dear NEPA NEWS,

I'm writing to let our fellow prisoners and outside friends know that the National Prisoners Fast was observed here at New Hampshire State Prison by about 50-60 men. This is about 1/5 of the population.

Unfortunately, many men here felt their bellies were more important than being part of a nation-wide prisoners' action. But we are hopeful that in the coming year of our continuing struggle more men here, as with comrades throughout the land, will come to realize that our only real chance for individual freedom and victory will come by united action, by working together and sticking together.

Meanwhile, we continue our support for the Attica Brothers, all other prisoners, and our own front of the struggle.

UNITY BRINGS VICTORY  
 For the men at NHSP,  
 Jaan Laaman

## Worcester Information

A "Correctional Change Group" made up of ex-prisoners, relatives and others has been formed in Worcester, Mass. In addition to court monitoring and public educational work, they have established a "Prison Information Center" (932 Main St., Worcester, Mass. 01610, 617/754-0756 or 754-8968).

Who and What is the Center? A place to meet and talk with people who have needs and concerns similar to yours.

Who is there? Mike O'Malley staffs the Center almost every day. Ash Eames is there three mornings a week. Mike and Ash receive a modest stipend from the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ. Jerry Daniels is assigned to the Center on a work-study program at Worcester State College. Volunteers who staff the Center one or more times during the week are: Ruth Kulunis, Paul Rogers, Jim Dolan, Shirley Balestrier, Father Frank Scollen, Nick Cowenhoven, Betty Rose, Marje Curll, Kay Hall, Mark Silvern, Kathie O'Malley, Virginia Ross, P.J. Leblanc and Mary B.

What Information is available?  
 --Contacts with social agencies  
 --Employment services  
 --Housing possibilities  
 --Work-release program  
 --Labor Council  
 --Church people and organizations  
 --Prisoner organizations  
 --About the County Jail in West Boylston  
 --American Friends Service Comm.  
 --American Civil Liberties Union  
 --Capital punishment legislation  
 --Legal aid  
 --Newspapers, films, speakers.

# Carrot on a Stick

by Nancy Rosenberg

Let me just review what it was that made it so hard to be an inmate teacher in prison.

My fellow prisoners viewed me with suspicion. They looked at me as a prison administrator and I did in fact have that power if I had wanted to use it. It was hard partly because the prison administrators treated me differently, which I didn't want at all. They gave me guard-like responsibilities and expected me to fink on my fellow prisoners which I refused to do.

Another hard thing was the content of the GED program. It was a standard, nation-wide, routine question & answer test that's supposed to be equally appropriate for anyone of any age, race, sex, linguistic or cultural background. In fact what it is, is a highly biased, culturally bound exam that

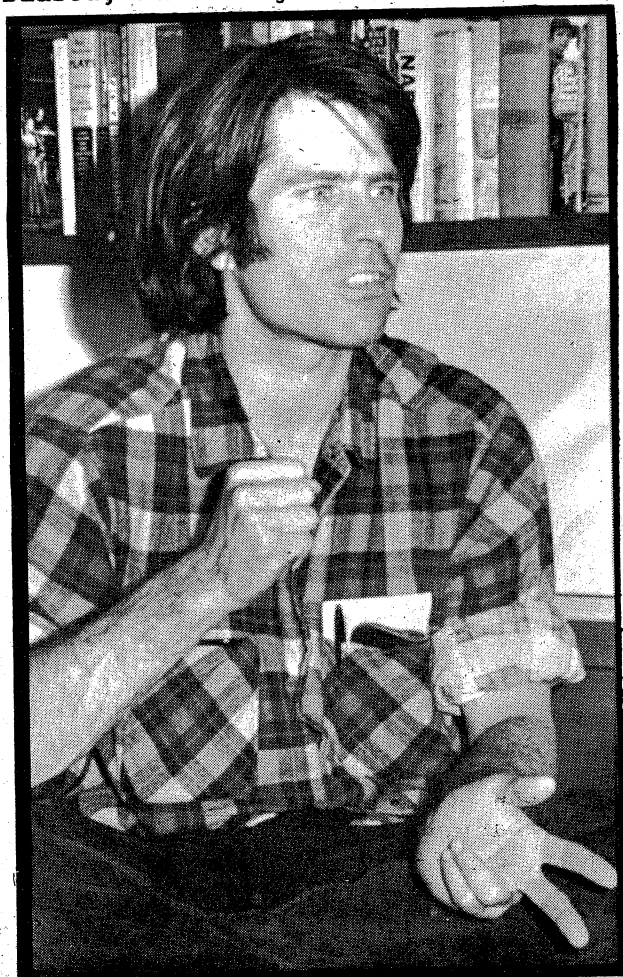


Photo: Bill Morey

favors white middle class kids. and no one was white middle class except me and I wasn't taking the exam. I thought of quitting right there because the material wasn't educationally valuable to me. But I didn't because the prisoners themselves, even though they knew it was bullshit, were in a bind because they wanted a high school diploma.

The worst thing was and I think this is (endemic) of any prison education program, is that when you enroll in a prison administration program you know it's gonna look good. It's going to increase your chance for parole, or more good time, or a special favor. People want to beef up their records, so they're playing a game from the start. So you're a

t... you're interested in teaching... you feel there are things that may be exciting to others... these are exciting... you find what the motivation of prisoners already... are going for... in general.

Almost typically these guys couldn't relate to public schools. Now they're getting a public school curriculum. Even when we had discussions it was still in a classroom, they knew I was the teacher, we still had a blackboard. All these things spark off negative memories.

The last thing I was doing there educationally was with a friend scheming to propose turning the prison camp into free university for prisoners. First, we did a survey to find out what prisoners would want to learn, if they wanted could learn anything they wanted to, if that's what they were at Safford for. We got a long list ranging from academic subjects, to vocational, and to recreational. Then we went around to find out who in the prison population knew enough to teach the subjects. We found incredible resources! We had a list of at least 100 subjects from 300 men. Then we had this scheme whereby we knew where we could find could get surplus quonset huts so we could set up our own classrooms. We knew people on the outside who were willing to donate books, materials and lab equipment. So it wouldn't cost the prison anything.

We tried to work out any objections that the prison administration might have. The first one they'd have was that they couldn't spare us from all the work projects. So we made a careful survey on how many prisoners it would actually take to do all the work necessary. We figured out that instead of taking 300 men full time it would take about 25-50. We would either rotate the jobs or, what we were really pushing for was minimum wage for the jobs. This way men who weren't interested in our educational goals would earn money. We wanted to make it look so feasible that the administration would look ridiculous if they turned it down.

Well, I got kicked out before it ever came to fruition. But it was rolling. Three months later after I had been kicked out I saw my friend who had helped me work on it and I asked him whatever happened to the free university. He said, well, you know how it goes., People kind of lost interest after you left.

I was disillusioned with the possibilities of official education programs in prison as long as the administration holds any kind of sentencing power over you. If they have power to get you or deny you parole, education programs remain a carrot on a stick.

*Can education in prison be anything other than a carrot at the end of a stick?*

Only if people were sentenced to fixed sentences. I tend to think that would be a better situation. On the one hand you could say that the prison authorities know you best and are watching you best. But on the other hand a sentence isn't supposed to have

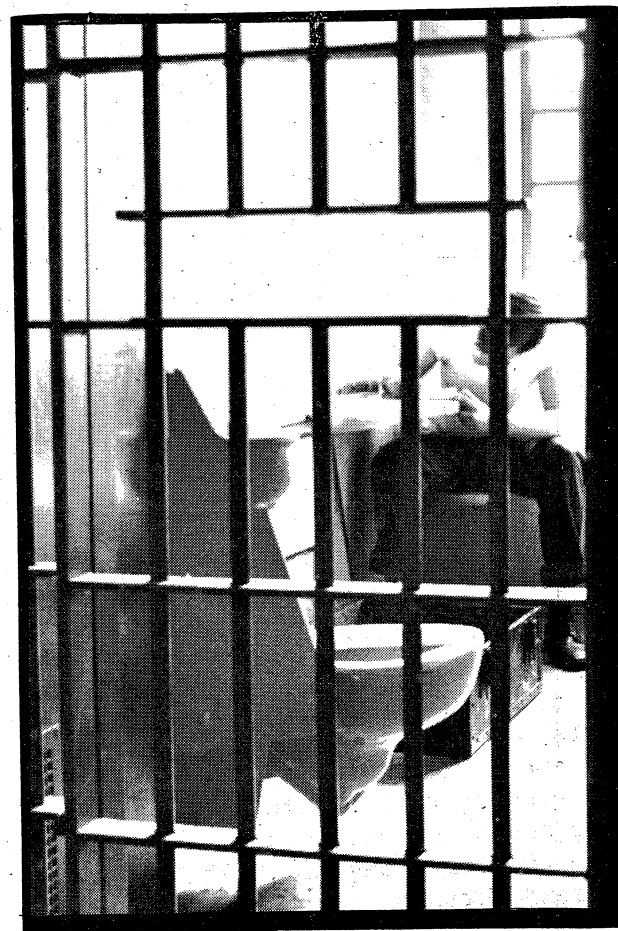


photo: D. Goldblatt

anything to do with how you behave in prison. It has to do with what you've done before.

There are a lot of people in prison who don't need rehabilitation, they need human rehabilitation, they're very messed up people. They've been fucked over all their lives, they have no sense of self worth, self confidence. Then they find themselves in another institution after public schools, foster homes, industries, or whatever they've been through, here they are once again being funnelled into someone else's program. They are told in effect; you can't do it on your own buddy, just follow the white line and raise your hand if you have a question. The prisons I was in are trying to turn out automations. The way you get parole, that is the way you justify your ability to live out in society is by acting like a mindless robot. That means society can deal with you and you can deal with society, and they're right, to some extent. By and large, that's the mold that our institutions seem to be putting us in.

Anyway you approach these prison problems, you always come down to the inescapable conclusion that prisons don't exist in a vacuum. Prisons are integral in our overall social fabric and mirror society. If the society has x,y & z values, those are the values that will be imposed on the prisoners, there is no way to address yourself to prison reform or abolition without looking at the whole society.

The problem I faced in both places is the attitude of do your own time. If I had no complaints I shouldn't be trying to organize a campaign to clean up the hospital... This is an attitude shared by many of the prisoners too. Don't tell me about your troubles, I won't tell you about mine.

This is the same attitude you find in a subtler way on the outside. Essentially what the government and institutions are trying



# No New Prisons

by Gene Mason

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U. S. Justice Department appointed in 1971 a National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals. This Commission has just published six reports, one of which is entitled Report on Corrections. This is a very valuable report which contains many recommendations which we all should study; but the report is especially interesting in terms of the construction of any new prison (for behavior modification or any other purpose), and the issue of how decisions within the criminal justice system effecting all prisoners should be made, two issues that critically concern us.

Rather than summarize the recommendations, many of them deserve to be quoted in full. Unlike most reports of this type, this report quite openly takes the position that prisons are complete failures and to build new ones would be repeating century-long mistakes. Relevant quotes on this point include:

"It is essential to abate use of institutions."

"Institutions do succeed in punishing, but they do not deter."

"They change the committed offender, but the change is more likely to be negative than positive."

"It is no surprise that institutions have not been successful in reducing crime. The mystery is that they have not contributed even more to increasing crime."

p. 1

"In view of the bankruptcy of penal institutions, it would be a grave mistake to continue to provide new settings for the traditional approach in corrections.... Therefore, the Commission recommends a 10-year moratorium on construction of institutions except under circumstances set forth under Standard 11.1."

p. 597

Under what conditions should new institutions be built, according to the Commission? Under Standard 11.1, entitled "Planning New

## Carrot

to do is atomize us to the extent that we all relate to them directly and have no intermediary associations, so they can control each of us one by one.

I feel that my whole experience in prison was educational. What I tried to do was organize and that was the only genuine educational thing I could think of to do. The heart of the problem was that people wouldn't take the initiative, people wouldn't stick together, or be responsible individually collectively for their situations. Until that attitude was broken down I didn't see that anything positive could happen.

I feel good about this era of prison strikes and rebellions. Once prisoners experience a positive change resulting from their initiative—that's a step in the right direction.

January

Correctional Institutions," the Commission has this to say:

"Each correctional agency administering State institutions for juvenile or adult offenders should adopt immediately a policy of not building new major institutions for juveniles under any circumstances, and not building new institutions for adults unless an analysis of the total criminal justice and adult corrections systems produces a clear finding that no alternative is possible...."



"The facts set forth earlier in this chapter lead logically to the conclusion that no new institutions for adults should be built and existing institutions for juveniles should be closed."

Obviously those in Massachusetts in Professor William Curran of Harvard and those in northern New England, led by Governor Meldrim Thomson, are not interested in following the guidelines of the National Commission. Their interest is in getting the new behavior modification programs and the new maximum security prison, or, money for the professionals and publicity for the politicians.

Even the procedures they are using to achieve their ends do not meet the standards layed down by the National Commission. On this point the Commission states in Standard 14.7, entitled "Participatory Management," the following:

"Correctional agencies should adopt immediately a program of participatory management in which everyone involved--managers, staff, and offenders--shared in identifying problems, finding mutually agreeable solutions, setting goals and objectives, defining new roles for participants, and evaluating effectiveness of these processes. This program should include the following:

1. Training and development sessions to prepare managers, staff, and offenders for their new roles in organizational development.

2. An ongoing evaluation process to determine progress toward participatory management and role changes of managers, staff, and offenders.

3. A procedure for the participation of other elements of the criminal justice system in long-range planning for the correctional system.

4. A change of manpower utilization from traditional roles to those in keeping with new management and correctional concepts."

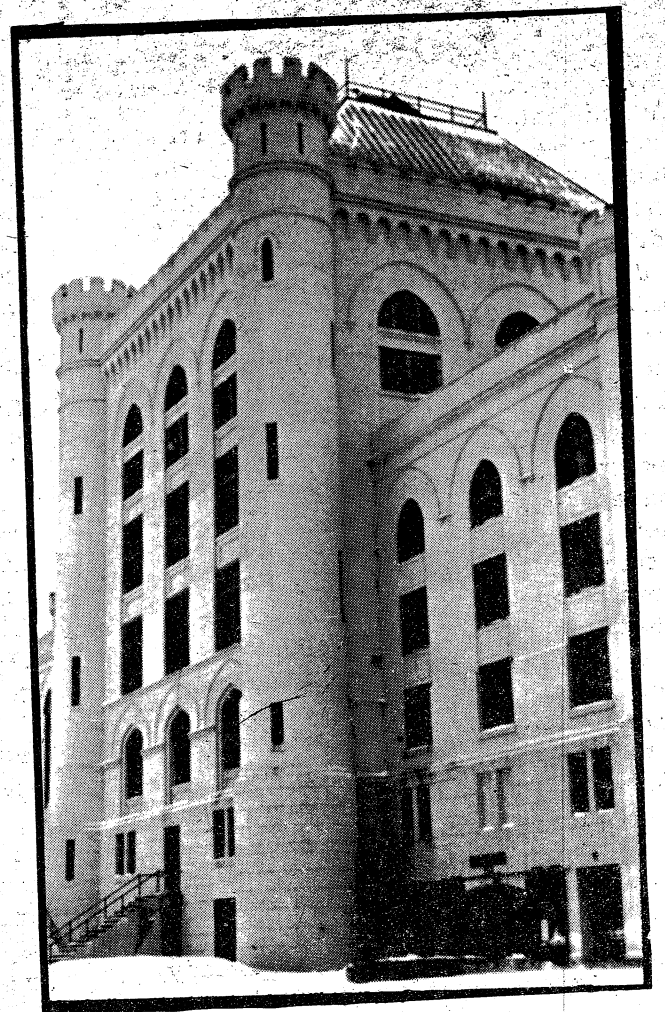
I hope all of the guards, censors, counsellors, and wardens, who do not subscribe to our newspaper, but read those we send to prisoners, will read these recommendations closely.

No New Prisons!

Prisoners Participate With Others In Managing Prisons!

If this is done, the plans of Curran and Thomson have no future, and they deserve to have none.

(The Report on Corrections of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals can be obtained by writing to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Justice Department, Washington, D.C.)



Portsmouth Naval Prison photo: Berger & Morey

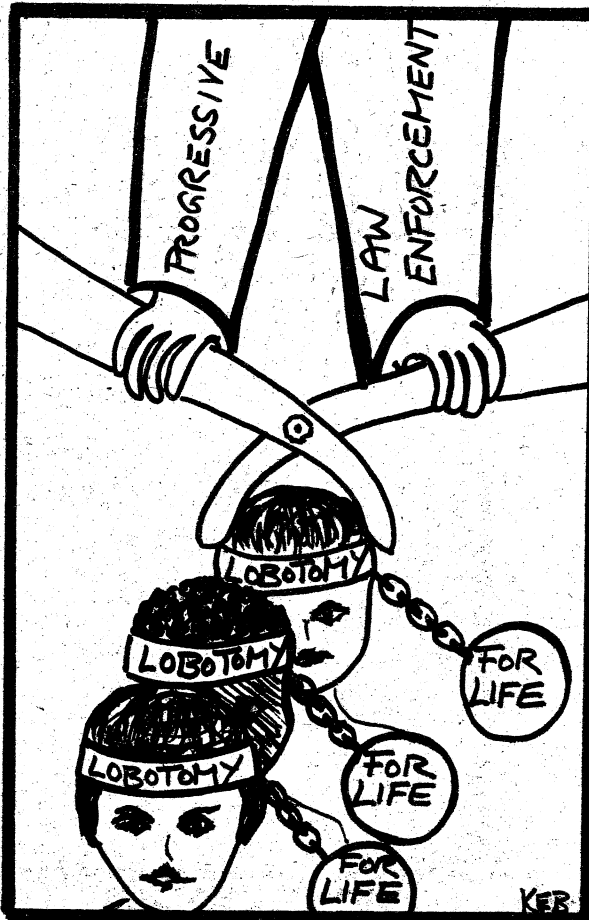
# Annihilation not Rehabilitation

by James W. Clothey, Jr., Executive Officer, Vermont Prisoner Solidarity Committee, Vermont State Prison, Windsor

This is written not as an officer of the Vermont Prisoners' Solidarity Committee nor is it a reflection of that Committee's position or ideology. It is written by a man, who, like others of his generation, has been denied by the State the right to determine and govern his own destiny.

It was the premise of the late George Jackson and the basic contention of Eldridge Cleaver that "a political prisoner has nothing to be rehabilitated from or to." Unfortunately, the State realized this much sooner than did the political prisoner and in self-defense has taken steps to deal with the problem. The answer is as old as man himself - what you can't change, shape and mold to suit your purposes, you eliminate. The political activist within the walls is now threatened with annihilation. To be melodramatic we could contend that the gauntlet has been thrown down and the challenge made. To be realistic we must understand that a struggle for our very lives, our manhood and our sanity has begun. More than our freedom from these cages is at stake this time. Should we lose it will be the end of the game...there will be no second chance.

The few who own the State of Vermont and the few who run it for them have again developed a vehicle by which they can place the re-



sponsibility for their own shortcomings on the politically dissident prisoner. It is in the form of a Tri-State facility for "disruptive prisoners" ...an Orwellian attempt at behavior modification through massive doses of tranquilizing drugs and therapy designed to break the spirit and destroy dissent. This form of "progressive penology" is sanctioned by those whose own ultra-right wing leanings have permeated the sickness that they have spread th-

roughout New England in the form of OFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE MANDATES. For the record, I condemn their names to public scrutiny:

New Hampshire Governor Meldrim Thomson

Vermont Senator Albert Westphal  
William Loeb

It has become only too apparent that those of us who lay claim to the right to express political dissent have become targets for the keepers of the cage. They are channelling untold thousands of the taxpayers dollars into the struggle to neutralize our individual and collective outrage.

No longer am I interested in or concerned with prison reform. Neither am I interested in or concerned with making life more bearable inside prisons or protecting the legal rights of those behind the walls. I am interested only in the eradication of prisons.

Should this seem to be the attitude of a "hard-core," "bitter," "incorrigible" radical, the credit must go to those who lock my barred door each night. Truly, they did not put me in prison, but they conceived, nurtured and matured the threat that I am to their peace of mind.

Physical violence is not my way. I wage the battle with the one weapon they can neither comprehend nor combat...the belief that in the end, we shall truly overcome.

## Stop 'Special' Prisons

by Jaan Laaman

Many papers have recently carried lengthy articles based on Dr. William Curran's study on the need for special psycho-medical prisons, therapeutic drugs, and behavior modification programs for New England prisoners. As a prisoner having been subjected to some of these theories, as well as having some information of the roots and goals of these schemes, I must categorically state that not only are these things a great waste of tax payers money, but they are a threat to the ideals of Freedom we Americans believe in.

Translated into everyday language, therapeutic drugs, etc., mean mind control, brainwashing and zombie training. The psycho-medical prison is actually nothing more than a modern-day Frankenstein fortress.

Dr. Curran's costly research (\$188,472.00 of tax money) is really nothing new, and this is not the first time that a mind control advocate has proposed such programs.

What is important, before New England taxpayers allow their money to be wasted on new "special" prisons, is the history of some "special psycho-medical" prisons which exist in other states. The Adirondac Testing and Treatment Center in New York State was re-

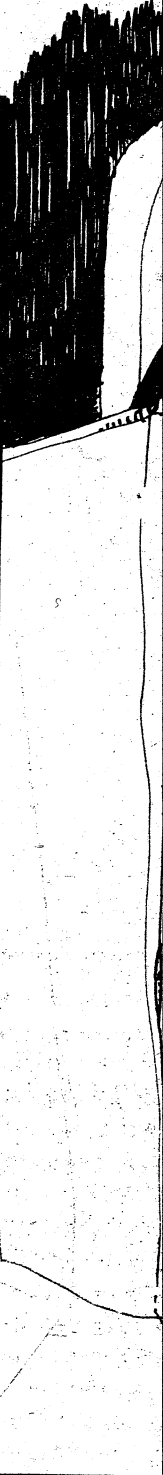
cently shut down because of public pressure and legal pressure once the knowledge of the inhuman brainwashing practices became public. Patuxent prison in Maryland was ordered to curtail many of their drug and reward/punishment programs by the courts. The START behavior modification program in the federal medical prison in Springfield, Missouri is presently temporarily enjoined by a federal court and in the middle of a losing battle to survive. More importantly, several prisoners held in this program have attempted suicide after being forced through months of drug injections, isolation cells, and other behavior changing techniques.

Yet even after all this human suffering it is obvious in the states where "special" prisons exist the prison administrator's common problems of discontent, lock-ups, protests and legal suits continue. But these problems exist because of ancient buildings, poor or non-existent training and education programs, sadistic guards, denial of basic constitutional rights, etc. Segregating, so as to destroy the minds of the most active reform-minded prisoners (and in case after case, in prisons throughout the land, it is the prisoners who speak loudest

for prisoner's rights and who work hardest for penal reform that are placed into the "special" prisoners category) will not solve any problems. In fact it will only create more, for anyone with any common sense will not voluntarily take drugs and so on that would turn them into a giggling idiot. And as long as the poor conditions remain, there will always be prisoners who will strive to change them. So if we follow Dr. Curran's proposal to its logical conclusion, we would have nothing but mental-hospital prisons. Big Brother constantly watching and the good doctor manufacturing human robots.

Penal change is certainly needed, but we must not mimic the techniques of torture used by military dictatorships or science fiction horror novels as the models.

(Jaan Laaman is a prisoner at New Hampshire State Prison)





# John Yancey Defense

by Jaan Laaman

At about 8:30 on the evening of Dec. 11, 1973 John Yancey was in his cell cutting pictures out of a magazine when Capt. LaValle, Lt. Morisette and about six guards came to his cell.

(It must be noted that the whole population of New Hampshire State Prison is locked up for the night at 7:30pm. Only in extreme cases of emergence are men taken out of their cells after 7:30.)

These guards ordered John to back up to his bars so they could handcuff him. John asked why, where was he going, and for what reason. He was told to the hole (isolation unit). He again asked why and received no answer except repeated demands to back up to the bars.

Then, without warning, Capt. Lavalle ordered Morisette to mace Yancey. After he was totally blinded and gagging from the mace his cell was opened and John stumbled out. He was grabbed, beaten and dragged to the hole.

Twenty-four hours later he was finally told why he was taken out of his cell and thrown into isolation. The charges were: "Spitting in the direction of Capt. Lavalle, and being on a tier during night yard." (Men are not supposed to be on certain parts of the tiers during night yard.)

He received major disciplinary charges for both charges. That means he could spend 12 months in punitive segregation, and what is even worse, he faces a criminal



charge of two counts of assault on an officer.

In order to clearly understand this whole bizarre travesty of justice it is necessary to know that NHSP is staffed, in large part, by extremely racist, right-wing type officers. Everyone has to deal with petty disciplinary charges and harassment. Those that speak out about such injustices face more abuse. Now if a man, like John Yancey, is Black, carries himself with pride and dignity, refuses to tolerate racist slurs, and is vocal about the

deplorable prison conditions to boot, then it is a sure bet that he will be singled out and victimized at every opportunity.

Since his arrival a few years ago, John has spent over half his time in isolation or segregation for charges that were either non-existent or so petty most other prisoners would not even have been written up for them. Through all this John has maintained his dignity and self-respect. This has earned him the undying, blind hatred of the most bigot-minded officials here--men such as Capt. LaValle.

It is under these circumstances and for such reasons that this young man faces the probability of a new ten or twenty year prison sentence.

John Yancey needs and deserves your support and help, and we here must lay this burden on you people on the streets. He is due in court soon and presently has neither a lawyer nor money. If he is forced to rely on a court-appointed lawyer he can expect a weak defense at best, or an outright railroading at worst. We cannot afford to allow this to happen. We look to you for help.

Editors note: There is now a John Yancey Defense Committee. For information as to how you can help, or if you can donate money, write to John Yancey Defense Committee, Box 321, Littleton, N.H. 03561

## Alternatives

It captures and numbs the mind of the unaware. The first affected are the keepers of the keys. They see the value of these keys in the light of a social fabrication necessitated by their own fear. The true value of their keys is the price of brass, less inflation.

In order to truly control you have to be absolute. This corrections is not nor can it ever be. Minds are free entities. The process of "rehabilitation" is based on two false premises: one--that there is a need to restore to a former state, two--that society has that better former state to offer. Corrections has incorporated the necessary weakness in itself to insure its continuing failing efforts. It began on a lie and expanded on that base. "Castles made of sand, slip into the sea eventually." Panic, in the form of a huge behavior modification unit, sets in as the departments begin to see this built-in flaw. No person of integrity could defend this present system. Yet the immoral pressures of job security and not-too-stable ego forces these helm-masters to steer the same course as that which led them to port in such places as ATTICA, S.Q., WALPOLE. The natural conclusion is historical--the slave rises up and destroys the

slave master. Then the puritan-fronted politicians will ask, Why, we could have done more, what went wrong?" Hypes, all. They too are trapped in their own game. We are a society of traps. The sickness lies not in the jailed, but in all that makes these jails necessary in a society that makes us place such a high value on real estate, such a low one on people.

A slave is only a slave as long as he allows himself to believe that he is a slave. We are not. We have harnessed to our backs the guilt of the slavemaster. The time is ours to seize; to break free of the harness, and tell these fools it ain't going down that way no more.

Let those so quick to slam the door try instead to offer alternatives. Those self-righteous law and order freaks, who see their strongest members face juries and go to jail for ripping the entire country of its most important freedoms. If what you try to inflict on us you inflicted on your dog, he would run away from home. Oh, you red white and blue reactionaries, you who allowed Vietnam for ten years, speak to us of ALTERNATIVES.

The magic lesson for 1974 is spelled a-l-t-e-r-n-a-t-i-v-e-s!



by Denny Allen, Minister of Affairs Vermont Prisoner Solidarity Committee, Vermont State Prison, Windsor

Brothers and Sisters:

Thoughts for the new year.

Sometimes as I gaze around me I realize that there are two groups of prisoners here. The first is here because they are forced to be; the second because its members are enslaved by the \$3.09 an hour monster. The former group, despite the physical limitations, is maintaining its self-awareness; thus, it has a sense of freedom. The latter group is so much more imprisoned and so much less aware of its own limitations.

The entire concept of corrections is a sad testimony to an enslaved leadership trying to exert uncertain mores on a population that can neither accept these questionable values, nor muster the respect necessary to allow these merchants of slow murder to inflict their thing on us. There is a low profile insanity that ebbs and flows in a hypnotic rhythm.

January

# Socio-Technical's Report

SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEMS  
ASSOCIATES, INC.  
29 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
617/262-4370

DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT  
SUMMARY FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Feasibility Study for the Development of New England Regional Programs for the Management and Treatment of Dangerous, Special Offenders

November 26, 1973

## SUMMARY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

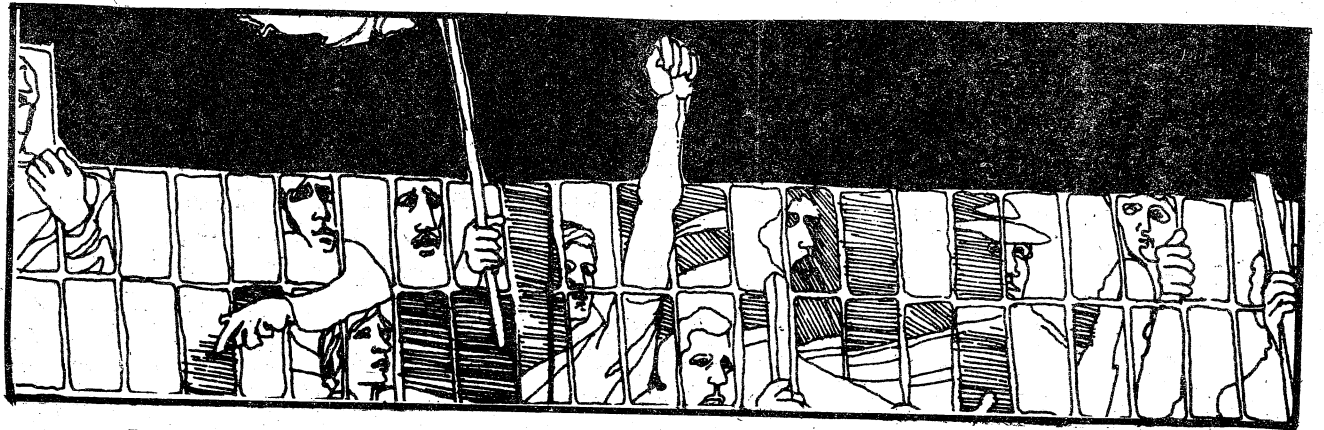
### A THE OVERALL PROBLEM

1. A very serious situation is currently facing the authorities of the correctional systems of the six New England states in the management of a relatively small group of adult, male inmates who exhibit dangerous, assaultive, volatile behavior of a chronic or intermittent nature.

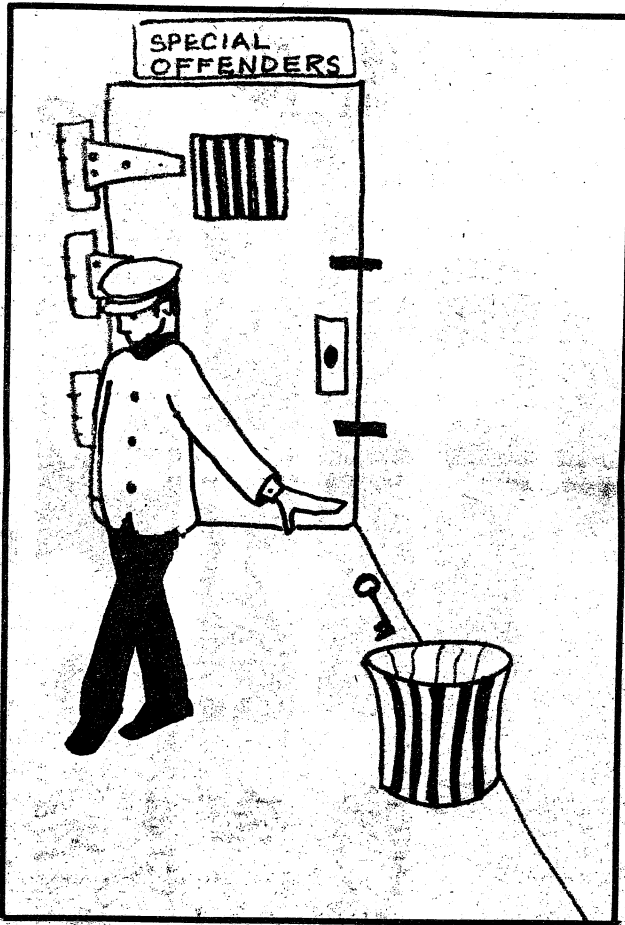
2. It is our finding, after a year and one half of close observation, that this problem in the correctional system is growing progressively worse and threatens to become of crisis proportions in every state.

3. Unless this situation is dealt with effectively in the near future, further serious violence and unrest and escape attempts can be expected in all of the six states. During our study, many such incidents have taken place and inmates identified as such dangerous inmates (called "special offenders" in this study) have been found to be implicated significantly in these incidents.

4. Failure to deal effectively with this problem will seriously impair efforts in the states to reform the correctional system in all aspects. This is due to the fact that this group of dangerous, assaultive, uncooperative inmates takes an inordinate amount of the time of correctional officers, administrators, treatment, and rehabilitation staff (estimated at from 50% to 70% to contact time with all inmates.) Little time or energy is left to deal with the problems of the remainder of the prison population. The security measures of the prisons and other management methods must be geared to controlling this "special offender" group, since a failure to do so would endanger other inmates and the prison staff within the prison and increase markedly the vulnerability of the prison to escapes. The overall character of the New England prisons as inevitably requiring high security and strict, repressive control measures is thus primarily developed, not for the bulk of the inmate population, but for the minority of dangerous, disruptive offenders.



5. Efforts in some states to reform the correctional system by developing community facilities and other programs to remove potentially rehabilitable offenders from the maximum security prisons further aggravates the management problems for the "special offender" group since it increases the proportions of such incorrigible, incooperative, dangerous inmates among the total population remaining in the maximum security institutions.



6. Methods used over the years to manage or treat most of these "special offenders" have been a dismal failure. New administrators and treatment staff often feel that they can succeed where others have not, but the detailed records show repeated attempts, constant shuffling of these offenders from prison to prison, to the mental hospitals and back, from segregation to "another chance" in the regular prison population, all without much, if any, change in the behavior of the individual.

7. Programs in the mental health facilities of New England states, with only rare exceptions to be examined later in this Report, have not been developed to deal effectively with the "special offender" group. This is due to the fact that most of the group is not psychotic. (Only 11% of total in all states was found functionally psychotic.) Also, the mental hospi-

tals have become increasingly "open institutions" and have neither the security facilities nor the trained personnel capable--or willing--to care for and treat these dangerous, assaultive offenders.

8. Like the situation in the correctional systems, this lack of capability to cope with the "special offender" group in the mental health system of the states was found to growing worse as the trend to community-based psychiatric programs continues in every state.

9. The crisis of dealing with the "special offenders" is also connected closely with the immediate and long-range plans of the states, especially in northern New England, concerning maximum security prison facilities. It is realized that the "special offenders" are the hard core of the inmate population which must currently be held in such facilities. Decisions on new construction, particularly in Vermont and New Hampshire, cannot be much longer delayed. These same three states currently have the highest percentages of "special offenders" in all of New England.

### B NUMBERS AND SCOPE OF THE "SPECIAL OFFENDER" GROUP

10. This study began with an effort to determine what type of offenders can be classified as fitting the description of special offenders. After discussions with officials and staff and a pilot testing of definitional concepts, it was determined that the study would be concerned with those inmates whose disruptive behavior was felt to impede seriously the overall goals of the correctional facilities as rehabilitation institutions. "Special offenders" were defined as those inmates who exhibit excessively aggressive, assaultive, volatile, acting-out behavior which has not been corrected by methods and programs currently in use. Self-destructive behavior may or may not be involved. Many will also exhibit regularly or intermittently signs of serious mental disturbance or mental deficiency with which the correctional system has been unable to cope. (See full working definition at page 2 of Chapter 1)

11. The total number of "special offenders" found in the New England states was 365 of 11.1% of the entire population of the seven institutions included in the study.

(Soc Tec cont. p. 16)



# Critique: Socio-Technical

by Fred, Monty N., Richard Sally and Shelley

## THE OVERALL PROBLEM

1-3. We must understand that this report presumes several points which we believe are crucial but which the report does not explicitly deal with. First, socio-Technical Systems assumes that the authority vested in the guards and administrations of prisons is valid, that if the authority is challenged by prisoners the prisoners are at fault; that the prison system could be at fault is a question not asked by Soc. Tec.

Secondly, there is no questioning in the report about the nature of the system that leads persons to rebel against the system, commit crimes and be incarcerated. The report is based on an unquestioned assumption about the correctness and validity of the social structure.

We feel that 1) The nature of prison control is such that resistance by prisoners is both justified and necessary, and 2) That the social structure as a whole is so unjust that rebellion in the form of crime is to be expected, that the basic problem is not criminals but the system itself.

An example of the unjust nature of the system: Edward Parker, age 20, was sentenced to 18 months to 6 years for robbing a truck stop of \$300. By comparison, Spiro Agnew accepted over \$100,000 in bribes to alter the course of our government received only three years of unsupervised probation. 4. Soc. Tec. assumes that in New England the prisons are actually attempting to "rehabilitate" the prisoners. We presume by "rehabilitation" that Soc. Tec. would mean such things as job-training and education. Yet we note that:

1) Few men gain marketable skills. In New Hampshire State Prison a maximum of 70 men are in the print shop and carpentry shop (out of about 285 men), the only shops providing salable skills. In Windham, Maine the building trades shop could handle 40 men in a week but actually handles only about 6.

2) Education is a joke. Though a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is available at NHSP, the attitude toward education is exemplified by a statement made to Eleanor Mullaley, former Education Director at NHSP, "We can't have a group of thinking men in prison."

3) In N.H. only about 8 men are in half-way houses.

4) Many ex-cons don't get jobs because employers discover they are ex-cons. If the corrections departments were serious about rehabilitation they would push the state legislators to pass laws prohibiting employers from asking prospective employees if they have an arrest and/or conviction record.

5. Soc. Tec. argues that as a state creates more programs such as half-way houses, etc. the concentration of "special offenders" increases. Yet in New Hampshire only about 8 men are in half-way houses, while New Hampshire has the

third highest percentage of "special offenders" in New England. Clearly the real reason for the existence of such groups as the "special offenders" is not what Soc. Tec. would have us believe but rather is the abominable corrections system which mirrors the injustices of society.

6. Despite the rhetoric of Soc. Tec., the corrections departments have historically failed to provide meaningful programs for prisoners (as noted above). Despite the failures of the punitive methods (transfers, segregation) which Soc. Tec. sees, Soc. Tec. refuses to recognize the causes of the problems and solve them by offering programs that would provide education, skills in creative endeavors, and a measure of self-determination for prisoners.



7. Here we would simply note that first, mental hospitals generally do not deal with individual problems, in fact they often exacerbate and even cause problems. The film, Titicut Follies, about Bridgewater, Mass., details this fact so well that the State of Mass. banned the film. Second, those prisoners who are shipped from a prison to a mental hospital are usually "treated" by keeping them doped up with heavy tranquilizers such as thiorazine for, say, 30 days, then sending the prisoners back to the prison.

8. All we can say is that any such "trend to community-based psychiatric programs" is invisible to us.

9. In answer to this point see Gene Mason's article in this issue.

## NUMBERS AND SCOPE

10. We don't have Chapter I. However, as we noted above, there have rarely, if ever, been serious attempts at "rehabilitation" in the prisons. We print below a typical example of "disruptive behavior":

"Name: Richard Schofield

Detail: Cell block-lock-up

Offense: Loud and boisterous - keeping disturbance going - calling officers names.

Detailed Account: Sgt. Bonin reported Schofield keeping everyone going by loud and boisterous yelling and continuously pounding on a can. Clayton Pease heard him yell, Feed, You scum-ass, you puk-es.

Also heard overheard screaming

to "Get our brothers out of the hole."

Reported by Officer: Donald Bonin and Clayton J. Pease

Note: Richard says he did not bang the can. Officer Bonin not sure of banging. Yelling-yes.

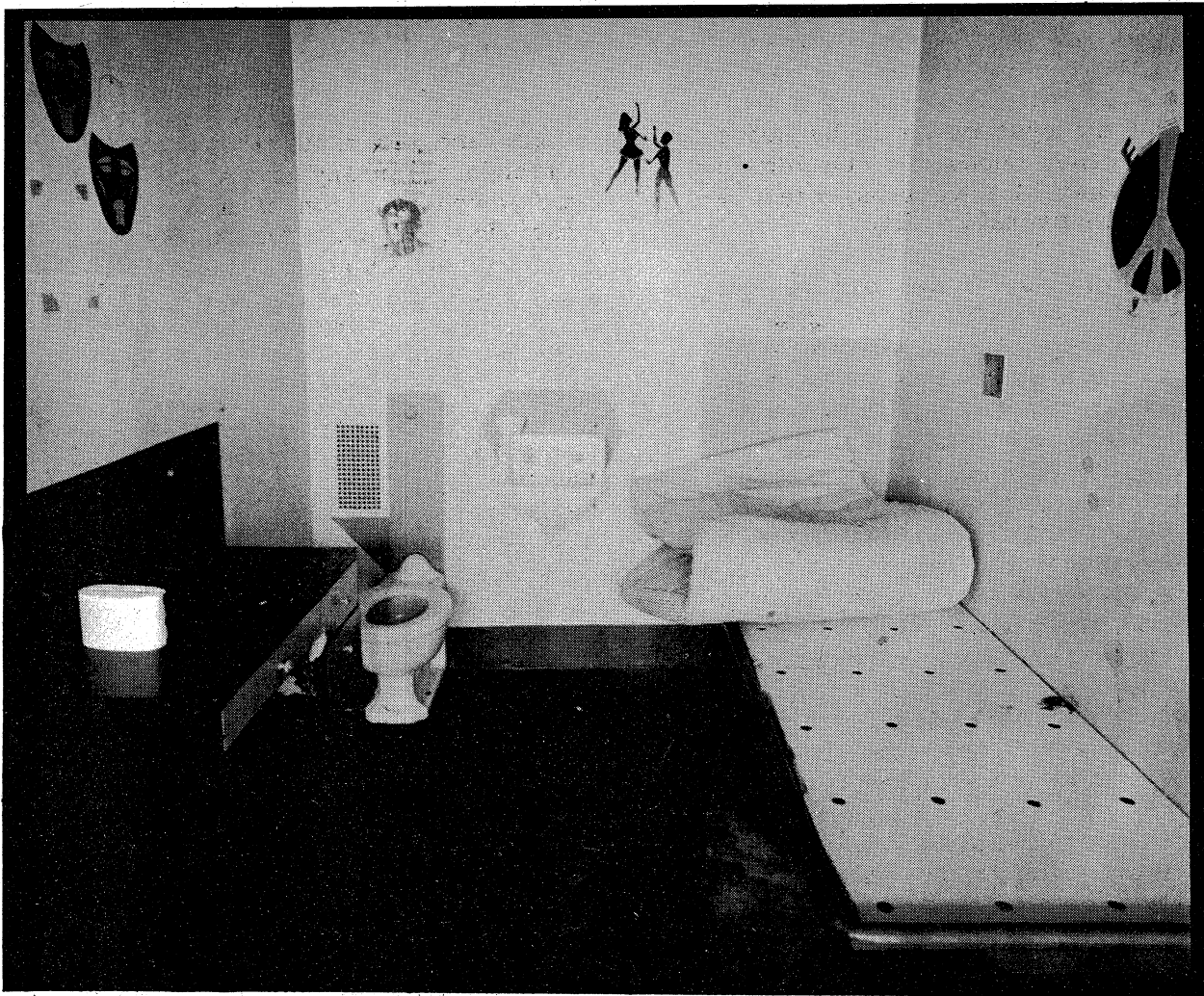
Hearing: May 2nd

Loss of 10 days G.T. (Good Time-ed)"

We do not see where the punishment meted out in any way exemplifies a "rehabilitational" approach. Richard Schofield stated to us that he lost a chance at parole as a result of these discipline reports. We note also that repeated infractions of this type could get a prisoner such as Richard Schofield declared a "special offender."

(Critique cont. p. 17) Page 15

# Socio-Technical



Walpole Death Row photo: Richard Kahn

12. The proportion of "special offenders" varied from state to state. Vermont had the largest percentage of total inmates at 32%, due very largely to the success of that state in moving out of the maximum security institution at Windsor many inmates who could safely and effectively be handled in other facilities. The next highest percentages of "special offenders" were in Maine at 13% and New Hampshire at 12.5%. The southern tier states have lower percentages with Rhode Island at 9.7%, Massachusetts at 9.4%, and Connecticut at 7.6%.

13. In terms of actual numbers, the proportions of "special offenders" corresponded more closely to the size of the total population to the prisons in the states.

14. Very detailed findings were made concerning the individuals personal characteristics of the "special offenders" as well as their histories in the prisons and other institutions. Records were also obtained on any psychiatric histories of such offenders. Comparisons were made on a number of variables in relation to all other "special offenders" and in relation to the general population of the prison population of the particular state.

15. The disruptive behavior of the group was verified in our study of records of formal disciplinary reports. Two-thirds of the inmates designated as "special offenders" had six or more conduct disorders in their records. At the extreme, one "special offender" had over 100 misconduct reports. Another had 73. In nearly all cases, at least some of the misconduct related to serious physical assaults or violations of security. One inmate on the group stabbed five correctional officers and nearly blinded another. Many have assaulted other inmates, some

have set fires in their cells (their own and others). Many destroy property, either as part of physical assaults, or independently. For a one-month period, we examined the entire prison records on formal disciplinary reports (without prior warning to the prison authorities of our intention to conduct such a study which might have had an effect upon conduct of either inmates or officers.) In this month, the special offenders had a report rate of twice that of all other inmates. This rate might have been larger but for the numbers of "special offenders" in segregation during the period.

16. Most of the "special offenders" were found to be serving long sentences. Two-thirds had maximum sentences of ten years or more. Also, their major current offense was predominately (56.2%) a crime against persons.

17. A large percentage (76%) of the "special offenders" have received some psychiatric handling of at least an observational diagnostic nature for a period of days or weeks in a mental institution or facility. Of this group, only 11.1% have ever received a diagnostic classification of psychosis. However, 41.9% were at some time given diagnostic evaluations of personality disorder of sociopathy.

18. The disruptive, dangerous conduct of most of this group was not found to be politically motivated or a part of organized protest movements seeking better conditions for prisoners. A specific investigation of such a possible inter-relationship was conducted after the "special offender" group was designated in each state. Questions were posed to prison officials and staff on each individual "special offender" and in only 2.7% of the group was political protest found to be the sole essential motivation

for their dangerous conduct. In only 13.7% was political protest a substantial, though not total, motivation. Another 20.3% were somewhat politically motivated. In the remaining 65.5% there was said to be no political motivation of any kind relating to their acting-out conduct.

19. The great majority (80%) of all special offenders are white.

20. On the whole, "special offenders" in all of the states were younger, more often unmarried, less well educated, and less occupationally skilled than the average inmates in their respective institutions.

21. There was a high incidence of alcohol abuse in the "special offender" group with 44.0% classified as either alcoholics or serious problem drinkers.

22. There was also a high incidence of dangerous drug abuse in the "special offender" group with 40.3% classified as drug users. There was very little overlap between these two latter categories.

23. There were also small subgroups among the "special offender" group who were not primarily aggressive and assaultive, but were mentally disturbed, suicidal, or were otherwise in need of protective custody.

## C CURRENT METHODS OF HANDLING SPECIAL OFFENDERS

24. At the present time, the most common method of handling the disruptive, dangerous conduct of "special offenders" is to place them on misconduct reports resulting in some form of segregation from the regular prison population. At the time of our one-day, special census (April 1, 1973) 15% of all "special offenders" were in administrative segregation. This group constituted 70% of all inmates in administrative segregation at the time. Some of the most difficult of the "special offenders" have spent large percentages of their sentences in segregation.

25. There was no indication that placing "special offenders" in segregation helps to improve their behavior. It is useful only as a means of security in removing the disruptive situation from the general prison population. There is, in fact, evidence that segregation aggravates the worst aspects of the personality and increases the potential for violence in the inmate. Also, the fact of segregation makes the inmate ineligible and unavailable for nearly all other alternative methods of treatment and rehabilitation.

26. Another common method of handling "special offenders" is to transfer them for periods of time to other penal institutions in the same state, to other state prisons in other states, or to federal prisons. On the census date, some 16% of the group were located in other penal institutions.

27. Transfers to other penal institutions were said to be successful in changing the behavior of some disruptive, dangerous inmates where the environment or the gaining of a "reputation" were of significance in the inmate's motivation to act out.

(cont. p. 18)

January



# Critique

15. First, as we see above, many disciplinary reports are frequently of an absurd or extreme nature. A report can be lodged against a con for even talking. While it is true that violence against persons does occur in prisons, Soc. Tec. fails to understand that violence is a reaction on the part of those prisoners with a strong perception of injustice to the horrible conditions of prison life.

Second, in reply to the comment about property destruction, aside from the comment of violence applying to this situation, a further example should clarify the situation.

In a N.H. County Farm a prisoner began freaking out when he discovered his mother had commit-



ted suicide. A friend of his, to prevent the guards from vamping on the freaking out prisoner, set fire to several trash cans, for which he received a 1-3 sentence. Far from being simply malicious destruction, this was an act of solidarity to protect a friend.

Other examples of property destruction and the reasons are found in Monty Neill's article in this issue. We also suggest that people see the film 3000 Years and Life which explains disruption in the prison, reasons for it, and how the prisoners can solve such problems themselves if they have gained self-determination inside.

Finally, we maintain that Soc. Tec.'s statement that they gave no prior warning to the administration is meaningless. Any con who atte-

January

mpts to retain his human dignity becomes a target for the guards.

17. In the U.S. any person who justifiably rebels against the wrongs of the system, be it by crime or any other means, is considered by many establishment psychiatrists to be mentally ill.

18. First, Soc. Tec. did not question the prisoners themselves about their political motivation, but only questioned guards and administrators.

Second, what is Soc. Tec.'s definition of "political motivation"?

Third, Soc. Tec.'s continual bias against examining the social basis of crime leads them to fail to understand that rebellion against injustice is political, even if the rebellious person cannot articulate his/her anger in established political terminology.

Finally, and we must be very clear about this, Soc. Tec. and prison administrators, to push their programs, must convince the public that they are not pushing political repression. Hence the reason they "discovered" that the cons are not "politically motivated."

20. The very categories used here reflects the social reality that people who are young and poor (if they weren't young and poor themselves and come from a background of poor folk they would be educated and/or skilled) perceive the injustice of the social system, and being young and unmarried are likely to rebel against the system, in this case in a way the State calls criminal. Once busted these young prisoners continue their rebelliousness, now against the injustices of the prison system.

21. & 22. This data, like the bulk of the data in this report, has been accumulated to make a case and cannot be considered to be "objective". A future article will explore this point in more detail.

23. The bulk of suicide attempts in prison are a direct result of the repressive nature of the prison.

## CURRENT METHODS OF HANDLING

This is simply a regurgitation of what we have already established: that prison administrators are incapable of dealing with any prisoner who does not become a docile and robot-like person. For such persons the sort of treatment they are subjected to in the hole, in transfers and in mental hospitals only confirms their vision of the injustice of the system and primarily strengthens their will to resist.

## FEASIBILITY OF REGIONAL PROGRAMS

What Soc. Tec. is arguing here is 1) that "special offenders" should not be housed with the "regular prisoners". Soc. Tec. claims this is because the "special offenders" are disruptive to regular prison life. We do not

doubt that they disrupt the plans of the authorities, but as we have explained in more detail the disruption is warranted in the face of the horrors of prison life, a fact Soc. Tec. chooses to ignore.

2) Soc. Tec. is saying that there are not enough "special offenders" in any one state to allow construction of a special facility, so Soc. Tec. urges a multi-state approach. The additional hardships this would cause the prisoners and their families and friends is another fact that Soc. Tec. chooses to ignore.

Finally, that authoritarian personalities in one state should agree with authoritarian personalities in another state comes as no surprise to us. However, their agreement is hardly sufficient cause to construct an Alcatraz East.



## NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM

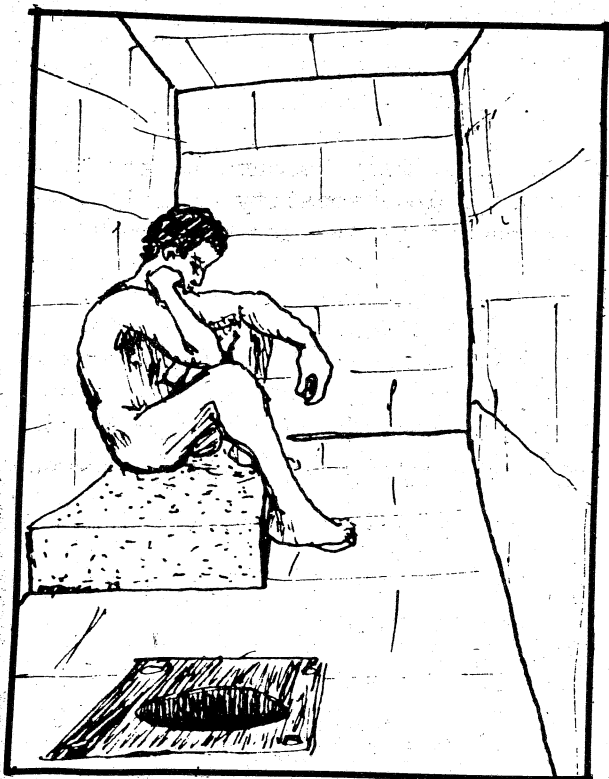
35. The support is hardly unilateral. The strongest supporters seem to be Gov. Thomson of N.H. and State Sen Westphal of Vt. However, Vt. Corrections Commissioner Stoneman considers the idea idiocy; Gov. Curtis of Maine also opposes the tri-state plan. So when Soc. Tec. talks about "strongest support" they are really mentioning persons with a known anti-prisoner bias such as Thomson.

36. For a reply to this see our reply to section D and Gene Mason's article in this issue.

37. We recommend they do no such thing and urge the public to mobilize to stop such a program.

(cont. p. 19)

# Socio-Technical



28. It must be observed, however, that involuntary transfers of "special offenders" who have committed disruptive acts may be characterized as punitive, particularly if they are merely intended as a change of environment without a special treatment objective. Such transfers may be made difficult if not entirely impractical or impossible according to the trend of court decisions.

29. The regular programs of work, education, and recreation in the prisons were found to be almost universally unsuitable for the disruptive, uncooperative inmates classified as "special offenders". They were found unable to tolerate any required behavioral standards and they constantly disrupted others in such programs.

30. Special offenders were also sent to the state mental hospitals in their own states, usually for diagnostic evaluation and treatment, but sometimes as one of the few available means of obtaining a "cooling off period" for a "special offender" who had become particularly abusive and assaultive. Our investigation revealed that 60% of the group had experienced at least one admission to a state mental institution. There were many multiple admissions. It was found, however, that the state hospitals are becoming much more resistant to admitting "special offenders" who do not exhibit traditional symptoms of functional psychosis which the hospital feels capable of treating.

31. There are special treatment or management programs available currently for some types of "special offenders" in three of the six New England states.

## D FEASIBILITY OF REGIONAL PROGRAMS

32. It is our conclusion that regional, multi-state approaches to handling the problem of "special offenders" as defined in this report are feasible in New England.

33. In our interviews with correctional officials and staff and with mental health authorities

in the six New England states we found overwhelming, almost universal support for regional programs for handling "special offenders".

34. After our basic data on "special offenders" was collected and analyzed, we convened a special meeting of treatment program personnel from all over New England in both the correctional and mental health departments. This group reviewed our data and concluded that the numbers and distribution of "special offenders" was of a manageable size at the present time to make cooperative, interstate treatment programs workable. The group urged that professional treatment personnel as well as facilities be utilized on a cooperative basis in order to share knowledge and skills needed. It was admitted that no ready solutions were available to solve the problems of the states with "special offenders", but various programs could be developed and tested within the region.

## E A NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM

35. The strongest support for a regional approach in handling "special offenders" of all types comes from the three northern New England states. The support comes from correctional and mental health personnel who are actually dealing with the problem, from the Governors, and from legislative leaders.

36. A regional, tri-state approach in northern New England is highly desirable for a number of reasons: First, the "special offenders" from these states are generally similar, yet are quite different from those in the three southern New England states, as pointed out earlier. Second, the actual numbers of such "special offenders" are smaller and more easily manageable for the three northern states. Third, the needs of these states for new correctional facilities for adult, maximum security are immediate and pressing, especially in Vermont and New Hampshire.

37. We recommend that the three northern New England states begin immediately to develop a tri-state, regional program for "special offenders".

38. The actual form and content of a northern New England program must be worked out in negotiations among the states.

39. The major issues to be negotiated are questions of scope of involvement, geographic location, financing, program management, program content, and legal authorization.

40. Under scope of involvement would come questions of whether all "special offenders" in the three states would be transferred to one facility, or whether the needs for new facilities for all maximum security can be combined

with the needs for special offenders. Our current impressions are that the three states, including Maine, can gain mutual advantages if cooperation on facilities is limited to "special offenders". For a combined facility for all maximum security, the interest seems concentrated in New Hampshire and Vermont.

41. Geographic location of new facilities for the "special offenders" group is interrelated with the answers to other issues posed herein. If a single new facility is decided upon, our recommendation would be for location at the site of the Portsmouth Naval Prison which is to be closed as a U.S. Navy installation in the summer of 1974. This location meets the suggested criteria for geographic location (see architect's evaluation and suggested criteria in Chapter XI.) more closely than any other site investigated. It is located within New Hampshire at the Maine border and is close to the population concentrations of both southern New Hampshire and southern Maine. It is very close to university resources, not only in New Hampshire at Durham and in Maine at Portland, but in Boston. The most problematical issue on the Portsmouth location is for Vermont. The coastal location of the Portsmouth facility is also highly advantageous for security reasons and for community acceptance. If an entirely new site were chosen inland in a more central location, there would be serious obstacles in road and bus access, population centers for staff recruitment and residence, university access, and, most importantly, community acceptance.

42. The financial aspects of establishing a new, tri-state program are very complex. If a new facility were to be built, there would be questions of capital expenditures at the outset and then questions of a system for allocating operational costs among the states according to usage of the facility. We again recommend the Portsmouth Naval facility as having the greatest advantages in minimizing financial burdens on the states in both areas, particularly if the plan for Federal Government involvement proposed in the next section can be accepted and implemented.

43. Program management and personnel policy would be a matter of negotiation among the states.

44. Program content refers to the methods used in the care, custody, treatment, and rehabilitation of the "special offenders". Again, these issues are interrelated with the other issues herein discussed. The most critical early issue would be whether a single new facility, or renovated facility, could be designed to admit and take custody over all "special offenders" from all three states. This decision would obviously shape the program content in requiring it to deal with all types of inmates in the group. It is our conclusion that a single facility for the northern three states could devel-

(cont. p. 20)



# Critique

41. & 42. The primary point here is the choice of Portsmouth. Clearly Soc. Tec. wants the least public discussion possible as they fear public discussion would lead to public disapproval. The choice of Portsmouth is therefore ideal. Not only would it circumvent public discussion, but also Portsmouth would provide the university mind-control "experts" quick access to their guinea pigs.

The Portsmouth Naval Base is certainly high security as it not only houses Navy prisoners but is also a site for the construction and repair of nuclear submarines. We wonder whether the navy would approve having civilian prisoners, families, friends, guards and administrators going through the base to reach the island on which the prison is built.

Finally, Portsmouth is not only far from Vermont it is also far from northern Maine and northern New Hampshire, making a clear hardship for families of prisoners who reside in these areas. However, as pointed out in the article by Monty Neill in this issue, the behavior mod experts feel that their programs can be more successful if the prisoners subjected to the programs are isolated from family, friends and community.

44. & 45. Here we see again that what Soc. Tec. wants is a maxi-prison to house politically articulate prisoners and other prisoners who do not wish to conform to the abusive authority exercised by prison administrations.

For a critique of the LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) program at NHSP see Gene Mason's article in the first issue of SCAR'd TIMES ( SCAR, 374 Fore St., Portland, Maine.)

46. As this is the first of several comments on legal problems within Soc. Tec.'s report we will here expose the primary legal aim of all such behavior mod programs: to evade the law. By attempting through the courts to create a new class of prisoner, the advocates of behavior mod hope to remove the hard won safeguards of prisoners. To cite the Federal Prisoner Coalition petition to the United Nations:

"The conditions have progressed to the point where those acting beyond preventive reach of law (acting under color of law) have conspired to create, by declaration, a Class of persons beyond protective reach of law, in order to justify and commit acts upon their minds, psyches, and corporal persons that have universally been declared to constitute Crimes Against Humanity when perpetrated by Governments in the recent history of World events."

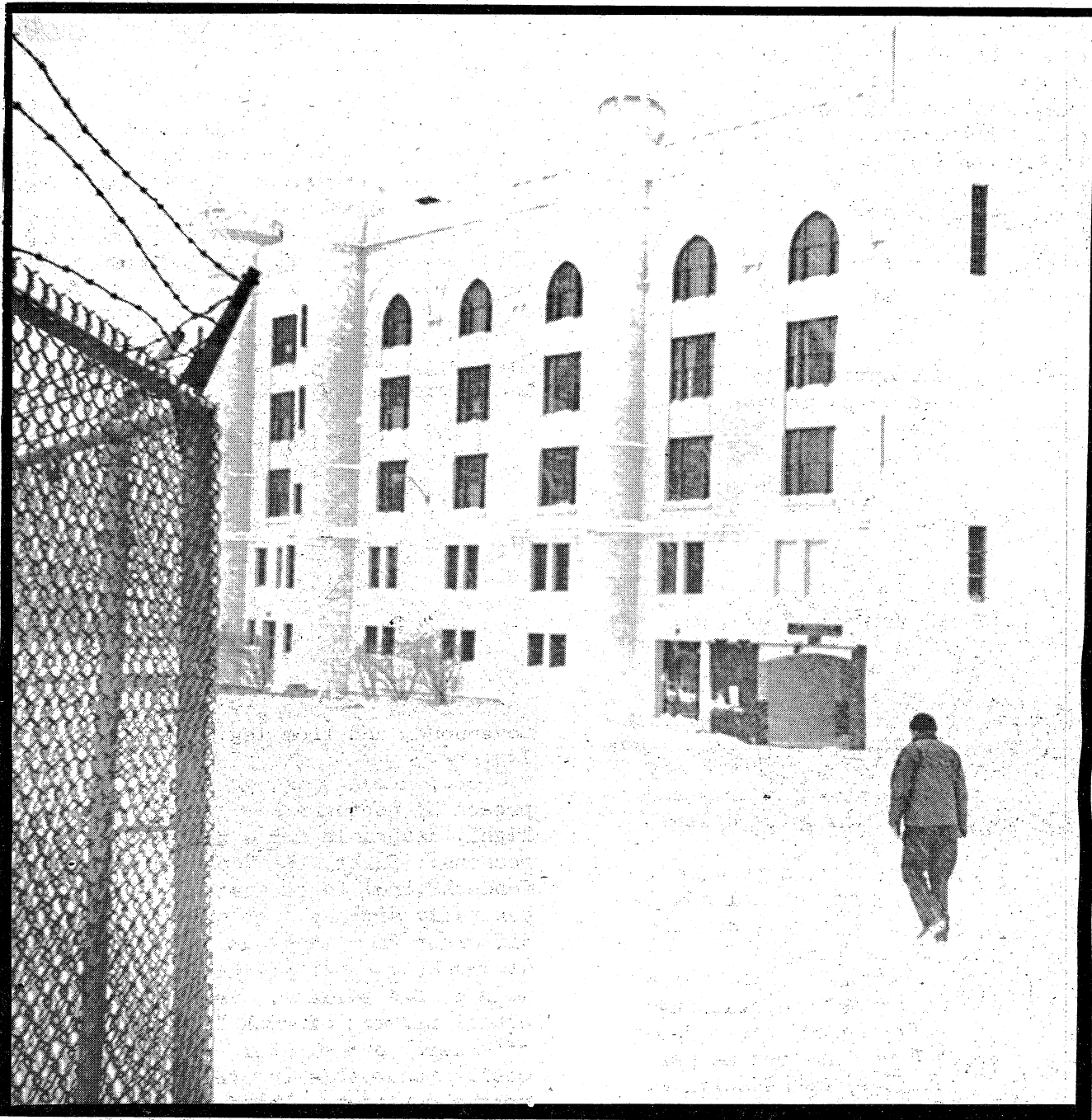
Such a class is the "special offender."

## FEDERAL COOPERATION

47-51. We know via, for example, Operations Memorandum #7300.138, 10/25/72, signed by Norman Carlson, Director, U.S. Bureau of Prisons,

that the Bureau wholeheartedly supports programs such as START. LEAA also supports such programs and provides money for experiments in drug therapy, transactional analysis (personality annihilation) and neuro-surgery. ( For more discussion of these programs see Monty Neill's article in this issue.)

How strange that this so-called objective report should reach the same conclusions as the LEAA and the Bureau of Prisons.



Portsmouth Naval Prison photo: Berger & Morey

52. In addition to our comments of Portsmouth in #41-42 and on the legal aspects in #46, we note that here is an outright admission of Soc. Tec.'s desire to keep everything under wraps and to evade both the letter and the spirit of the law.

To date, in recent legal decisions Federal Courts have ruled that transferring prisoners from a state facility to a distant federal facility could easily constitute cruel and unusual punishment (see, for example, Hoitt v. Vitek). However, the courts as yet have not declared that transfer of prisoners within one system ( such as the federal system) might be a violation of the 8th or 14th Amendments. We wonder whether a particular dodge Soc. Tec. wishes to pull is to have the "special offender" placed in federal custody, allowing them to be shipped across the country and thereby meet one of the goals of the behavior mod. advocates, the shattering of family and community ties.

54. The idea that "the states would avoid the financial burden of a capital outlay, etc." is another example of Soc. Tec.'s desire to avoid public discussion of the real issues at hand.

55. A primary feature of all behavior mod/personality annihilation programs is the use of already "trained" prisoners to help "train" the new prisoners. The advantage Soc. Tec. sees in the federal facility is that prisoners already robotized in places such as START could be used to attack the will

to resist of the northern New England prisoners.

## G POTENTIAL: SOUTHERN N.E.

Frank Hall, Mass. Commissioner of Corrections has already expressed interest in the regional prison concept. Certainly people like Gov. Noel of R.I. and Anthony Trivisano, R.I. Director of Corrections can be expected to jump in as early as possible.

## H SOUTHERN N.E. PROGRAMS

59. Vinzant, Warden at Walpole, is right now attempting to turn Walpole into such a maximum-maximum prison by shipping out everyone except the most out-spoken prisoners.

63.-65. Connecticut is now planning to create a new "mini-max prison" with behavior mod as an integral part. This too must be stopped.

(cont. p. 21)

# Socio-Technical

op a treatment and rehabilitation program for all types in the group, but only with strict control over intake and admission of individuals. The treatment staff might exclude certain types now covered by the definition if other programs, such as in mental health facilities, were available. (In other parts of this Report, we discuss program content and development in greater detail.)

45. Another approach to program content would be taken if a single, new facility is not developed.

46. The legal authorization for any cooperative, interstate program or programs would depend upon the policies adopted in regard to the above issues. Legal issues would be also highly significant in developing a procedure for the transfer of inmates to any new, specialized facilities. Legal problems could also arise in the program-content area in the administration of drug therapy and in the establishment of behavior modification programs. (Authorization and transfer questions are examined in detail in Chapter VI. Other legal issues are discussed later in this Report.)

## **F** FEDERAL COOPERATION IN THE SPECIAL OFFENDER PROGRAM

47. Based upon preliminary inquiries with Federal Bureau of Prisons, it is our conclusion that it is feasible to consider developing a plan for the handling of "special offenders" in New England state prisons in cooperation with a Federal program to be located in these states.

48. Both the National Crime Commission in the mid-1960's and the President's Task Force on Prisoner Rehabilitation in 1970 recommend that the Federal Government give concentrated attention to dealing with offenders basically similar to our "special offender" classification. Within the Federal prison system itself, various programs are being developed in this field, the most recent of which is a program called Special Treatment and Rehabilitative Training (START). The inmates to be included in the program are very similar to our "special offender" group in regard to their acting-out conduct in the prisons.

50. It is our conclusion that the most advantageous alternative for a new facility for special offenders in the northern New England states would be a plan where under the Federal Bureau of Prisons undertook the construction and operation of the Facility for its own program needs and also for the purposes of operating new treatment and rehabilitation programs for "special offenders" in the state correctional systems.

51. Our preliminary investigation revealed that the Federal Government is considering the construction of new correctional facilities in the northeastern portion of the United States.

52. We recommend that this new Federal correctional facility be located in northern New England, preferably at the site of the Portsmouth Naval Prison which is scheduled to be closed in the summer of 1974. The Portsmouth location is highly desirable for the reasons listed earlier in Item 41. Continued operation at this location by the Federal Government would also obviate many legal problems which could arise in any take-over of this land by a state government, public authority, etc.

53. For the Federal Program, we would recommend that the installation be used for Federal "special offenders" and for the needs of the Federal Courts in these states for a security facility for defendants awaiting trial and for psychiatric evaluations for com-

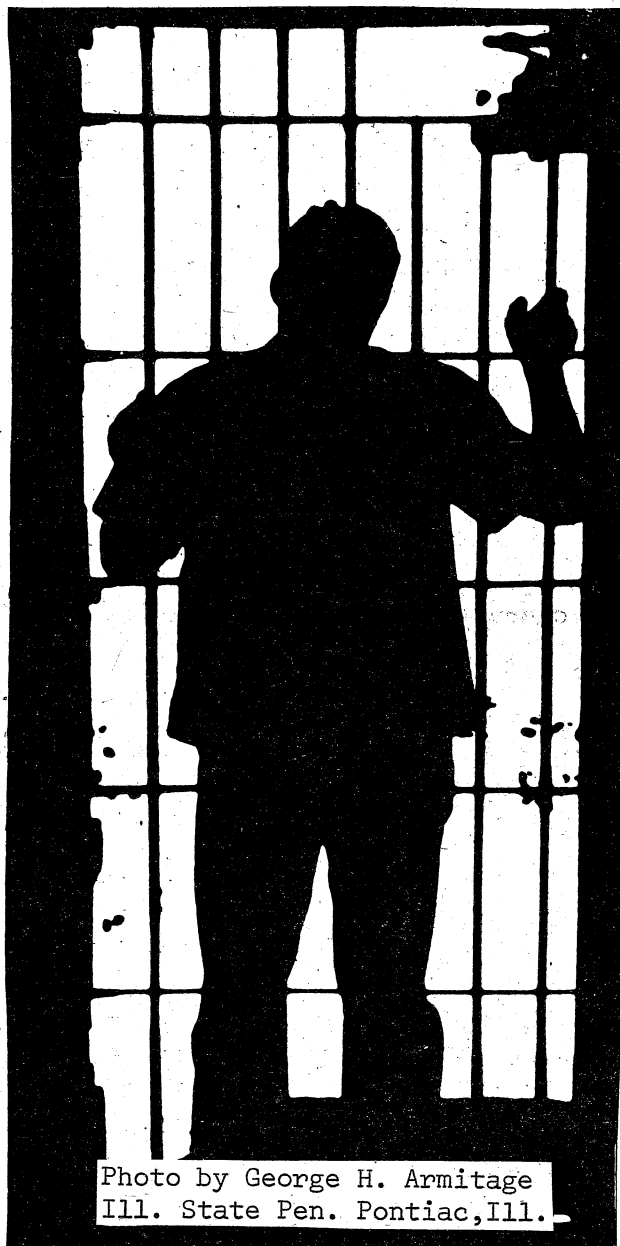


Photo by George H. Armitage  
Ill. State Pen. Pontiac, Ill.

petency to stand trial.

54. Under this plan the states would send "special offenders" to the new Federal facility and would pay a per capita charge for services rendered in accordance with the recommendations of the President's Task Force noted in Item 49. Thus, the states would avoid the financial burden of a capital outlay for construction as well as the constant problems of facility operation, personnel, etc.

55. This plan also has clear advantages for program development since it would function under a single management policy where the chances would be much improved for developing a coherent, consistent philosophy of treatment and rehabilitation for this admittedly very difficult inmate population.

## **G** POTENTIAL OF ABOVE PLAN FOR SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

56. Location of a new facility for special offenders at Portsmouth, particularly under the above Federal operational plan, would also have many attractions for expansion to include one or more of the states in southern New England, at least to some extent. In our interviews, we found that the Portsmouth location is not too inaccessible, even for Connecticut correctional authorities.

57. The Portsmouth location is clearly accessible to the Metropolitan Boston area and its educational and medical resources. The Division of Legal Medicine of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, the largest forensic psychiatry program in the nation would be an important consultant and training resource, for example.

## **H** SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PROGRAMS

58. Our investigation did not uncover a concerted effort for a single, regional approach in the three southern New England States.

59. The magnitude and scope of the "special offender" problem in Massachusetts and Connecticut, the region's largest states, makes expansion to a regional effort difficult for these states except as receiving states for transfers. The maximum security installations in these two states are already being used to some extent for this purpose by other states, but without any organized treatment and rehabilitation programs for "special offender" groups.

60. In Massachusetts, the greatest promise for developing programs for the "special offenders" of the state, by far the largest single group in New England (115), would be the revival of the plans for a "Stearns Center" to be operated by the Division of Legal Medicine.

62. Massachusetts currently has no plans for the development of a special unit under the Department of Corrections for dangerous, non-psychotic "special offenders." We recommend that the Department begin plans for such a facility to be operated cooperatively with the Division of Legal Medicine providing the treatment personnel.

63. Connecticut has no special programs in the Department of Corrections for dangerous, non-mentally ill "special offenders."

64. Connecticut also has in operation an excellent rehabilitation and treatment program at the Security Treatment Center at Norwich State Mental Hospital. It has recently received further state funds for an expansion of its program.

(cont. p. 22)



# Critique

70. Here Soc. Tec. complains about the legal decisions that attempt to guarantee some rights for prisoners. Of course Soc. Tec. seeks, as always, to circumvent the law. Here we also see Soc. Tec.'s would-be image of benign and benevolent "father figures." In reply, we state that one learns self-regulation by governing oneself, not by submitting to brainwashing.

We would like to add here that although plans for a regional prison are more advanced in northern New England, prisoners and supporters in southern New England would make a serious mistake if they thought that the plans for a regional prison do not apply to them. The regional prison must be fought on a New England-wide basis.

## HANDLING AND TREATMENT

71. Agreement only among the few, not among those who will pay and those who will suffer.

72. Again, the problem is not the "special offender" but the prisons themselves, an idea Soc. Tec., an organization of ex-corrections department employees, refuses to even consider.

73-76. Dr. Curran, head of Soc. Tec., calls his "special evaluation team" a "roving cadre." The records they searched through are those compiled by guards and administrators who over the last century have demonstrated a complete inability to comprehend prisoners, who view any self-awareness by a con as an attack on the authorities' power, who have

## Walpole Strike

by John Kerrigan, President, NPRA, Walpole Prison, Mass.  
January 9, 1974

The prisoners of Walpole are so fed up with the situation and the indications that it is only going to worsen...that is to say that the Superintendent exposes himself as repressive and regressive...he is not leading us out of this hellhole but rather sealing us into it.

He doesn't have a furlough program worthy of the name.

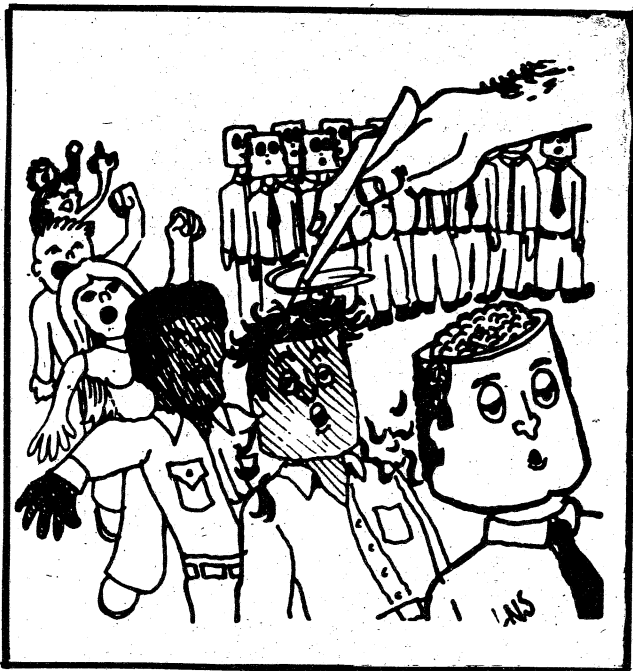
He doesn't have a vocational program.

He doesn't have and declares he will not participate in a work release and/or educational release program.

The institution is a reeking, dirty, stinking mess and he makes no attempt in any way, shape or manner to clean it up. He doesn't cooperate with the prisoner leadership to explore ways and means of creating a decent and clean atmosphere that would lend itself to penal reform.

Of course--we are still eating crap for evening meal in our blocks. He can't even solve that minimal problem even though we have repeatedly--in writing--declared our solemn desire to handle the problem by working in the ki-

January



over and over proved that they are solely interested in authority not self-development by prisoners, and who use any attempt at liberal prison reform to further entrench their power via mind control, drug assaults and personality annihilation.

78. For an examination of the reality of drug therapy and the drugs actually used see Monty Neill's article in this issue. We question how anyone aware of the facts could possibly consider the use of drug assaults "humane." The final sentence of #78 demonstrates the heavy class bias of the investigators who seem to doubt the "intelligence, educational, cultural...characteristics" of the most articulate and clear-sighted prisoners.

## Walpole Update

by Donna Parker

The last meeting that the NPRA had with the Walpole administration was on December 21, 1973. Mr. Waitkevich and Mr. Day were the only administrators present with the NPRA Board. At the outset Waitkevich

tchen-dining areas so that we would not have to be forced to accept (or go hungry) the shit served us in the blocks every night.

The men that do work in the shops (print, laundry, plate, maintenance, clerks, brush, storehouse, etc., etc.) can't even get paid the crummy 50¢ or \$1.00 per day because of the inadequacy of the Superintendent. That is to say that months have gone by without paying the prisoners their measly few dollars salary.

THEREFORE--and I haven't really begun to list the grievances of the prisoners--we are going to protest by NOT participating in any of his (the Superintendent's) backward ideas like "JUMP THROUGH THE HOOP FOR A PIECE OF SUGAR." No no no no no no. We--the people--want penal reform and will continue as we have in the recent past to fight for it. And suffer for it.

Our protest will start off as a complete work stoppage in Walpole.

79.-81. Again, check out Monty Neill's article. Again, how can anyone knowing the facts conclude that these programs of brainwashing and even torture are "humane." The rhetoric of Soc. Tec.'s proposal is merely a mask.

82. Again the emphasis on circumventing recent legal decisions.

83.&84. No doubt these "separate personnel" would be ex-wardens, ex-guards and sympathetic psychiatrists. We note that Curran has worked in corrections before and his staff includes ex-warden Parker Hancock and John Gavin; ex-Mass. Corrections Commissioner.

85. Again, Soc. Tec. would like to get underway before the public is aware of what is happening.

## SUMMARY

Dr. Curran has emphasized that the programs he has devised should be voluntary. How "voluntary" would a program be that would offer the possibility of extra good-time and early release, as these programs inevitably offer? Even stranger is the idea that those prisoners most un-cooperative with the authorities are somehow going to suddenly cooperate. Clearly either the program will be voluntary and therefore fail or, more likely, those deemed "special offenders" will be coerced into the program.

The history of these programs demonstrate the unswerving and total opposition of most prisoners. We are confident that an aroused public can stop these programs, and that the resistance of the prisoners and supporters will cause the demise of these programs wherever they exist.

admitted that he had no authority to negotiate, no authority to make final decisions and no authority to deal with issues previously agreed upon. He continuously asserted that Superintendent Vinzant was "not bound" by the November 13-14 agreements which he had signed with the NPRA.

The directions that Vinzant is pursuing in his vigilant struggle towards maximum security must be examined in light of the continuous stream of transfers out of Walpole in recent weeks. What he is trying to do is create an institution of supposedly "hard-core" prisoners so that he can justify the major part of his expenditures, those for lead walls and overtime for guards. The money is not being spent for the repairing of cells that now remain empty, forcing many prisoners to remain in segregation without any semblance of justification. Is Vinzant still punishing them for the State Police/Guard-instigated riots of months ago?

A more important question must be raised for cautious consideration. Is the threatened cooperation in the regional, maximum security, treatment center for so-called "dangerous special offenders" being utilized as a screen for the development of Walpole in these same directions.

# Socio-Technical

65. We recommend that the State of Connecticut develop a more comprehensive plan for handling its "special offender" population.

66. Rhode Island has one of the most serious problems, if not the most serious, with "special offenders" of all the New England States.

67. Rhode Island has no specialized programs for "special offenders" except that some are placed in administrative segregation in a Behavioral Conditioning Unit.

68. Despite the seriousness of the situation, it may not be feasible for Rhode Island to develop and operate its own program or facility for special offenders. Rhode Island currently houses all male inmates from minor offenders to dangerous felons in one facility. It is forced to use administrative segregation to cope with disruptive inmates to an extent greater than in other states. Under these conditions, we recommend that Rhode Island move immediately to develop cooperative programs with Massachusetts and Connecticut, both of which have more resources in professional manpower, facilities, and programs to cope with these dangerous men.

69. Recent court decisions have, however, made more difficult the development of cooperative, interstate programs in corrections based upon a transfer of inmates to other states. Rhode Island has been involved in some of these legal actions.

70. These legal problems may make it necessary for Rhode Island to consider developing treatment and rehabilitation programs for "special offenders" within its own correctional facilities. If these legal problems can be resolved, however--and we believe they can--we find that it would be more advantageous to Rhode Island and to these offenders themselves to develop cooperative programs with nearby facilities in other states.

## I HANDLING AND TREATMENT RECOMENDATIONS

71. We find general agreement in all of New England that "special offenders" should be managed and treated as a correctional responsibility.

72. The group designated "special offenders" are the most serious management problem within state prisons of each of the New England States and no institution was found to be dealing with the problem effectively.

73. The "special offender" groups is homogeneous only in its disruptive character. Otherwise, it is composed of many different personality types with many different problems and strengths.

74. Due to the broad mixture of personality types in the group, treatment and rehabilitation programs would have to be developed which take these differences into consideration.

75. Our in-depth study of these "special offenders" was based

on extensive record search in correctional and mental health facilities and on a special study of therapeutic drug practices with inmates.

76. We recommend as a next immediate step in developing programs for "special offenders" that an individual, personal evaluation be made of each inmate classified as a "special offender." This evaluation should be conducted by a special evaluation team recruited on a New England wide basis and traveling to each facility.

78. We suggest acceptance of the recommendations in our special study on therapeutic drug treatment in the prisons. Also, we suggest that intensified research and pilot treatment programs of drug therapy hold promise of important contributions to the effective treatment of "special offenders." It is our conclusion that the use of drugs to control disruptive behavior and to enable inmates to

However, we suggest consideration of the above treatment methods in developing programs in New England. Above all, new programs for "special offenders" should offer specialized attention and humane and understanding management.

82. Legal challenges could eliminate or delay for long periods of time, various special treatment and rehabilitation programs, both those within each prison, and those requiring transfers to another institution. We therefore recommend that steps be taken to avoid these legal challenges by building safeguards into the programs to assure "due process of law" in selecting inmates for the programs and in allowing objections to such selection by inmates and their legal advisors.

83. We recommend that no new programs for "special offenders" be utilized as punishment for misconduct in the institution. Decisions to evaluate and to select inmates for such new programs should be separate from decisions concerning punishment and should be conducted by separate personnel.



take advantage of other rehabilitative programs can be much more humane than administrative segregation or more severe confinement of "special offenders," where other educational and behavior modification programs may require intelligence, educational, cultural, and even physical characteristics of a more selective nature.

79. For the dangerous, disruptive "special offender" who is not seriously mentally ill, the greatest promise at present for successful rehabilitation would seem to be found, based on our national investigation of methodology, in behavior modification-style programs of step-movement type where emphasis is upon encouraging or reinforcing improvements in attitude and behavior combined with high-quality professional treatment and counseling.

80. We recognize that currently no readily adaptable, single treatment approach is possible for handling "special offenders."

84. The criteria for the selection of inmates for admission to new programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of "special offenders" should be based as much as possible on objective factors which can be reviewed and verified by other evaluators. The individual evaluation of all special offenders in New England recommended in Item 76 should be utilized to build these objective factors.

85. Where any legal doubts should remain about the authority to establish and operate any of the new programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of "special offender" groups, we recommend that specific enabling legislation and/or amendments to existing interstate compacts in the correctional field be adopted to assure legality and to help avoid time-consuming litigation and adverse publicity and controversy over the programs once they are installed.



# Skowhegan Moves

## Letter

Many tactical moves have been taking place at the Skowhegan Women's Correctional Center (SWCC). The newly formed Governor's Task Force, SCAR and Pine Tree Legal Assistance have been thoroughly investigating and reporting the inner machinations of the Department of Corrections. In relation to the SWCC the "for instances" are many.

When the women were struggling to form the first Inmates Advisory Council (IAC) in the fall of 1972, Pine Tree Legal and SCAR offered assistance. The administration quickly became alarmed at their presence and clamped down with visiting and mail restrictions. An Inmate Advocate was assigned by the Administration to aid the women in forming by-laws for the IAC. SCAR members inside SWCC opposed the newly formed council when it became clear that it was only a showpiece for the public. The Council became a feather in the cap of the Department of Corrections.

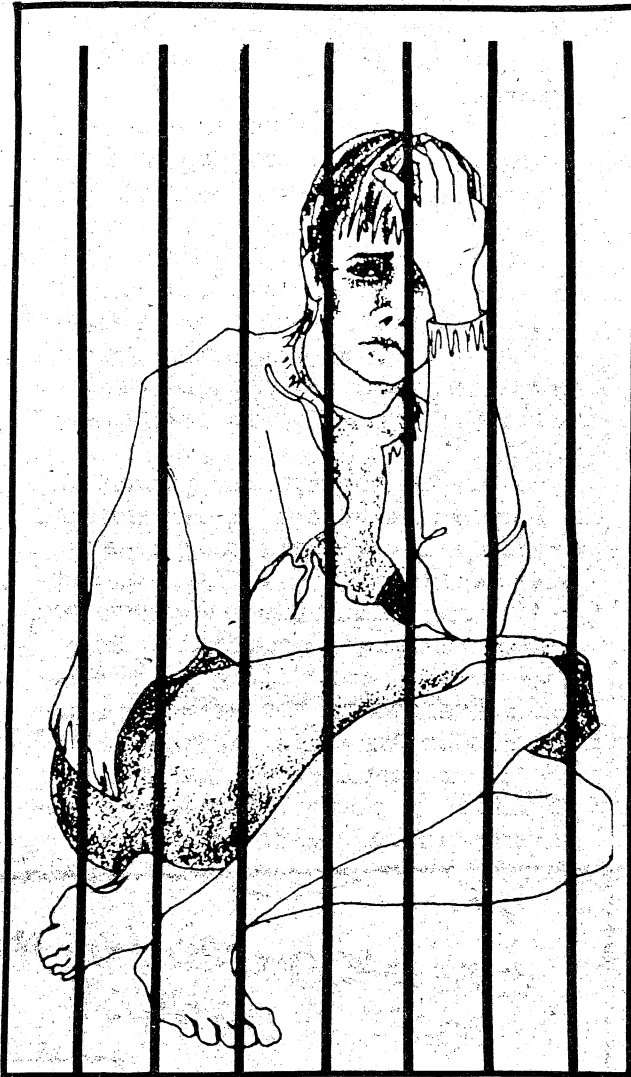
The furlough system which has been adopted superficially appears in the best interests of the women, but it discriminates against all women the administration deems disruptive.



The statement of philosophy for the Dept. of Corrections is to "hold and treat. Wherever the individual is treated, it will be accomplished with full respect for human dignity, due process and civil rights." How can this statement of philosophy be held as valid when at Skowhegan these basic rights are denied. Lawyers are not permitted free access, prisoners' efforts to organize and express political views are squashed in the mail rooms and dignity exists only in struggle.

The Dept. of Corrections "Rehabilitation Program" was recently exposed by the Governor's Task Force. No rehabilitative programs are in effect at Skowhegan and no plans for a meaningful struggle are in view as of January, 1974.

The majority of women incarcerated in Maine were sentenced on drug or drug-related charges. The women are divided between Skowhegan and Hollowell, where the Stevens School (the euphemism for girls' prison) is located. At Skowhegan there remains a maximum security unit and a half-way to half-



way house. The security unit could house approximately 15 women. It acts as an orientation and screening center. The half-way to being half-way house could hold about 10 women and was established for women to reenter the community. The women are offered jobs in local shoe shops and performance is a prerequisite to parole. The policies at Hollowell vary, but their main goal seems to be the production of "female clerical machines."

Our sisters on the inside have a long struggle facing them in the casting-off of pre-determined roles slotted for them in their existence as prisoners of the State of Maine. But once this is accomplished the "new breed of prisoner" will struggle for justice with new awareness.

Ex-prisoner of SWCC  
Kathleen Walton

## Gettin it together

We have had our problems getting material by and about women in New England prisons. We recognize that women in prison have problems that are both similar to and different from men in prison. We also recognize that the very existence of women in prison is usually ignored by both the media and people on the street.

We would greatly appreciate any material on women in prison, particularly articles that are specific about the conditions and struggles against the conditions by women in New England joints. It would be excellent if women in the county jails and in the state prisons could send us articles.

Dear NEPA NEWS,

As this letter is being written, an inmate lies on his cell floor after being cut down from the top of his cell door. The guard who found him ran to seek help and advice from an officer on duty. Fortunately, an inmate runner happened by and appropriated a neighbor's carving knife and cut him down.

Even the loss of human life does not daunt the persons responsible for reforms that have been discussed, assessed and re-assessed for years now.

Reforms that would affect many of these unfortunate victims are beyond our ability to effect from the legislature and, of course, the staff here. Therefore, we of the I. G. C. have made an effort to enlist persons such as yourself to assist in persuading and educating the public concerning the conditions of this institutions' inhabitants.

Reading of your newspaper has reaffirmed our conviction that there are still individuals who can stand up and be counted for the courage of their convictions. For this we thank you and all of your supporters.

We have been speculating as to the feasibility of conducting correction-seminars, conferences, etc., on our own soil and battleground. We hope this letter will enlist some support that is favorable to this plan and perhaps recruit supporters from all walks of life.

We would be grateful for any suggestions, advice and methods of realizing reform. We anticipate hearing from you in the near future and although guilty of redundancy, we cannot thank you enough for what you have done and what you have attempted to do in our behalf.

Yours truly,

The Inmate Grievance Committee  
Spokesmen



# NEPA Demonstration

NEPA is calling a demonstration to occur on February 7, 1974 at 12 noon opposite the Parker House one block from the Boston Common. On this day the Governor's of the six New England States are meeting in closed session. At this session they will decide either to build the "special offenders" prison at the Kittery-Portsmouth site to be administered by the Federal Bureau of Prisons; or, if the Feds won't do it, to establish an interstate agency to implement Socio-Technical's ideas; or to postpone decision for further study; or to scrap the whole thing.

During the demonstration 12 NEPA spokespersons from the six states will attempt to appear before the governors to argue for NEPA's resolution to drop the entire concept of a regional prison.

NEPA feels that all persons who are opposed to the regional



prison who can possibly attend should do so. We must try to stop the prison right now.

We further feel that the 7th would be an excellent date for the brothers and sisters in the joints of New England to show the governors how they feel about the regional prison.

## Write

We suggest to all concerned persons that you write letters to your governor expressing your opposition to the regional prison, behavior modification and drug-therapy. Urge your governor to oppose the regional prison at the governor's conference.

Sending a copy of your letter to a local paper would also be a good idea.

## RI Conference

The R.I. Coalition on Prison Reform is planning a conference at Brown University in Providence for Feb. 22 & 23. For details write R.I. Coalition on Prison Reform Box 1347, Annex Station Providence, R.I. 02901.

## Outlook In

SDG has been trying to get The Outlook into Walpole, but Vinzant says no. Any brothers in Walpole who wish to receive The Outlook should write to SDG, 3 Joy St., Boston, Ma. 02108

## New Prison Films

### With Intent to Harm

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

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

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

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

### 3000 Years and Life

A Film by Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki

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

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

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

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

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

### Vermont State Prison

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

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

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

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

WITH INTENT TO HARM, 3000 YEARS AND LIFE, and VERMONT STATE PRISON are available from:  
New England Prisoners' Association      New England Prisoners' Association  
Public Education Program                      Public Education Program  
Franconia College                                      or 116 School St.  
Franconia, N.H. 03580                              Waltham, Mass., 02154  
603-823-5266    617-899-8827

