

September, 1974

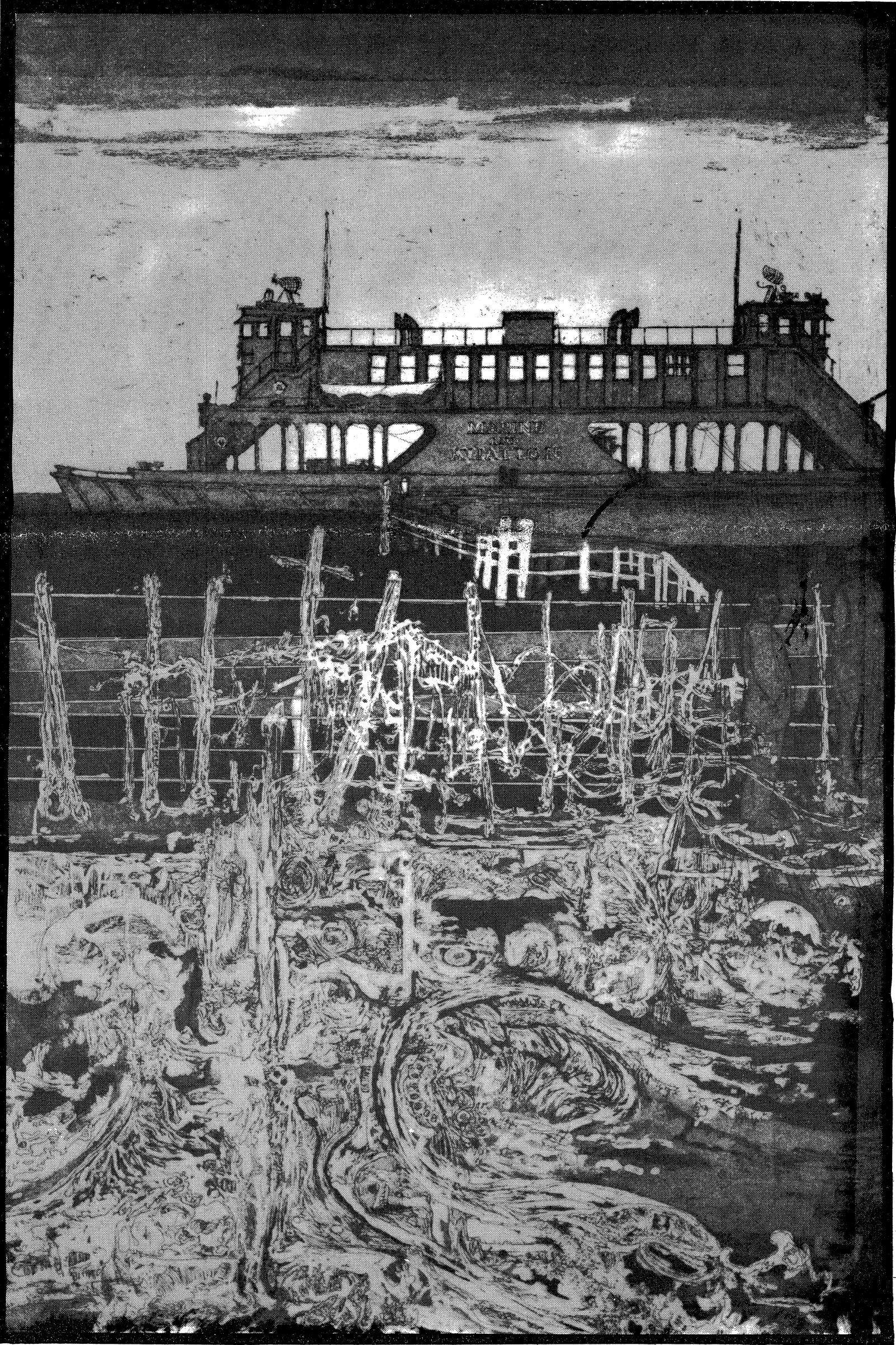
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NEPA NEWS

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

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DSU/ Classification Hearing



by Donna Parker

Everybody and their mother showed up and participated in the Aug. 22nd public hearings for the proposed Massachusetts Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU) and Classification Rules and Regulations. When the prison reform bill, Chapter 777, was passed, one of the key provisions was that the Department of Corrections was for the first time required to draw up written rules and regulations which would apply equally and fairly to all prisoners. In this way, it was hoped that the present arbitrary, spiteful, and self-defeating system might be replaced by written regulations which would put the Massachusetts prison system under some semblance of law.

NEPA organized close to two hundred people and more than two dozen speakers to participate in these hearings. All those who attended condemned the farcical nature of both policies while at the same time exposing the oppressive and degrading realities that existed beneath the "lily-white" words of treatment.



Arthur Morrow shows NEPA newsfilm team the scars he still bears from beating at the hands of Walpole goon squad.

The hearings began with testimony of Jerry Sousa, Arty Morrow, Bobby Daigle and Peter Ladetto, all of whom have been forcibly and illegally subjected to DSU treatment since last March. Although none of the prisoners were released on furlough to take part in the decision making process of their lives, NEPA did provide their video-taped testimony. Each of them related their experiences in the DSU treatment program. Far from receiving even the pretense of a rehabilitative treatment, these men received filth, censorship, one hour visits be-

hind wire screens, unceasing harassment, almost 24 hours a day of lock-up, threats and beatings, and non-existent showers, exercise, and 'programs'. "We know what they are doing down here. They will never break us and strip us of our manhood and dignity. Their tactics only make us stronger, because it's all we have left."

Unhappily for the Walpole Administration, these men are not alone and forgotten in the Walpole population. The newly elected NPRA Board has made the release of these men a priority demand. Ralph Hamm, Larry Rooney, Peter Bartelloni, Arnie King, John Kerrigan, and John Grey also testified via video-tape as to the sham of DSU, pointing to it as another symptom of the backwards and repressive steps the DOC is taking at Walpole. "They've changed the words but they haven't changed the direction. We know what's coming down here, but what you have to realize is that while this may be a maximum security joint, you people on the streets are in a minimum security community. We're all in this together."

The people in the community did come together in a unanimous condemnation of both the DSU and Classification Rules and Regulations. Dr. Mathew Dumont, Commissioner of Drug Rehabilitation in the Dept. of Mental Health, said that no prisoner could be expected to be rehabilitated in a 'parched' and sick prison system, and that it was not the prisoners who needed treatment, but the prison system itself. He suggested that the solution might best be found by the prisoners themselves.

Alvin Bronstein, Executive Director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union flew up from Washington D.C. to address the flagrant unconstitutionality of both regulations.

"This document on Classification Policy will be a method to control and discipline and transfer and punish prisoners, under the rubric of classification...an administrative rather than punitive act...thereby avoiding the constitutional requirements of due process. Custody and discipline will become paramount and you will be inviting hostility and tension inside your prisons, and lawsuits on the outside." Addressing himself to the DSU he said, "Merely labeling as a treatment program or administrative segregation what is in reality a control unit will not avoid or bypass the Fifth and Eighth Amendments to the Constitution."

He referred to the federal court decisions against two Federal behavior modification programs at Springfield, Missouri (Project START) and Marion, Illinois (Adams v. Carlson, 368 F.Supp. 1050, E.D. Ill.1973) both of which were almost exactly the same as DSU, and both of which were declared unconstitutional. The prisoners were ordered released from the unit to general population. In conclusion, he said, "Coercive programs which attempt

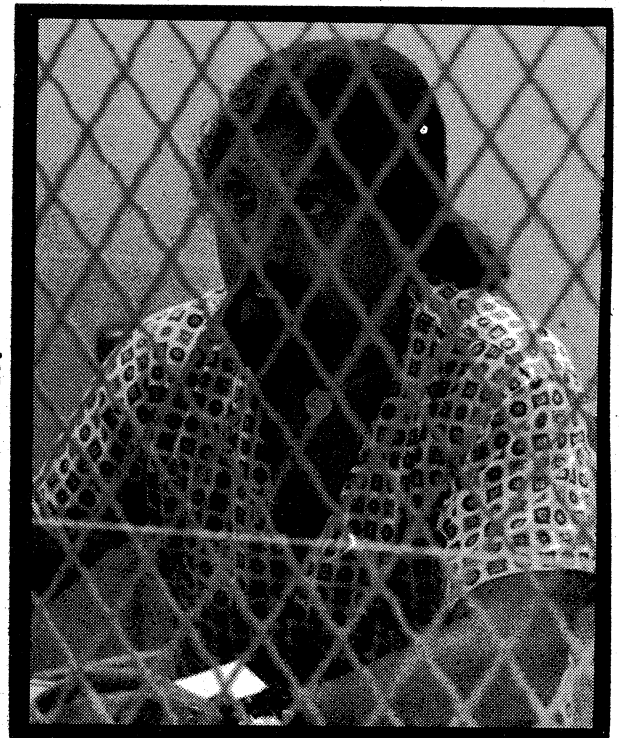
to change attitudes or behavior always fail unless you kill the prisoner, permanently disable him, or keep him incarcerated for life. I can only wonder if this is really what Massachusetts has in mind."

Dr. William Ryan, Professor of Psychology at Boston College and a long-time respected social scientist and human services specialist, began by saying that he was "appalled and horrified" by the document on DSU policy. "What we have here, of course, as I think everyone clearly recognizes, is the revival of the notorious category of 'special offender' from the infamous Curran Report....a category that was widely denounced as completely unscientific, as a synonym for prison organizers and activists, as a pointless catch-all category that had absolutely no scientific or professional implications....the inmate headed for Block 10 is any prisoner labeled by the administration as in need of the super-special treatment program that



Robert Daigle of Block 10.

Block 10 is famous for. If I am correct in these judgements, the continued use of Block 10 is cruel and inhuman." He went on to add that perhaps he was wrong, perhaps DSU is really a professional, humane, non-punitive program designed to help these poor special offenders. If that is the case, he demanded that the Dept. open up 10 Block to inspection by a committee of citizens, scientists and professionals. "I challenge you to convince any impartial citizen, any trained sociologist, any competent psychiatrist or social worker that you are operating something more than a box



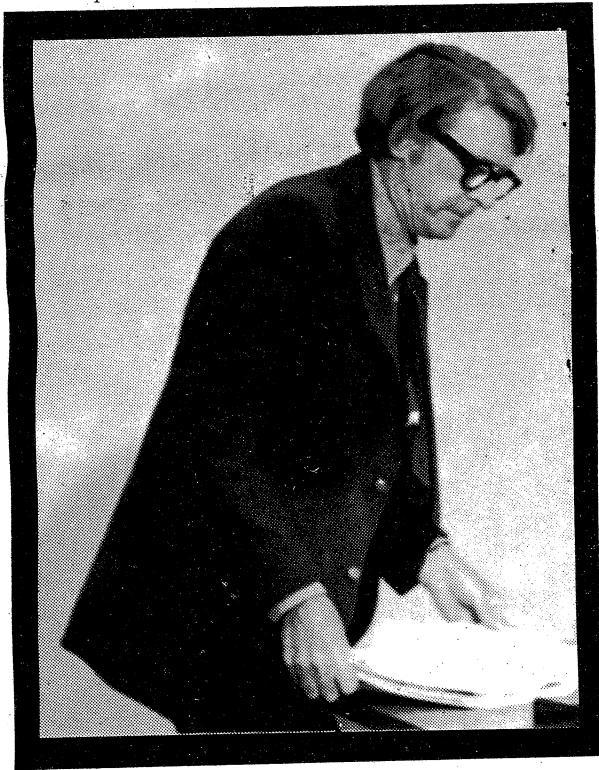
Jerry Sousa of Block 10.

DSU

inside a box, a prison inside another prison, a supermaximum institution within which to lock up and silence those prisoners from whom you cannot by any other means strip away their manhood and their humanity."

Professor Ryan then turned his attention to the Department Order on Classification. "This is one hundred pages full of the most embarrassingly absurd generalities, displaying a level of arrogant and self-satisfied incompetence that is scarcely believable... What is most frightening about this document, however, is that, in the most subtle way imaginable, it justifies and rationalizes the absence of effective rehabilitation programs in our prisons. The program described here is one which assigns prisoners to programs, transfers them between institutions, raises and lowers their custody status, all on the basis of a supposedly careful diagnostic study. I charge that this so-called diagnostic study is a fraud, consisting of nothing more than the random and whimsical guesses and speculations of a team of men, most of whom know nothing at all about what they are doing. It would be just as valid to make judgments and assignments of prisoners on the basis of their astrological sign, their hat size or the last two digits of their social security number."

Ryan then put another challenge to open up the classification process to the inspection of competent behavioral scientists and human service professionals: "I challenge you to demonstrate to us that the classification process is something other than a series of arbitrary judgements by a bunch of incompetent amateurs."



Professor William Ryan

Perhaps the most important action of the hearing came when Ruth McCambridge spoke for the Families and Friends Caucus. Before beginning her testimony, she was warned by the Department's attorney, Bob Bell (who was chairing the meeting), that discussion of individual incidents would not be tolerated. Ruth began with a condemnation of the hearings:

"We are here today to participate in an important hearing that the DOC has already made into a farce. Another hearing after the fact. These orders have already been signed into effect by Commissioner Hall, rendering meaningless any input that we might have at this time. This is indicative of the Department's attitude toward its most valuable resource in a successful move towards community based corrections...the community."

After condemning both documents, Ruth began to expose the realities of 10 Block by recalling the beating of Arty Morrow which both she and her husband Jack witnessed only weeks be-



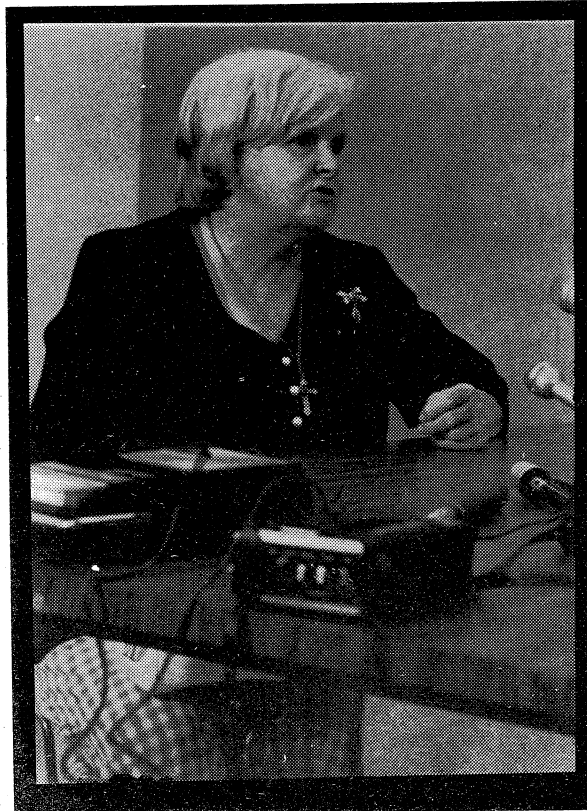
Ruth McCambridge tells off Bob Bell.

fore. Attorney Bell of the DOC immediately jumped in to "exercise his prerogative" and demand that she stop. Ruth continued. Bell interrupted again. At this point Arty's mother stood up and demanded that Ruth be allowed to finish. Bell insisted that "other channels be used." By this time everyone was on their feet demanding that the sick truth of DSU be revealed as legitimate and necessary evidence.

The people finally told Mr. Bell that he either leave the room and resign or sit down and listen. Remaining seated, the agent of the DOC was forced to bear witness to the appalling realities of 10 Block. In a final, lame effort of control, he pushed the STOP button on his tape recorder for the remainder of Ruth's testimony.

Following this victory came a string of other indictments from many of us, including the mothers of both Jerry Sousa and Arty Morrow. It was asked, "Where are the psychiatrists to observe the guards and wardens?" It was proposed that those who wrote these rules and regulations "rehabilitate themselves under this arbitrary, whimsical and intimidating classification process." It was likewise proposed that those who wrote the rules for DSU "live there, smell it, see it, and be observed yourselves in 10 Block."

The people present, together with the men in Walpole, demanded "that this DSU program be stopped immediately, that these rules and regulations be thrown in the garbage and that every man in the program be immediately released to population." This demand, which was made over and over, was met each time with cheers and cries of support.



Mrs. Morrow, Arty's mother, testifies.

When I returned to 10 Block the next day, I found that, consistent with the DSU treatment, even more severe harassment and punishment had resulted from the hearings. In response to this, the men in DSU went (and remain since Aug. 24) on a hunger strike.



Mrs. Sousa, Jerry's mother, testifies.

They demand their release to population and an end to the oppressive conditions of the DSU program. "At times the struggle down here seems so bad that some feel we're fighting a lost cause; but we're all in the same boat, with nothing to lose. We are all men and will continue to fight a system that only dehumanizes us until the struggle is won." The entire Walpole population boycotted their meals on Aug. 28th in support of these men in 10 Block.

Hearings will again be held on the Classification and DSU Departmental Orders. These hearings will be held in the prisons and should begin at any time. It is important that prisoners further organize a solid condemnation and expose of both these policies, seizing control of the responsibility and decision-making processes of their lives. To support prisoners in this effort and to insure that goon squads do not assault or intimidate anyone who attempts to testify, we demand that the public be allowed to attend these hearings. We challenge the DOC to allow the citizens of Massachusetts to make our own judgements regarding the Department's expenditures of our tax dollars.

All photos of DSU/Classification hearing by Donna Parker and Cindy Bargar.

NPRA

Walpole

Worcester Group

August 22, 1974

General elections for a new Board of Directors of the NPRA were held on Monday and Tuesday, August 19 and 20. On August 20 the newly elected Board voted in the Executive Officers of the organization. We discussed our future course and direction--the end to brutality and repression by the Administration and its cohorts by any means at our disposal.

Men are being gassed and beaten regularly in Blocks 9 and 10. We're solidly against the transformation of Block 10 into some sort of Behavioral-Experimental laboratory where men are being used as guinea pigs to further research in 'Mind-Control'-Daigle, Sousa and Morrow must be freed!!

Already the new Board is faced with the repressive forces of the administration. After viewing the new Board and its officers a lock-up and shake-down was ordered on the 21st of August which forestalled our scheduled meeting with the general population to inform them of the experiments NOW illegally operational in Block 10. We wanted to pass along the information about the hearing being held on this issue of Block 10 at the State Office Building. (See article on hearing this issue--ed.)

On top of that--last week we set up a meeting with the External Board of the NPRA (approved by the Administration) for Wed. Aug. 21st. However, the lock up and shakedown was used (a very sick excuse) as a reason for cancelling the meeting between NPRA Executive Boards.

These 'old games' have succeeded in the past to choke off Unity and Awareness, to keep the masses asleep, con-

Norfolk 26

We received the following statement, signed only "The Norfolk 26". As the letter attacks the Resident Council at this Massachusetts Prison, we sent a copy to them asking them to reply if they wished. As we go to press we have not heard from them. We generally have a policy of not printing material that has no actual name attached; but we felt that the issues involved are very important in this case. Further, we have been informed that the 26 Norfolk prisoners who were transferred do stand together.--ed.

The Norfolk Work Strike or A Lesson in Self-Interest

Jimmy Cofield's tragic death was not the reason for the continued work strike by prisoners at Norfolk; but the focal point for long-standing medical grievances stemming from the inadequate, poorly administered prison hospital and many other troubled areas.

One statement made to answer the question "Where was the Doctor on duty when Jimmy Cofield checked into the hospital?" was "Doctor _____ was in the gatehouse sleeping". This type of incident is symbolic of the attitude of the Norfolk administration and prisoners. They suffer from a sleeping sickness in an era of alleged prison reform. Unfortunately it took a man's death to briefly wake them up.

The Norfolk Resident Council (rather they should be called the Norfolk Administration Council because of the way they cater to the whims of the administration more than to the needs of the prisoners) played a big part in the strike. Their continued efforts to undermine it were evident when, on the first strike vote, they worded the ballots in such a way that if you voted "No" it meant strike, and if you voted "Yes" it meant you wanted to end the strike. Another move to undermine came when the Council made unauthorized agreements, behind closed doors, with Warden Meechum on the afternoon of Monday,

fused and easy prey for exploitation--but NOT ANY MORE.

We do not know if we will succeed in bringing substantial change to our antiquated penal system and particularly to do away with the hoary, discredited Behavioral-Modification mind-control experimentation--but we have sworn to die trying--this is our/your last shot!

Fascism and repression have no friends but money, and the masses are poor.

UNITE OR PERISH!

NEW NPRA WALPOLE OFFICERS

The new NPRA-Walpole internal Board of Directors is composed of: Ralph Ha Hamm, Pres.; Frank Soffen, Vice-Pres.; Juan Pagan, Vice-Pres.; Vincent Clark, Sec.; Fred Williams, Treas.; Ross Grace, Public Relations; John Kerrigan, Coordinator; John Clinkscates, Sgt. at Arms; Hugh Johnson, Special Advisor; Anthony Carlo, Special Advisor; Arnie King, Legal Chairman; and Arthur Lowe, Larry Rooney, Leonard Naylor, Andres Torres, Jose Colon, Ronald Pelletier, John Ellis, Ralph Richards, Alan Delverde, Louis Ladetto.

The officers of the NPRA are elected by nationality--8 black, 8 white and 4 Puerto Rican; the 20 Board members then elect the officers of the Board.



July 22, 1974. The Council returned to the units after 10:00 PM lockup to get approval, and in some instances resorted to theatrics, and even begging. In one instance a Council member had to return to his unit three times to trick the prisoners into accepting his agreements. They finally resorted to counting unit votes instead of individual votes, regardless of the fact that some units who voted to end the strike had 20 prisoners in them and others for continuing the strike had 50 prisoners in them. It was almost midnight when they maneuvered into an 8-7 majority to go back to work with one abstention.

It looked as if all was in vain. The strike was ended for promises of lollipops and better food. Oddly enough the following morning when the 8:00 AM work whistle blew after the Councils proclaiming that: "The majority of the population wanted to return to work!" and posted notices in every unit to this effect. No one went to work other than a handful of prisoners the Council told to go to an outside hospital program. Truth won out briefly and after the population demanded an individual vote by secret ballot, the vote reflected a 2 to 1 majority for continuing the strike. This was almost identical to the original vote in favor of continuing the peaceful work stoppage until such time as the population's grievances were met or at least answered. It was learned that the previous Unit vote did not reflect the true feelings of the

The Correctional Change Group, Inc. of 932 Main Street, Worcester, Ma. operates the Prison Information Center which appears listed under Community Centers in each issue of NEPA NEWS.

The Group, with its staff of eight men and women, has as its purpose, to advocate the rights of Worcester area people incarcerated in the Worcester County House of Corrections and in state and federal prisons, those people who were incarcerated, and family and friends of those people.

In the past year the Group has, among other things,

--worked toward meeting the needs of approximately 50 prisoners, 30 ex-cons, and 30 relatives and friends in the areas of legal aid, transportation, employment, work release programs and housing.

--worked for institutional change by lobbying, petitioning, writing, etc. as concerns the Furlough Program, Work Release, Lifers' legislation, the Death Penalty issue, discrimination against women prisoners.

--held a major conference on correctional change, appeared on five radio talk shows, one TV program and sent numerous letters to Editors and legislators.

--visited Worcester prisoners at numerous prisons and jails.

The Correctional Change Group is a growing organization dedicated to serving and educating the people. People in the Worcester area who need help of the kind described, or who would like to offer help, contact them at the above address or call 617-754-0756.

population and that some units in fact had not even voted. In one unit (3-2), where new men stay for a two week orientation period their unit representative had simply asked them to go back to work because every one else had voted to do so. It also should be noted that during the individual strike vote some administrative inmates spread work to intimidate the population that if they did not go back to work the State Police would come in; and that the canteen run through the Council, which had previously been open, by a vote of the population, posted a note on their door stating "We will be closed while the vote is being taken, and if the vote is to strike, we will not be open again."

It became apparent that the administration could no longer exert control through their council, by intimidation or by shutting off our food and cigarettes, and they were forced to resort to strongarm tactics. On the morning of July 24, 1974 at 6:00 AM over 200 riot-read State Police and Guards were called in to wake up 26 prisoners and move them to the Departmental Segregation Unit (Ten Block) at Walpole. Sixteen prisoners had bogus disciplinary reports written on them and ten prisoners had none. At this time no reason for transfer has been given any prisoner.

These are the facts we know of based upon our own knowledge and we can only guess at what kind of moves were made by the Council to get the prisoners back to work after our transfer. If they followed true to form, any type of lying, intimidation or other subversion is possible. We do know that the black co-chairman stated to our lawyers "They belong up there"; and some prisoner inside kept sending out other prisoners taking up our attorneys time on minor matters when they were trying to talk to witnesses for us. We do believe that people have benefitted from our transfer and this has been a lesson in self-interest of the individual Council members.

/s/ The Norfolk 26

Yancey Demonstration

On August 24 in Portsmouth, N.H., some 75 people marched and rallied in support of John Yancey and to commemorate the death of George Jackson. The demonstrators, black and white, men and women, babies and old folks, workers and students, assembled in the First National parking lot. Carrying banners and posters which said such things as "Fire LaValley" and VVAW/WSO --Drop the Charges", we marched chanting through the streets.

Among numerous chants were:
Thomson, Loeb, LaValley too,
Let's get rid of the whole damn crew.

The people united will never be defeated.

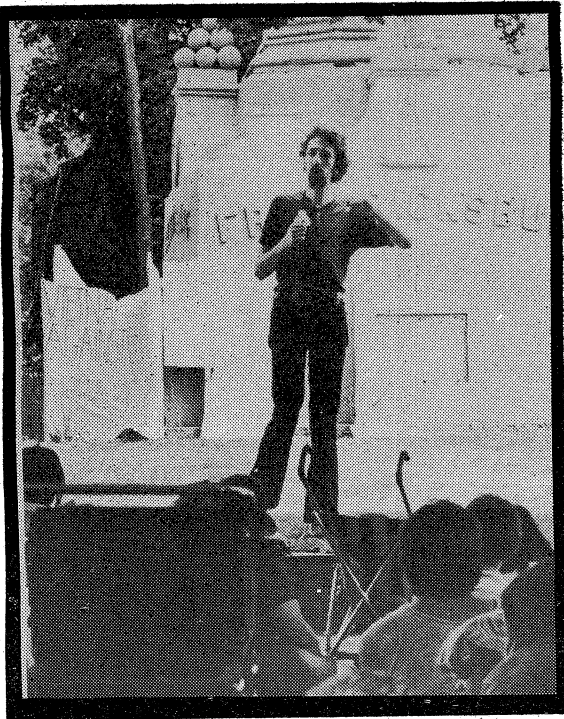
Prisoners slaughtered on Rockefeller's orders.

Attica means--Fight Back!

We assembled at a memorial park on Islington St. where we heard speeches and music. A brief skit started the program. In a mock interview with Nelson "The Butcher" Rockefeller, we heard the interviewer ask, "What do you think should be done to a man who murdered 39 men, who steals from people all over the world?" Rockefeller: "Throw him in jail and throw away the key." Interviewer: "I'm talking about you." Rockefeller (pointing to interviewer): "Throw him in jail."

The first speaker was Monty Neill, editor of NEPA NEWS. He briefly described what it is like to be in jail, the total lack of freedom, being at the mercy of a guard's whims, the lousy food, the sexual separation, the lack of decent medical care. But, Monty emphasized, prisoners are organizing to resist and to change things, to tear down the walls.

John Yancey is such a prisoner. "He is a prisoner who will not knuckle under to the guards; he is a black man who will not bow to racism; he is a man who will not be a slave. And as Ruchell Magee has said, a slave has the right to rebel."



Monty Neill

Petition

84 men at Maine State Prison in Thomaston have signed a petition to support John Yancey. It reads:

PETITION

1. That the charges against John Yancey be dropped. John was the attacked, not the attacker.

2. That Capt. LaValley be fired. He lead the attack, is known for telling racist jokes, and being responsible for past harassments of John.

3. That permission for citizens, public officials and news media to inspect the prison anytime, day or night, be granted, thereby lessening the chances of future harassments of and assaults on prisoners.

(Signed) 84 men.

This petition is based on the three demands raised by the John Yancey Defense Committee, and were the focal point of the demonstration in Portsmouth described in this issue.



The prison system, concluded Monty, wants prisoners to be slaves, and the system in America wants us all to be slaves. "Our struggles are the same. We must unite, we must tear down all the walls. We must rebel."

A brief letter from John Yancey was read. John said that prisons exist to support imperialism, that imperialism is the enemy of us all. "My spirit is with you. We fight and we will continue to fight."

Next Dick Lewis sang a song he had written about Attica:

*Their faces were white
Their faces were black
But they were all from one class--
At Attica.*

*I lost a brother at Attica....
The people will avenge Attica.*

Bobby Scollard, who served nearly 20 years at different prisons, spoke next on racism in prisons.

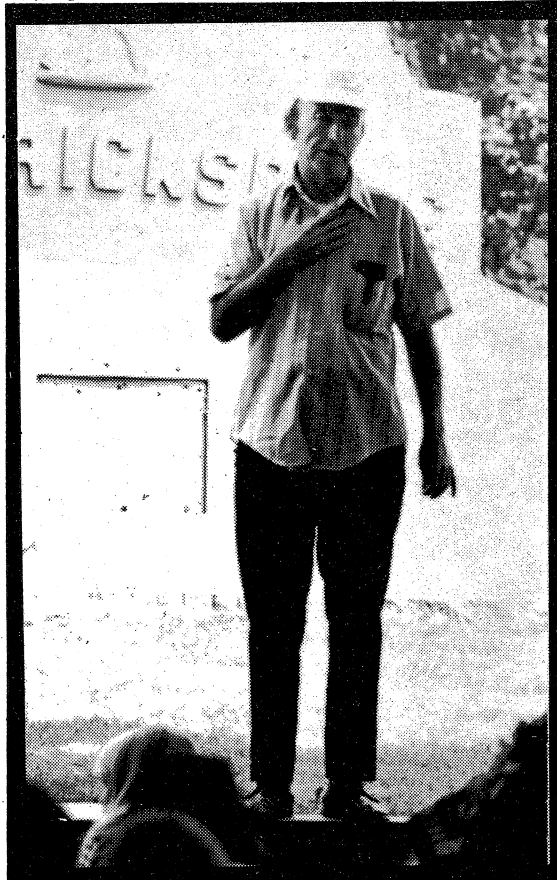
"Racism is a tool in the hands of the system." He described how prisoners can unite to defeat racism. At Soledad, California, the different communities got together to organize a work strike.

The administration tried to separate the different races and deal with each separately, but all communities held firm.

"We don't have to love each other. But that other person is a human," Bobby said. "Once you have solidarity, you have a lot of numbers--then we can do our number!"

Bob also talked about sexism. "Across America our sisters are standing up in the prisons. They are fighting as hard as the men, but they don't get the credit. We must stand together."

He concluded that we must pack the courtroom at John's trial. "If everyone here brings one other person to the trial, we can have a good political trial."

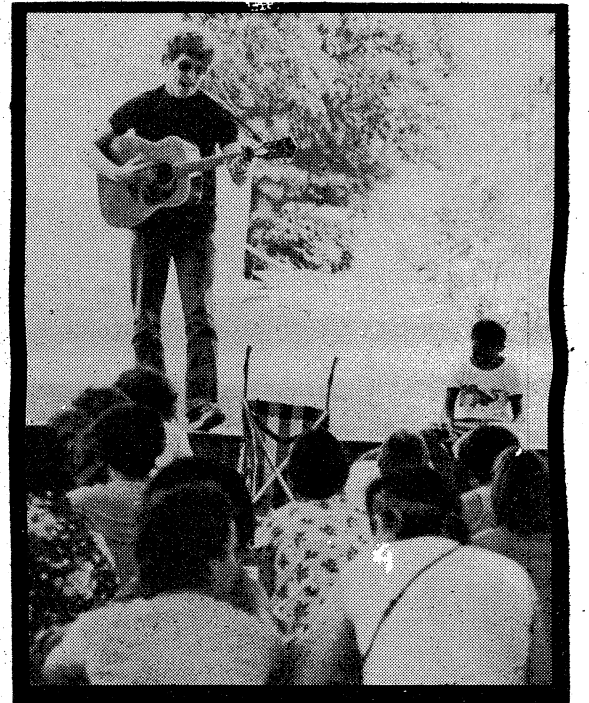


Bobby Scollard

And that can mean the difference between a long bit or a short bit for John."

Fred LeShure of the Revolutionary Union continued the speeches. Fred was in Attica during the rebellion, but was locked in the hole the entire time.

"I was a junkie," he said. "I remember what one con said to me: 'You're talking about revolution, Fred. But remember, you can't make a revolution when you're high.'"



Dick Lewis sings "Attica"

Fred talked about the imperialist, monopoly capitalist system that rules America and tries to rule the whole world, and he described the results of that system.

"Unemployment and all these other evils force many workers to look for any way possible to make a living...People in prison are surplus workers--those who can't get a job...I never met a rich man in prison...But prisoners have a growing recognition of oppression and the source of oppression."

The final speech was by Russell Nelson. Russ described himself as a man who was convicted of murder, who received 11 stays of execution, who did over 13 years "for a crime I did not commit."

Russ talked of the bill of rights, which "was written by our forefathers to protect the people from their own government. There is not a police force or a prison in America that does not seek to destroy the bill of rights."

He described in short but powerful images the degradation of human life behind bars, concluding, "Prisons are good for absolutely nothing except one thing: to educate the prisoners for resistance and revolution."

The rally ended with four women singing, including 'Paul and Silas':

*Paul and Silas began to shout
The jail doors opened and they walked out...*

*The first thing we did right
Was to organize and begin to fight.
Keep your eyes on the prize.*

All photos of Yancey Demo by Jim Ryan.

Editorial:

Loeb Strikes Again

by Monty Neill

Bill Loeb's Manchester Union Leader seems ready to once again conduct a hate campaign against an ex-prisoner. And once again the target is Russell Nelson.

In the Union Leader of Wed., Sept. 4, a story by Arthur Egan explains how he, Egan, called Bruce Johnson of the N.H. Parole Board to find out if the Board was investigating Russ' work on behalf of the John Yancey Defense Committee.

Egan's article quoted Johnson as saying, "The condition set forth on a any parole is that they refrain from associating with ex-convicts or persons who have connections with criminal elements."

The only case of "associating" that Egan mentions is the demonstration in Portsmouth on Aug. 24. Russ spoke at the demo along with two other ex-cons, Bobby Scollard and Fred LeShure. This fact is now to be a weapon as once again the Union Leader tries to get Russ behind bars.

In addition to being a vendetta against Russ, there is another aspect to this issue: the use of a law as a purely selective and coercive political tool in the hands of reactionaries such as Loeb and Gov. Meldrim Thomson.

The presumed purpose of 'refraining from association with ex-convicts' is to prevent ex-cons from getting together to pull a job, or to prevent one ex-con from coming under the potentially "bad" influence of another ex-con or of "criminal elements"--who are nothing but whoever the parole board or the police decide they are.

While in prison, convicts, of necessity, "associate" with each other. At the same time, at least in theory, cons are being "rehabilitated". Yet, when supposedly "rehabilitated" enough to be released on parole, they can't associate with the same persons they lived with while being "rehabilitated". Further, can anyone seriously believe that if two or more persons wanted to get together to pull a job they would let a parole restriction stop them?

So while the intent of the law may have been to prevent further crime, we can readily see that the law makes no sense in this regard. However, in the eyes of the state, particularly a state

run by the likes of Loeb and Thomson, the law does make sense: it is a good club when used selectively, which is the only way such a law can be used.

In effect, this law makes illegal any effort on the part of ex-prisoners to organize themselves, to get together to help their brothers and sisters still inside, to change the crazy parole restrictions themselves. A con hitting the streets may say, "I want to help," but he or she faces the real prospect that political action will land him/her right back in the joint. It is a good law to use to silence the Russ Nelson's--either scare them or, if they won't scare, bring them back.

We know that Bill Loeb will go to any lengths he can to destroy those whom he targets for his vendettas. He has an ally in the governor's office and, unfortunately, all too few office-holders in N.H. have the courage to stand up to "Meddling Mel."

In the hope that Robert Johnson will stand up to the heat, we would like to point out to him that the Supreme Court ruled that the association of ex-convicts for the purposes of exercising free speech can not be deemed a parole violation. The Court ruled on this when Morton Sobell, convicted in the early 50's with the Rosenbergs, was finally released and began to speak with other ex-cons against the prison system.

As is the case with Russ, Sobell was harassed for "association" not because he was plotting a crime, but because the authorities didn't like what he had to say. Bill Loeb has

Reform (con't.)

once they've earned it. Off hand, this does not seem to be anything so outrageous, but it does become the major method of the feds' control.

It begins when a prisoner first enters. He/she is evaluated and brought before a board that assigns the person some form of security classification: honor, minimum, maximum, medium, and super-maxi. Each classification enables the person to seek certain programs, i.e. honor might mean work release, while maxi means the plate shop. But this classification game goes even further. A person might be thrown into segregation for something like investigation of an infraction of the rules (I personally saw dozens of men subjected to this in Lewisburg).

In seg there are usually five levels of custody, and each level 'entitles' the prisoner to another set of goodies, i.e. stage one you have nothing but a bed and sink; stage two, you get sheets; three, tobacco; and so on. Meanwhile, the social worker and/or an adjustment board calls the prisoner up every couple of weeks and decides whether the person has 'earned' his/her way to the next level. Being rude to a guard, taking too long for a shower, or any other number of weird reasons would be enough to keep the prisoner from moving 'up' to the next stage, and ultimately back to population. In the population itself, a similar process takes place every couple of months where a prisoner is brought before a board and if he/she has not missed any work, talked back to guards, etc., he/she might be told that in six months or so they might be given a more liberal classification. Writ writers, people who protest injustices, those who write to newspapers about conditions, or who hold other than klu klux klan political views, of course never get beyond maxi-maxi.

Meanwhile, the prison keepers continue to harp on the prisoners that they should do their own time, choose the 'right' friends, and that everyone starts at zero and must earn their way 'up'. This procedure is certainly no mystery to prisoners, it is obvious what the keepers are doing, but what does happen over the course of months and years is that some prisoners begin to think in terms of, Well, I'm middle medium security 4 a, or whatever, and if I sign this petition, or write to the paper about the guard brutality that I saw last week, then it'll take me another two years to reach the next level, and so on. In other words, the prisoner begins to think in terms of the man that is keeping him/her captive, even to the extent of not doing what he/she thinks is really true or right. How much different is this from the lobotomized prisoner whose free will has been surgically removed?

Those of us behind the walls undoubtedly see many similarities in our own prison policies with these fed games, and some might say, so what's new? Nothing really except that the feds have all their institutions running on this basis (although I doubt whether the Watergaters have to put up with any of it), and they have developed it to govern every aspect of a prisoner's life. And while they are building places like Butner, which will be one giant segregation unit, they are also developing 'earn it' furlough programs: rats first, vegetables second, total conformists next--free minded men, never.

So while we here in New England must remain on our guard against any new tri-state-

openly proclaimed that freedom of the press and of speech should be denied to those of us who, in his opinion, are "un-American."

We remind Mr. Loeb that, as Russ said in Portsmouth, "Our forefathers created the Bill of Rights to protect the people from their own government." Russ Nelson, and the other ex-cons who speak out against injustice or who organize for political change into groups such as NEPA, are doing no more than utilizing the Bill of Rights to help protect the people against one arm of the state.

We call on the Parole Board to lay off Russ Nelson. A law that can have no other practical effect than be used as a tool in a vendetta to silence political opposition should not be a law.

Dangerous Medicine at NHSP

By Jaan Laaman, General Secretary
N.H.S.P. NEPA

We are writing to bring a grave and dangerous situation to your attention, and to request that you call for an immediate investigation into the matter.

Two days ago, Paul McCue, a prisoner at the New Hampshire State Prison (N.H.S.P.), died of a heart attack in the prison infirmary. Mr. McCue was in his later middle age, and it is possible that his attack could have been fatal regardless of what medical facilities might have been available. Yet the fact remains that the infirmary at N.H.S.P. does not have the equipment or full time staff to deal with a coronary attack, or any type of serious medical emergency. Dr. Walker, the prison physician, we feel usually does try to provide the best services that are at his disposal in the infirmary, but he is only here for a few hours a day. A nurse is on duty for less than eight hours and the rest of the time there are no trained medical personnel on hand. As for equipment, other than a pill box, there really are no medical facilities at the prison. Other serious deficiencies exist in the medical department of N.H.S.P.: like that incoming prisoners are not given a thorough physical examination, that literally dozens of men walk around with decayed and painful teeth, that there has not been a regular dentist at the prison for almost two months now, etc.

Therefore, we are calling for, and ask that you call for an immediate investigation of the infirmary and medical/dental facilities at N.H.S.P., by the State Health Agency or some other official medical board; and for such an investigative body to make public their findings and recommendations, and to press for the Prison Board of Trustees and the Governor's Office to immediately provide all facilities that are found lacking.

We, the N.H.S.P. Chapter of the New England Prisoners' Association, are sure that we represent the overwhelming number of men confined at the prison, when we say that the medical facilities here are seriously lacking, and that we desperately need to have this situation rectified. It is true that everyone of us here has been convicted of a crime, but it is just as true, that the State has the legal obligation to provide us with adequate medical and dental services. As we said, it is presently unclear whether or not Mr. McCue could have been saved in a real hospital, but in any community of 250 or more people, (such as in N.H.S.P.), there are bound to be numerous medical emergencies in the course of time, and we can not afford to have another death, before some one decides that it is time to provide us with adequate facilities.

type plans, we should also stay aware of the 'mild' stratification that is already present, and which might be further developed, especially with the introduction of prison administrators who have come from the federal system. I feel it is important to remember that while each of us does have his/her own time to do, 'doing your own time' is really pretty absurd in a general sense. Each of us is behind the same walls as all the other people in the prison, each of us has the same guards locking similar locks on similar cells, we eat the same food, deal with the same conditions, see the same disciplinary and parole boards, etc., so while we do not have to love one another, we should have the wisdom to see that if the same person has his jackboot on our necks, it is wise for us to push together to get it off. Some problems we have might be very personal, or only involve one or two people, but in the overall sense of the whole prison we should remember that there really are no individual solutions to collective problems.

UNITY BRINGS STRENGTH
STRENGTH BRINGS CHANGE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM

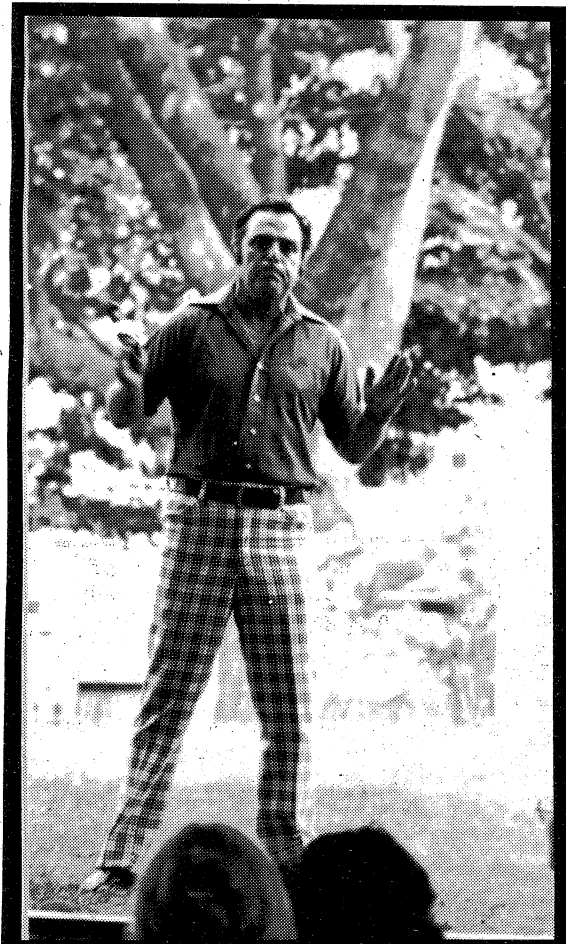
New Warden Takes Over N.H.S.P.

by John Butler N.H.S.P. Nepa News Bureau

After almost two years of the mishandling of events under Warden Vitek, who recently left for Nebraska, and an interim period of a couple of months of no one knowing who really ran the prison, Raymond Helgemoe, late of the Naval Prison in Portsmouth, N. H., assumed wardenship of New Hampshire State Prison on August 14. On August 16, Warden Helgemoe called a general meeting of the prison population in the gym, which was attended by about 200 of the 250 prisoners.

The new warden talked to the men for a little over an hour, beginning with a presentation of his general philosophy and ending with a question and answer session. The following is a list of the major points that Warden Helgemoe offered as his ideas on corrections generally and his plans for N.H.S.P. specifically:

- 1.) One man runs the prison - the warden.
- 2.) This is a beginning point and he will only judge us as he sees us.
- 3.) His policy will be firm, fair, and equitable.
- 4.) He will deal with the present shortages as best as possible.
- 5.) He is a firm believer in academic and vocational programs.
- 6.) He told us to deal with reality, we are in prison and must accept it.
- 7.) Prisoners must earn whatever they receive, as concerns acceptance into programs, etc.
- 8.) He said he and his staff are the prisoners' best friends and we should go to him with problems.
- 9.) He needs more money to implement the programs he has in mind.
- 10.) No major changes will be made at this time.
- 11.) We should take pride in the work we have to do.
- 12.) If a prisoner has a complaint he should file it with him, but, in the meantime, follow what orders are given.
- 13.) Prisoners must stay neat and clean and follow all rules.



Russ Nelson at Yancey Demo.

- 14.) He wants to increase his staff and bring new programs in, especially counsellors and vocational training.
- 15.) He promised us the opportunity to progress.
- 16.) Shakedown will be held at random and will be conducted by prison officials.
- 17.) He will make an effort to see any men who wish a conference within a week or two of receiving their request.
- 18.) He wants to see more half-way houses.
- 19.) He will come half way, and the prisoners must come the other half.
- 20.) He believes in furloughs, but feels the men must earn them.

September

A few days after this meeting, some members of the N.H.S.P. NEPA NEWS Bureau conducted a random survey of the population's response to the warden and his speech. The responses come from a cross section of the men here: young, old, long and short timers.

"I think he's a long time in coming, a man of his caliber, but as we all know, only time will tell."

"I hope to see him change the policy for work release and bring in furloughs. So far it's too early to see what he might do. If he keeps up the policies he said he would accomplish, I think he'll be a good man."

"I don't think he's gonna be any better than the next man; he'll simply follow the policies of Capt. LaValle and Major Thornton and the rest of the administration."

"I had him for a teacher before he was warden and I believe he is intelligent and honest and I think he's going to make some changes for the better. If I find he is running a game I'll fight him, but I'll give him a chance."

"I think he should circulate among the inmates and cooperate with the doctor."

"He doesn't seem to be forceful enough to make decisions, he seems to be a yes man; he's too much of a procrastinator. I don't think he has the ability to formulate ideas on his own and make decisions."

"I don't have any thoughts yet; he hasn't shown me anything yet except that he wants to keep the place clean. Until he shows me that he's actually going to initiate some of the programs he talked about, there's nothing I can say about it."

"I think the man, being of a military background, will continue his ways of firm, just, but strict remedies to our problems. As I see it, by what he indicated, his main concern right now is the cleanliness of the prison. I think and hope that given a sufficient amount of money by the legislature, he will incorporate constructive programs of rehabilitation, rather than continue the programs of repression and punishment of the old administration."

"Out of the three wardens that I've seen here, this is the first one that has talked to me at night on his time. Let's give him a chance and let's see if he's true to his word."

"He seems alright. I'm willing to give him a chance, but why doesn't he give us something for the now and the reality instead of this long range baloney and political pulses stuff. He wants us to face the reality of prison - we're already aware of this - why isn't he also interested in supplying us with meaningful programs now. I don't care about 10 years from now, my future is now. I don't think I'm much different from the rest of the guys here, and all we have to look forward to is the immediate future. We need to see the results of the immediate future now."

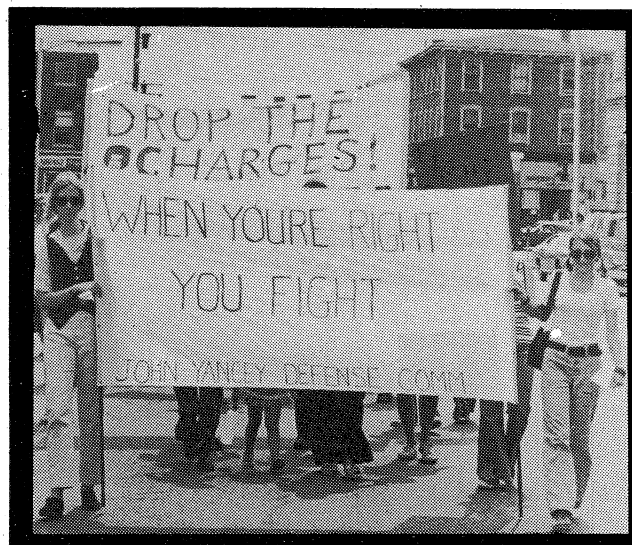
...And Orders Lock-Up, Shakedown

By Jaan Laaman N.H.S.P. Nepa News Bureau

Today, seven days after new warden Helgemoe took over N.H.S.P., we found ourselves locked in after breakfast. There were no incidents, escape attempts, fights, rumors of anything like this, that precipitated this lock up.

Therefore, it came as a complete and unpleasant surprise to find all our personal belongings being rifled through, having ourselves strip searched and being locked up until the noon meal.

The whole population was let out in the afternoon to go to work and later for yard time. Still, this useless shakedown, which I'm sure sets a record for this prison for the amount of time it takes an incoming warden to order a lock-up and shakedown, was resented by most of the men. Most of the individuals who only a day before offered their opinions of Helgemoe as being optimistic or positive, today said that they felt differently and that this new warden would be no different than the others, and might in fact be worse.



Reform, Games And Manipulation

Since the shelving of the tri-state plan for the special offender - behavior modification - prison in Portsmouth, N. H., prisoners and the prison movement in New England have breathed a little easier, although Bridgewater, Block 10 in Walpole, and certain special units in the other state prisons in New England still exist. Yet it would be useful for us to give some thought and analysis to what the next step might be with regard to the prison keepers' moves to destroy our spirit, our struggle and movement for change.

A good place to begin this evaluation is with the federal prison system, since many of the original ideas and programs for behavior modification originated there, also because a lot of the policies of the feds are held up by the courts, prison administrators, and even certain reform advocates as progressive and models which deserve to be copied. Since the federal system is so large, there are certain aspects of it that might truly deserve to be viewed as progressive, like the new co-ed jails, some of the farm facilities, etc. But with these there also exist holes like Leavenworth, Marion, and the soon-to-be-opened Butner prison in North Carolina, which will specialize in only behavior modification practices. Beyond the different prisons themselves, it would be useful for all of us to have a little insight into the actual day to day policies of all the federal prisons. I can elaborate on these with some authority since I was one of the men who was shipped out of N.H.S.P. during the 1973 lock-up, and sent to Lewisburg for about three months.

The basic starting point of the fed system seems to be the carrot and stick game, sometimes in a disguised form. Almost all the institutions have some types of release programs, college programs, incentive pay and so on, even the maxi prisons, and everyone is immediately told that they too can partake in them, once - and here is where the real crux of the whole slick behavior mod game begins - once they have proven themselves, or as it is sometimes put,

Today men were discussing that if Helgemoe is our best friend, then surely we don't need enemies; that if this shakedown is his coming half way, what the hell is our half supposed to be, and similar remarks. The actual shakedown, as far as I can presently tell (no one to my knowledge was locked up this afternoon for anything that was found in their cells), was unnecessary and only served as a harassment. Helgemoe gave us a pretty good speech last week, but his actions, in only one short week of being in power, have certainly not reflected any of this, and this is the best that can be said about the man. One thing is clear, we have another up-hill struggle ahead of us, and what the one old timer remarked in response to our question of what he felt about Helgemoe ("I don't think he's gonna be any better than the next man; he'll simply follow the policies of Capt. LaValle and Major Thornton and the rest of the administration.") appears to be the most insightful remark of all.

Art Review

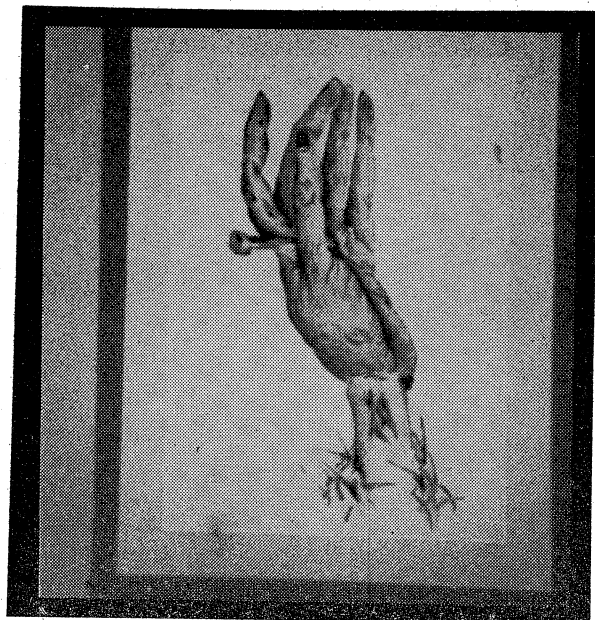
REVIEW OF ART FROM THE ACI (Exhibited in August at the List Building, Brown University, R. I.)

By Shelley Killen

As with almost every institution in America, the conditions of our penal system are currently swinging on the pendulum of extreme regression and bold advance. Techniques for dehumanization continue to manifest themselves in our country and ways to humanize appear alongside them cheek and jowl.

It is perhaps part of the American heritage that as a nation we are given to excess in all of its forms. It is perhaps part of our illness and our health that we indulge in gross barbarism and highly courageous idealism at the same time. We have spawned both a Cardinal Spellman and a Daniel Berrigan and a Nelson Rockefeller and the men who died as martyrs at Attica.

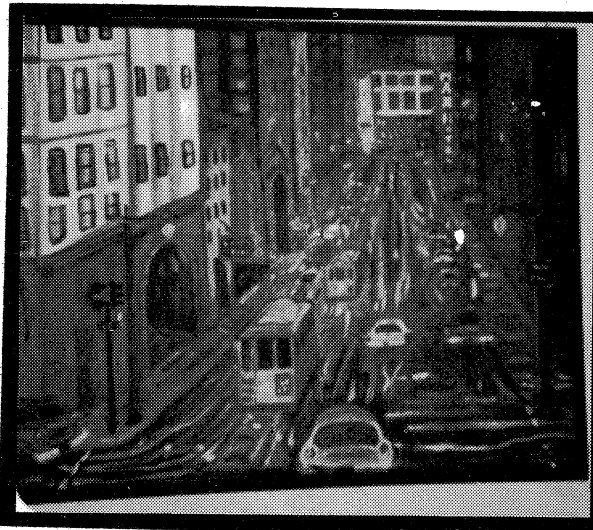
It was the tragedy of Attica that opened the gates of our prison to the outside world, and engaged the hearts and minds of some Americans in the plight of their fellow creatures who had long been forgotten behind the wall of "security". One of the groups of people who engaged themselves in the prison system responsible for breathing new life into the closed world of the prison tomb. If as a nation we had allowed the artist-poet side that exists in each one of us to live, we might not have had the grim institutions that we euphemistically call correctional institutes. Art classes and art exhibits have now become part of some prison programs, and they have enriched the teaching artists and the community as well as the men and women who have become artists within the walls.



"Crucifixion" by Charles Booth

The ACI art exhibit bears testimony to the individualism and talent that lies within the Maximum Security Division of the Rhode Island State Prison. Artist Victor Johnson, who taught classes at the ACI, has obviously given ample scope to each individual to speak in his own visual language and convey the reality of his own world. The current exhibit included work by: Charles Booth, Arthur Fales, Alfred Fortes, Thomas Innis, Gerald Lachapelle, and Joe Fritz Stevens. Traditional themes such as the New England landscape were handled by Arthur Fales in a fresh and original manner and Mr. Lachapelle's "San Francisco Street" expresses the energy and vitality of the city through the excited character of the brushstrokes. Charles Booth's work ranged in theme from a moving crucifixion to an elegant and beautifully drawn pen and ink study of a mandolin. Joe Fritz Steven's mystical landscape entitled "Cosmic Being" reflects vital imaginative power akin to the spirit of William Blake, and Thomas Innis' "Still Life after Henri Fantin Latour" demonstrates the possibility for transforming a copy into a personal statement. One of the most haunting paintings in the exhibit was Alfred Fortes' "Old Man" - an image of a bent, aged figure sliding down a glassy waterway - looking eternity straight in the eye.

News From Afro-American Society



"Street Scene" by Gerald Lachapelle

Economic Independence

The Afro-Am. Society of the Adult Correctional Institution in Rhode Island is in the process of setting up a small manufacturing plant in the Industrial Building, located between the now existing Afro office, board room and carpenter shop. This area was previously occupied by the M.D.T.A. (Manpower Development and Training Act), federally funded, which unfortunately has been terminated. We all miss the beneficial training courses offered, the only tangible rehabilitative effort made in years at this institution.

This plant will deal exclusively with plaster of paris articles and the Society will maintain it as a concession. The Society has also successfully negotiated with the administration to open and operate a gift shop to be known as the Afro-Gift Shop. The premises of this commitment on the part of the administration was to allow the entire inmate avocation effort a distribution point and display area.

The Afro-Gift Shop will be located in the external store area where a minimal display will allow transients the opportunity to avail themselves of inmate products. The main display is to be located in the present Attorney's Room. It has been agreed to allow items for sale, to be hung on the walls for display. The larger items, such as those made in the carpenter shop, are to be placed on the floor area.

All funds collected from sales transactions shall be deposited in the item owners' account, with the exception of 10% of the net sale. This 10% service charge will help defray the cost of our accountant and store employees. As a non-profit organization, with limited funds, I am sure that all can readily understand the necessity for this nominal fee.

The Society also is in the process of establishing a Small Business Management course, enabling its employees to gain the expertise required in this venture. The instructor for this course will be assigned from the federally funded Urban Education Center and the enrollment will be open to anyone showing an interest in this field.



"Still Life" by Thomas Innis

Discriminatory Practices

The Afro-American Society was chartered in August, 1970, with the following goals in mind:

- To be a vehicle for cultural and educational enrichment of its members.
- To be an affirmative action advocate for the legitimate aspirations of its members.
- To be responsive in dealing with the socio-economic and political inequities in existence with the institution as well as those encountered upon release.

The society has tried diligently to meet the challenges set forth in its goals and at times has met with success and at times with failure. A recent check with our balance sheet has shown that our liabilities and assets are a little out of tune. Several weeks ago this institution was a headline issue because of a major lockup, ordered due to a series of incidents that had taken place in a twelve hour span.

I would like to discuss one of those incidents. On the morning of that fateful day, a Black inmate was summoned to the Rear Hall (center of institutional affairs) to discuss a grievance. When answering this summons he was accompanied by several other inmates who shared the same problem. The press release or statement from informed sources stated that "an inmate was angered because of a Parole decision rendered several months ago." The issue was a little closer to home because it was the actions of the Institutional Classification Board that were in question. Rather than deal with the inmate's grievance separately, I will cover the issue at hand in its entirety. The essence of the problem is an overt mold of discrimination being practiced by the Institutional Classification Board.

I feel that it is academic whether or not it is conscious effort of the board as a whole, or in part. The Classification Board is a destiny-controlling board, and as such, has the power to determine how one will live for the duration of one's sentence at these institutions. Keeping in mind the supposed results of an in fact prison sentence, one would tend to believe that every accord is given to a deserving inmate to help speed him through the processes of rehabilitation, whatever that may be. Whatever causes this attitude, that is part of the classification board's actions, they are going to have to realize that no longer will Black prisoners play the sycophant's game of pleasing the powers that be, and that they are in tune with contemporary social and political scenes in the free world; that they take an interest in elevating their perception, have principles, and are morally and ethically alive.

When they come to understand this, then perhaps they will understand why the Black inmate becomes angered at the disproportionate number of Black inmates presently housed in the Work Release and Minimum areas.

A recent gathering of statistics tells that out of the fifty or so inmates at the Work Release area, only five of them are Black, and out of the 75 or so inmates housed at the Minimum security area only 12 are Black.

Of late, the institution has taken the position of classifying inmates to the Minimum security unit after compiling a waiting list. The last list in evidence, was put out on the 15th of April and purported to have 79 eligible inmates. That list in all probability will be in existence for a minimal six month period because an inmate would only be seen as a vacancy existed in the Minimum security area. The list further purported that out of the 79 eligible inmates for minimum consideration, only 12 of them are Black. The non-white population of this institution is upwards of 42%. One need not be a mathematician to figure out that the present system is not responsive in its obligation to the needs of the entire inmate population.

Correction

The article "Reflection" on page 7 of the August NEPA News was incorrectly credited to Ray Blaise. Actually, it was written by Robert Forsland, an NPR staff writer. Our apologies.

ACI Guards Fired

(Reprinted from NPRA NEWS, 1:3, August, 1974)

Radios, televisions and newspapers eagerly grasp the news of "prison violence", "guards walk out", "State police and R.I. National Guards summoned to the ACI" and "Governor Noel fires guards." The latest news we have heard was the appearance of Gene Fagnant, President of the R.I. Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, on Channel 10's "News Conference."

A number of our subscribers have inquired as to why we have neglected to give coverage to these events, tragedies, or however classified, in our own newspaper. Our July edition was already to go to press and we cannot change over like a daily newspaper can in its coverage of big news. Objectively, we try to cover noteworthy news whenever possible....

Let us first venture to June of this year when the ACI was declared in general lock-up. The cause of this administrative action was attributed to two isolated incidents. One, the stabbing of an inmate; two, reports that approximately twelve inmates stormed the Rear Hall protesting a recent parole decision.

The first incident, that of a stabbing, actually took place. This is not a common event at the ACI, but the threat of one always exists under the prevailing conditions, as they do in other penal institutions, especially when they lay dormant.

The second incident took place in the Rear Hall, with a small number of inmates involved, but not because of a recent parole decision. Their reported complaint was the Classification Board's "actions or inactions", whichever you choose.

It is not a big secret that the general population is dissatisfied with this "ruling" board as a whole. They, sitting as such, determine assigned jobs and custody, thus dictating where an inmate will be housed. The question of them, partially or wholly, practicing "racism" is a frequent complaint and statistics show that the possibility may exist.

The general lock-up of June lasted for 9 days. Fifteen days after it ended, the news media, then decided to announce it. Of course, that wasn't news.



Police and National Guard patrol ACI.

Was this lock-up justified? Perhaps it was, but only because the administration allowed the institution in general to slip into a steep decline, causing unrest to remain rampant among inmates. One cannot believe that two small incidents were instrumental in causing this action.

Of the prison population of some 380, 50% of the population is unemployed. The daily routine of prison life carries more than its share of monotony, and when one mixes lots of idleness with no place to go, the end result of this formula can only be disaster. Let the responsible officials shake their heads, but let it be in shame, because they have the correct formula for corrections, in the truest sense of the word, but fail to use it.

The next event at the ACI took place around July 16th. Correctional Officers

refused to enter for duty. Call it a "strike", "not walk-in", or whatever you choose. The reported cause of this action was placed upon an incident between one officer and one inmate. Reports of who did what to whom are of little import, but the end results are.

By failing to report for duty, the Brotherhood of Correctional Officers Forced Governor Noel to summon the R.I. State Police and the R.I. National Guard to man the ACI. This was all done with great fanfare by the press.

Did this isolated incident between two men cause this situation? To justify a strike based on this assumption is asinine, and common sense rules it out. The union wanted the accused inmate locked in Cell A, and their superior officer ordered him jocked in Cell B. Now they have the audacity to say it was principle.

Our contention is that this incident was a direct "power-play" in the never-ending struggle between the union and administrators. Warden James W. Mullen, in search of ways to alleviate the problem, offered to hold a disciplinary hearing on the "principle" matter immediately, but the union refused to honor this. Good faith was not their intention. The Governor, using common sense, quickly became aware of the situation and took a just course.

On "News Conference", aired on July 20th, the guest was Gene Fagnant, President of the R.I. Brotherhood of Correctional Officers. He stated that there are administrators that don't belong there. No names or specific departments, just a generalization. He complained that rules and regulations for officers and inmates alike are either non-existent or ever-changing. Favoritism for what he refers to as "heavys", but again not mentioning names or specific incidents. Insinuations and labels, such as "heavys", spread at flagrant random can only be classified as totally irresponsible. In analyzing his leadership, it is easy to believe that it too runs along the same veins.

News reports relating to whether the State Police and National Guard were jeered or cheered varied. With inmates locked in their cells without benefit of food or medication, we can assure you they were welcomed. They were not the deserters. The cheers did not come forth because of hatred, per se, of correctional officers, but rather for the frustrations that were bestowed upon them and their families for irrational reasons. A report in the Pawtucket Times stated that returning correctional officers were greeted with CHEERS. If one classifies remarks such as "sissies", "here comes the sisterhood" plus derogatory remarks, this can hardly be called CHEERS. In defense of inmates and to their credit, as men, they showed no malice to those who deprived their families and themselves of the necessities of life, even in prison.

The loss of these rights to inmates were far less important than the punishment handed to loved ones at home. Those who cried in fear for their loved ones imprisoned within these walls. Small children hovering around their mothers, not understanding the tears or hurt.

How many members of the union had to face the facts of life, as head of a household, of having no job in these trying days of inflation and unemployment? How many of their wives silently cried during the still of night with these thoughts of their monetary obligations? Were the burdens they placed so carelessly upon others still justified?

Today we stand with the threat of another occurrence because nothing was resolved. No blood was spilled during these times, but prevention is the key to the future. Let us learn to live and work together, as we must. Let us meet and discuss openly our indifferences, or whatever, and reach compromises. If we cannot afford justice for all, we all face the threat of a far worse fate.

Communication is talking out ones differences and trying to find common ground whereupon one can find a solution to the complex problems daily facing us at the ACI.



National Guard entering ACI

Lock-up and New Warden

Ex-warden Julius Moeykins parting shot was a shakedown at the Vermont State Prison at Windsor. More details are available in the letter from Jere Bishop on this page, but a few interesting points came out of the lock-up. For one, the guards used a mine-sweeper borrowed from the Vt. National Guard. Channel 3 TV from Burlington, Vt. reported that Warden Moeykins claimed the shake-down was proceeding slowly due to a lack of manpower. What Channel 3 did not report is that there are approximately as many guards as prisoners at the prison.

Lock-up

by Jere Bishop

On or about August 7th, at 4:00pm, the VSP was put in for a "lock-up." Why? To search for more weapons (guns). One inmate was supposedly caught with a fully loaded 25 caliber automatic pistol. So the warden, Mr. J.V. Moeykins, had us all locked in to look for more guns. The gun initially found was supposedly received by the prisoner outside this prison's walls.

He was to go to the V.A. hospital this day and the staff did not know he had received notice cancelling his appointment. So he was taken there and when he tried to get the gun from his pants, somehow the guard saw him. He was subdued and the State Police were called in to carry him back to Windsor Prison.

We were locked in for 8 days, and there was rioting the first two days. Pounding on the walls, setting fires and throwing food on the floor and walls. We were fed in our cells.

Other happenings. The new warden is Paul Davallo, and from what I can tell he wants to be fair. The A.W. is from Woodstock Community Corrections. Haven't seen him as yet. The word is he's a hard rock.

There's been very much dissent over not being able to see the doctor. One man was very sick with appendix hurting. He is now in the Windsor, Vt. hospital.

New Warden

By Robert Reuschel, VSP

I'm very happy to announce that our Julius Moeykins has indeed resigned from his position as warden of Vermont State Correctional Facility at Windsor. It was noted that he said there was too much pressure on him from the inmates. Every time he turned around he was being hit with a lawsuit.

The new warden Paul Davallo has quite a job on his hands to clean up what Moeykins has messed up. Davallo has made quite some changes since he has been appointed warden. I'm also happy to announce at this time that Davallo has closed down the Special Adjustment Unit (segregation) and Punitive Segregation (the hole). Everyone, including myself, has been returned to general population.

Its a good feeling knowing that something good is coming down for a change.

Defend Attica Brothers

We Are Not Guilty

On June 4, 1974, Brother Big Black A/K/A Frank Smith, received the following letter from Judge Carman F. Ball of the New York Supreme Court.

June 3, 1974

Re: Indictment Nos. 5, 15, 38, and 41
Dear Mr. Smith:

The above cases have been set down for Calendar Call on June 10, 1974 at 10:00 a.m.. If you are ready to have a trial date set, you should appear and you will be heard.

If you feel that you are not ready to set a date for trial on June 10, 1974, it will not be necessary for you to attend the calendar call but a pretrial conference will be held on June 17, 1974 at 11:00 a.m. in Part III, Supreme Court, Erie County Hall, Buffalo, New York, 14202.

At a pretrial conference, if you have any desire to discuss entering a plea of guilty to a reduced charge, it will be taken up, together with any other problem which you feel must be resolved before a trial date is determined.

If you wish to bring a legal advisor with you, you may do so. I am enclosing herewith a form for you to sign indicating whether you do or do not wish to attend the Calendar Call on June 10, 1974. Return it to me in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Very truly yours,
Carman F. Ball
Justice Supreme Court

Take A Look Around

by Akil, Herbie Scott X. Deane

While in my cell striving to get myself together, I paused and picked up the earphones and I heard a record entitled "Take a Look Around."

Realizing the grammatical value of such a song, I began to look around me with my mental and physical eyes.

As I looked around me I saw the actual and potential devastation of narcotics and its effect on/in the Black, Brown and White communities -- I want to Scream!!!

As we look around, we hear the cry for Freedom, Justice and Humanity in the land of the Rich and Super-Rich.

As we look around there is a massive drive by those concerned with liberation, fertilizing the proper value system via thoughts and actions because we/they are concerned with building a Nation/Community/Society free from the impurities and decadence of present day America.

As we look around, we see that the concept of unity and solidarity is intensifying.

As we look around, we see that the Brothers and Sisters who have been abducted and confined to such slave plantations/neo concentration camps as Auburn, Attica, Clinton, Green Haven, Comstock, San Quentin, Folsom, Soledad, Joliet, Marion, Westfields, Rahway, Walpole, etc. are assiduously working, studying and communicating their findings. They are educating, re-educating, and enlightening the people out there, but we see that there is still an immense obstacle in the path to becoming a liberated people.

Like narcotics, can't you see that those who use narcotics stay in a state of narcosis?

This prevents you from functioning at your zenith. This permits the oppressor/repressor to further his furtive and nefarious programs against you.

When you look around can't you perceive and conceive of the agony, grief and sorrows we cause our families to go through?

When you look around, can't you see that narcotics lead our Brothers and Sisters to the cemeteries, to plantations where we're confronted with involuntary servitude?

As National Director of the Attica Brothers Legal Defense I feel that it is my duty to inform you, the public, of this letter which I and many other indicted Attica Brothers received. It is you, after all, who will ultimately determine if justice will be carried out in regards to the Attica trials.

I tell you now publicly, for we have nothing to hide- that we will not plead guilty to any of the "crimes" we are charged with. We will not accept Ball's blackmail, we will not exchange a false plea for a reduced charge, we will not sell each other out so that one of us can go "free." We demand that all 61 Attica inditees be freed now, that all charges against us be dropped, and that the real criminals be indicted.

We have nothing to negotiate. Justice is not something to bargain for. Justice does not mean giving false testimony or copping a plea, no- there are no deals to be made. Our lives are at stake. We are not playing games.

We, the Attica inditees, have remained united for almost three years now despite all the effort made to destroy our solidarity and make us fight one another. And our unity will not be broken now! It is common knowledge that the men that were shot and killed in D yard on September 13, 1971 were murdered by state troopers- autopsy reports proved this. Yet no state troopers have been indicted and none of the men who ordered the assault on Attica Prison which left at least 43 people dead in its wake- I refer to the Rockefel-

lers and the Mancusis- have been charged with murder. No, we are being made scape-goats for their crimes. And there is no end in sight- The state has already spent over 4 million dollars to confine us and is receiving another \$4.9 million this year. Yet we have not received one cent of official money to defend ourselves with. And this is justice? And now Judge Ball- who supposed to represent law and order, who is judging us in your name, asks us to bargain with him, to make deals.

But let there be no doubt about our position. We will fight this case to the end. We will not give false testimony, we will not accept offers of blackmail, we will not negotiate behind closed doors, we will not sell each other out. No, we will not whore ourselves, and we will not make a whore out of justice. We ask you for your support in the courtrooms and in the streets.

Peace and Victory,
Brother Big Black
Attica Brothers Defense
147 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

From Bro. Thomas

Violence is born from oppression. In order to remove violence from society, one must first remove oppression.

To speak of Justice: Justice is not something abstract, but is something very real, very practical. Where there is no justice, there is no peace. It is indispensable in maintaining a sound society.

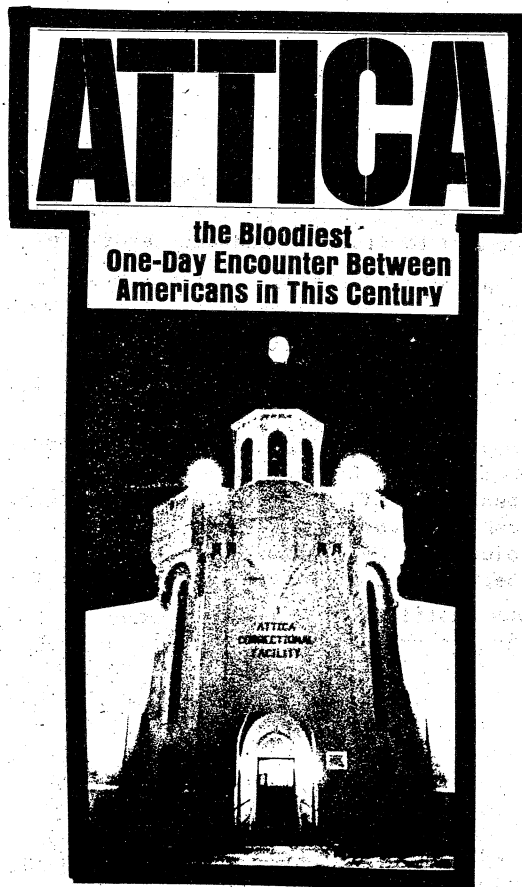
Justice should not have many faces. There should not be many justices for different people, but one Justice for all, regardless of race, creed or color.

Nor should justice be like the blue in the sky, something in which no matter how high you ascend into it you will never find that blue because it is an optical illusion.

Will we receive justice in the Buffalo County Hall? In looking at conditions before the Attica Massacre, during the Attica massacre and after the Attica massacre -- I doubt it! The records show that almost all of our motions have been denied in court; the Governor has spent millions to make us his scapegoat. Yes, they want to place their sins on our heads and then send us off into the wilderness (prison). They are not concerned with justice, their scheme is revenge and repression.

Our lawyers have run from state courts to federal courts seeking justice for the Attica Brothers, but this is like running from the wolf to the Fox. The wolf overtly rips us off, but the Fox is a little more refined in that he (Federal Courts) denies us justice with prolonged deliberation. This is the difference between the two courts. The courts are being used as a tool of repression.

History teaches us that as sure as the Sun rises in the morn and sets at evening time, people all over the world will rise up to Free themselves from oppression and injustice. This is the law of nature.



When you take a look around, can't you see how the state of New York is conducting a vicious reign of repression of high political content against us (the Attica Brothers) because of their ominous misconduct?

When you take a look around, can't you see how Amerikkka is denying the Native Americans the right to self-determination?

When you look around, can't you see that women are mistreated/overlooked because of some social myths and myth-carriers?

When you look around, can't you see how the countries in many places of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are shrugging off imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and capitalism?

When you look around, can't you see how Amerikkka refuses to get out of Indo-China?

Take a look around, because in this era of meaningful change you'll be looked at/ called to give an account of what role you played/are playing.

PEOPLE'S PETITION

Based on the facts of the Attica Rebellion, the Attica Massacre, and the state's persecution of the Attica Brothers, we demand that, 1) All charges against the Attica Brothers be dropped now, and 2) that an impartial investigation take place by the members of the community of the state, with all evidence made public.

NAME ADDRESS

Send to Attica Brothers Legal Defense,
147 Franklin Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Fair Jury Project

110,000 Names Out

As a result of an investigation known as the Fair Jury Project, conducted by the Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 110,000 out of 113,000 names were dropped from the Erie County, N. Y. Jury Pool. As we reported in the June, 1974 edition of NEPA NEWS, the project discovered the systematic under-representation of blacks, women, students and youths in the jury pool. All jurors in Erie County are drawn from this pool, which comprises some 10% of the County's population. The deliberate and systematic under-representation meant that the jury was composed mostly of white, male middle and upper class citizens.

The Attica Brothers took their findings to court in an effort to have the entire jury pool thrown out, arguing that the systematic under-representation precluded the possibility of a fair trial. On June 27, 1974, Judge Seibert H. King ordered the 110,000 names thrown out of the pool. He allowed the other 3,000 names to remain in the pool because the County had corrected their "error" as soon as the investigation began, and by the time the decision was rendered, 3,000 new names had been added under the non-biased system. Oddly, Judge King only recognized the systematic exclusion of women and students. He rejected the claim that youths and blacks were also excluded. However, the effective result is at least the same.

The work on the project was done by a largely volunteer staff of 50 under the direction of Marty Feinridect and Tom Antinucci. The Project also had an advisory group of lawyers, sociologists and statisticians to help guide the direction of the project's investigation and the analysis of the results.

While the results of the project are a victory for the Defense, both immediately and as a precedent for other trials in the U.S., the biggest problem is the huge amount of time and money which must be invested in a project of this sort. For this reason, many other people will continue to be tried and convicted by juries most definitely not of their peers. In America, justice carries a very high price tag.

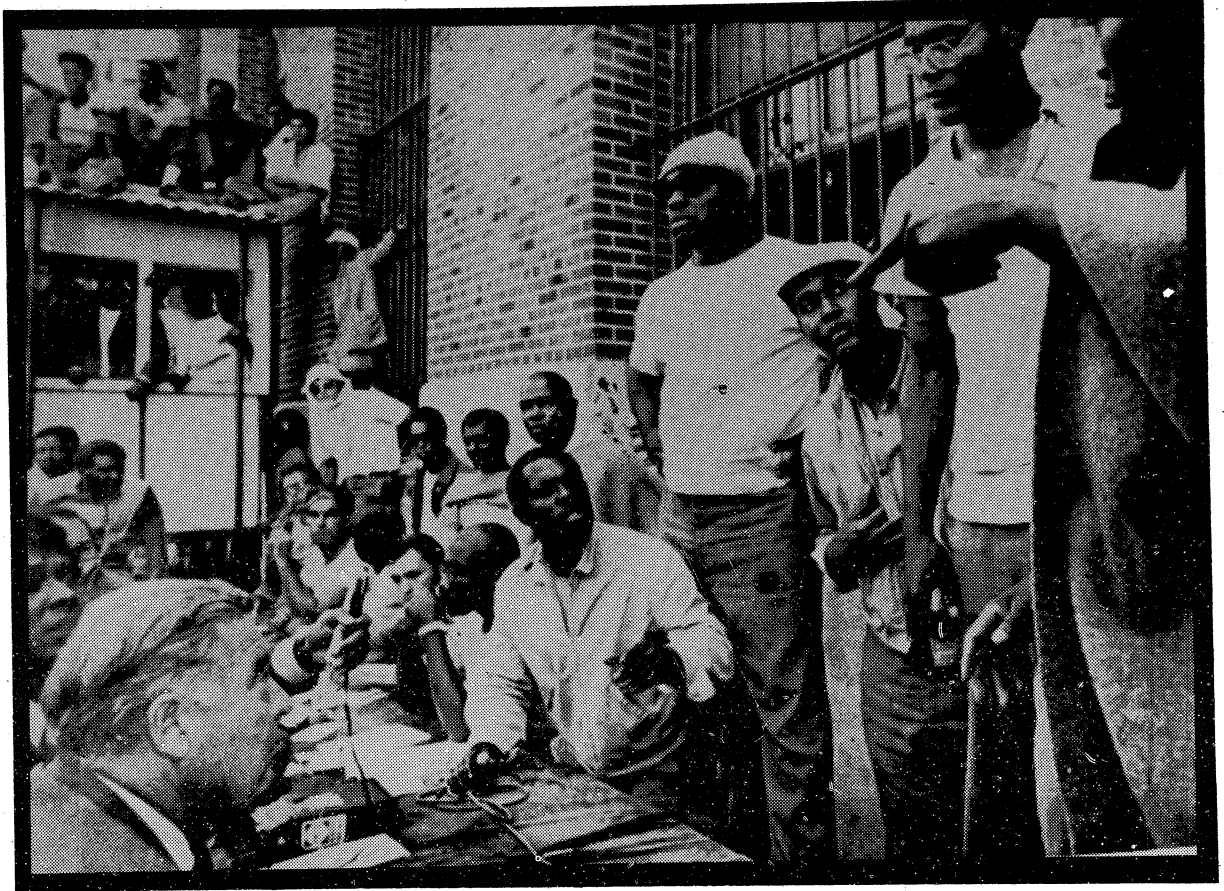
Prejudiced Jurors

Large numbers of Erie County jurors begin jury duty with strong prejudices against defendants, particularly if they are black, according to the results of a survey released today.

The survey was performed by a team of research sociologists including Jay Schulman of New York City. An earlier study by the same research team found discriminatory patterns of jury selection and resulted in the dismissal of 97% of the Erie County jury pool in June of this year. Both surveys were commissioned by the Attica Brothers Legal Defense.

Among the results of their latest jury pool survey were the following: 21% of potential jurors would consciously disobey instructions of a judge to presume defendants innocent unless proven guilty. 19% of potential jurors still believe that hostages in the Attica rebellion had their throats slashed and were castrated by inmates. (The coroner's report showed conclusively that these allegations were untrue.)

Attica Brothers Legal Defense is considering new legal action based on these findings. The first trials of 61 inmates indicted in connection with the 1971 rebellion are set to begin on September 3.



Prisoners in D-Yard of Attica during the rebellion.

Sympathetic Actions For Attica Bros

The following is a list compiled from the N.Y. Times index for 1971-1972 of actions held in support of the Attica Brothers. The list was compiled by Joe Abrams.

Sept. 11: 40 members of Prisoner Solidarity picket Rockefeller's NYC office to force him to visit Attica and negotiate.

Sept. 13: Green Haven Correctional Facility, N.Y.; prisoners hold a 6 hour work stoppage.

Sept. 14: Demonstrators picket NYC office of Rockefeller, accuse him of murder.

Sept. 15: Relatives of Attica prisoners gather outside Dr. Edland's office to protest lack of info on fate of prisoners. He can't answer because prisoners are only labeled P-1, P-2, etc.

Sept. 16: Corrections officers from various institutions gather in front of Attica to support colleagues who died and demand the resignation of Comr. Oswald.

Sept. 16: 75 Prisoners at Great Meadows Correctional Facility, Comstock, N.Y. set fires, hurl bottles at guards.

Sept. 18: Bomb explodes in washroom of Corrections Dept. office in Albany, N.Y. following a warning transmitted to 2 newspapers and a radio station. Weatherpeople say they planted the bomb in retaliation for Attica deaths.

Sept 18: Channel 12, NYC, live TV program on Attica results in 1000 callers wanting to discuss the issues with the members of the panel. The show is taped and re-played.

Sept. 20: NAACP branches at Troy and Albany, N.Y. conduct memorial services on steps of state capital.

Sept. 21: Albany police close building housing the Corrections Dept. because of bomb threat.

Sept. 22: Puerto Rican Attica Assistance group plans demonstration in sym-

pathy for dead prisoners and to give aid to their families.

Sept. 24: Nearly 800 demonstrators march through Albany to protest the recapture of Attica.

Oct. 1: A. J. Russo, partner of Dan Ellsberg in seizing and distributing the Pentagon Papers, fasts, loses 15 lbs in LA jail in solidarity with Attica rebellion.

Oct 2: Over 2000 persons rally in Danbury, Ct. to urge prison reform. Inside Danbury Fed. Pen. 300 prisoners hold memorial service for all deceased prisoners and hostages at Attica. Similar rallies held throughout the country.

Oct. 3: 150 persons stage peaceful demo outside Suffolk Cty. Jail, Riverhead, N.Y.

Oct. 7: Protest outside seminar on criminal justice because people think Comr. Oswald inside.

Oct. 15: Demonstrators outside the NYC Hilton Hotel protest, denounce Rockefeller as a murderer. Rocky was receiving the humanitarian award. 3 arrested.

Nov. 7: Thousands march in NYC to protest Vietnam, Attica, etc.

Nov. 23: Rockefeller speech interrupted at Columbia U. by 50 med students who charge him with murder at Attica.

Sept. 14, '72: First anniversary memorial ceremonies held inside Attica and on the outside; candlelight services in Harlem.

Dec. 21: 150 demonstrate in front of NYC office of Rockefeller to protest the arraignment of the Attica Brothers.

These are but a few of the numerous actions held around the country to express solidarity with the Attica Brothers.

McKay Commission Report

"If Attica is a true model, then prisons serve no one."

by Richard McBrien

BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The New York State Special Commission on Attica was originally chartered in September, 1971, by an executive order from Governor Nelson Rockefeller, for the expressed purpose of dispelling the long-persisting doubts about what actually happened between September 9 and 13 at the Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York. Headed by Robert B. McKay, Dean of the New York University School of Law, the Commission was composed of nine members, and a staff which at its peak consisted of 36 full-time lawyers, investigators, and administrative staff, as well as a large number of consultants and part-time workers.

Although this Commission was not specifically asked to address itself to the question of prison reform, it felt that "so much was wrong in respect to matters we were charged to investigate that we cannot rest content with a recital of negatives." They therefore prefaced their written report with the following recommendations (here paraphrased):

1. Prisoners must have all the rights of citizenship not specifically denied them by court order. This, in effect, would preclude the Department of Corrections from imposing upon its charges any sanctions other than the restrictions of liberty of person. It also includes the right to be adequately compensated for work performed, the right to receive and send letters freely, freedom to express political views, the right to practice any religion or to have none, and protection against "summary punishment by State officials". The Commission also urges that prisoners not be shackled with "legal disabilities" upon release, such as difficulty in obtaining a driver's license and provisions against the procurement of financial aid. This recommendation would also presumably give inmates the right to vote in both local and national elections.



2. Actual confinement of prisoners should be "as little as is administratively necessary". The Commission hereby cites the futility of ostracizing inmates from a society which they are presumably being prepared to re-enter. Prisons must cease to be the closed institutions that they are today, if they are to begin to serve both the prisoners they house and the community of taxpayers they serve. For this to become a reality, the following procedures are necessary:

-- A removal of restrictions on the free circulation of literature, periodicals, and broadcasts.

-- The establishment of regular procedures for indiscriminate press access.

-- The creation of programs such as work release and furloughs, which would "let inmates out of the institution on a controlled basis." (Of the more than 2,000 prisoners at Attica on September 13, 1971, 6 were participating in the work-release program).

3. Programs and policies of confinement should "be directed at elevating the dignity and self-confidence of prisoners, not at debasing and dehumanizing them."

This entails the encouragement of social responsibility inside the institution. (In a system that is admittedly in the grips of a severe financial crisis, it seems wasteful to confine the potential and the capabilities of 2,000 men in a cell for 14 to 16 hours a day.) The Commission concedes, however, that "it may even be that the principle of enhancing human dignity can never be implemented within the walls of huge 19th century fortresses like Attica."

4. In an effort to promote understanding between prisoners and the communities to which they will eventually return, community groups and professionals should be "allowed and encouraged to participate regularly in the life of each correctional facility." The Commission suggests that "since the corrections system is ultimately accountable to the public in terms of success or failure, members of the public should be drawn into an advisory role as much as possible in the shaping of overall policy."

5. An improvement must be made in both the wages and training of corrections officers. If guards are ever to rise above the merely custodial function that they serve today, they must, at the very least, be made more sensitive to the "new breed of younger inmates from the urban ghettos, and understand and control the racism in themselves." The Commission feels that "above all, facilities must be staffed by persons motivated to help inmates." As most of the correctional officers at Attica admittedly see their job as something they merely must put up with for 40 hours a week, and as this problem is undoubtedly compounded by the fact that virtually all of these officers are white and from a rural background, the Commission recommends that the Department's prohibition against the hiring of ex-prisoners as guards in the State's adult facilities be lifted.

6. The separation of vocational, educational, and work assignments from the system of punishment and reward. The Commission calls for an end to this widespread and divisive administration practice, and restates its conviction that inmates should receive adequate payment for their work, including work that involves training. The Commission also feels that consideration should be given to the proposal that "inmates pay the reasonable value of services provided them by the State." (On Sept. 13, 1971, this was hardly practical for the prisoners at Attica, whose average wage was 30¢ a day.)

7. The complete revision of existing parole procedures. (At the time of the Attica uprising, the average time for an inmate's parole hearing was 5 minutes, with the decision a mere yes or no answer which might be delayed for days.) The Commission herein recommends

-- The provision of "clear and comprehensible standards, disseminated to prisoners in advance".

-- A prompt decision by the Board, accompanied by an explanation.

-- Prompt release, if parole is granted.

-- The provision of help for the inmate in finding employment.

-- The minimal placement of restrictions upon paroled prisoners. (This recommendation includes the subjection of the parolee to the arbitrary dictations of a parole officer.)

As a postscript to these recommendations, the Commission also concluded that: "The process of criminal justice will never fulfill either its promises or its obligations until the entire Judicial System is purged of racism, and is restructured to eliminate the strained and dishonest scenes now played out daily in our courtrooms. This would presumably put an end to the type of plea bargaining and discriminatory sentencing that has bequeathed Spiro Agnew the comfortable immunity of his suburban home, while providing George Jackson with a life in prison for stealing less than \$100.00.

The Commission concedes that "That acceptance and implementation of these principles would require far-reaching, indeed radical changes in the corrections system as it now exists."

While realizing that "The acceptance



of these principles would require a willingness on the part of corrections personnel to take risks with the concept of security as now perceived", the Commission has unanimously concluded that "If these (recommendations) are not implemented, there is no hope."

CAUSES OF THE REBELLION

Based on a final order from the Governor dated November 15, 1971, the Commission began to investigate the "antecedent causes and subsequent occurrences" of the uprising, to try to find out what it is like to live, as well as die, at Attica.

Despite the fact that at any time 2% of all males in the United States over the age of 12 are "under restraint of one form or another", the Commission soon came to conclude what prisoners already know: that "prisons are invisible in America." They thus found themselves faced with the task of questioning people who understandably did not trust them about things that the Commission's sponsors and constituents did not really want to know:

Nevertheless, they managed to interview 1600 of the 2,243 inmates who were at Attica on September 13, 1971, as well as 400 of the 450 guards present on that day. They also interviewed all but two of the surviving hostages, 50 civilian employees of the institution, and 270 officers of the New York State Police. Of these troopers, 25% refused to be interviewed, and 25 officers involved in the actual assault had to be subpoenaed to testify.

The Commission also managed to obtain crucial photographic and videotape records of the assault, and the transcript of a "hot line" from the Superintendent's office at Attica to the headquarters of the Department of Corrections in Albany, which unfortunately contains several omissions that were never suitably accounted for. From these resources they were able to draw a number of conclusions.

On October 7, 1971, a report was submitted to Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Walter Dunbar by a group of parole officers assigned to investigate the uprising. The report described the events of September 9-13 as "a long thought-out, well organized plot, conceived and implemented by a group of hard core radical extremists." Contrary to both this report and the nearly unanimous sentiment of the guards at Attica, the Commission has concluded that the uprising was "neither a long-planned plot nor a proletarian revolt against the capitalist system".

McKay Report

Their investigations indicate that the uprising began as a "spontaneous burst of anger, and was not planned in advance." Citing the unwillingness of younger prisoners with "deep feelings of alienation towards society's institutions" to submit to the daily humiliations of prison life, the Commission found that the violent insurrection at Attica was the product of frustrated hopes after peaceful methods had failed. (A prisoner manifesto of moderate demands, including a commitment to peaceful change, was submitted to Commissioner Oswald in July of 1971; the only results were a taped speech and a visit from the Commissioner, accompanied by pleas for the prisoners to have patience.)

The relative ease with which the prison was overtaken by the inmates was found to be due to the mechanical failure of a gate in the vital "Times Square" area of the prison and an outmoded communications system. The Commission thus advises that "to continue to blame the uprising solely on a group of 'political radicals' and 'revolutionaries' merely perpetuates the dubious policy of isolating and transferring a few suspected 'troublemakers' in response to mounting tension which prevailed prior to the uprising." The Commission further submits that such tension was not only obvious to both prisoners and guards (who had begun to leave their wallets and valuables at home when they came to work), but was also unavoidable in a vicious, degrading, and racist society such as the Attica Correctional Facility.

Built to be the most secure of New York State's prisons, Attica pays little homage to the illusion of rehabilitation. Surrounded by a wall which cost over one million to erect, the annual recreational allowance per inmate in 1971 was approximately one dollar, with virtually all suggestions for improvement being rejected on either "budgetary" or "security" grounds. Inmates spent 14 to 16 hours a day in cells 6 feet wide, 9 feet long, and 7 feet high, were inadequately clothed, and were forced to supplement their provisions at a commissary that extracted exorbitant prices from an average monthly earning of \$7.50. (Prior to a strike in the metal shops in 1970, prisoners were paid \$.06 to \$.25 a day, as opposed to the \$.30 to \$1.00 they were earning in September of 1971.)

For Black and Spanish-speaking prisoners, who constituted 63% of the population, things were even worse. Although only 37% of Attica's prisoners were white, they were awarded 70% of the relatively desirable jobs in the powerhouse, composed 67% of the clerks, 70% of the runners, and 62% of the workers in the officers' mess. Conversely, non-whites seem to have had a monopoly on the less sought-after positions, constituting 76% of the metal shop workers and 80% of the "grading companies", who were largely assigned to such menial tasks as shovelling snow.

In addition, the Muslim prisoners, who represented a significant segment of the population, were continually harassed by an administration that refused to allow for their dietary restrictions. (When Commissioner Oswald finally directed the facility's kitchen to provide alternative, non-pork dishes for Muslim inmates, many charged that the administration merely resorted to misrepresentation on the menu.) It was out of such an atmosphere that the uprising of September 13 arose, and with such an administration that the prisoners attempted to negotiate during the ensuing four days.

THE REBELLION

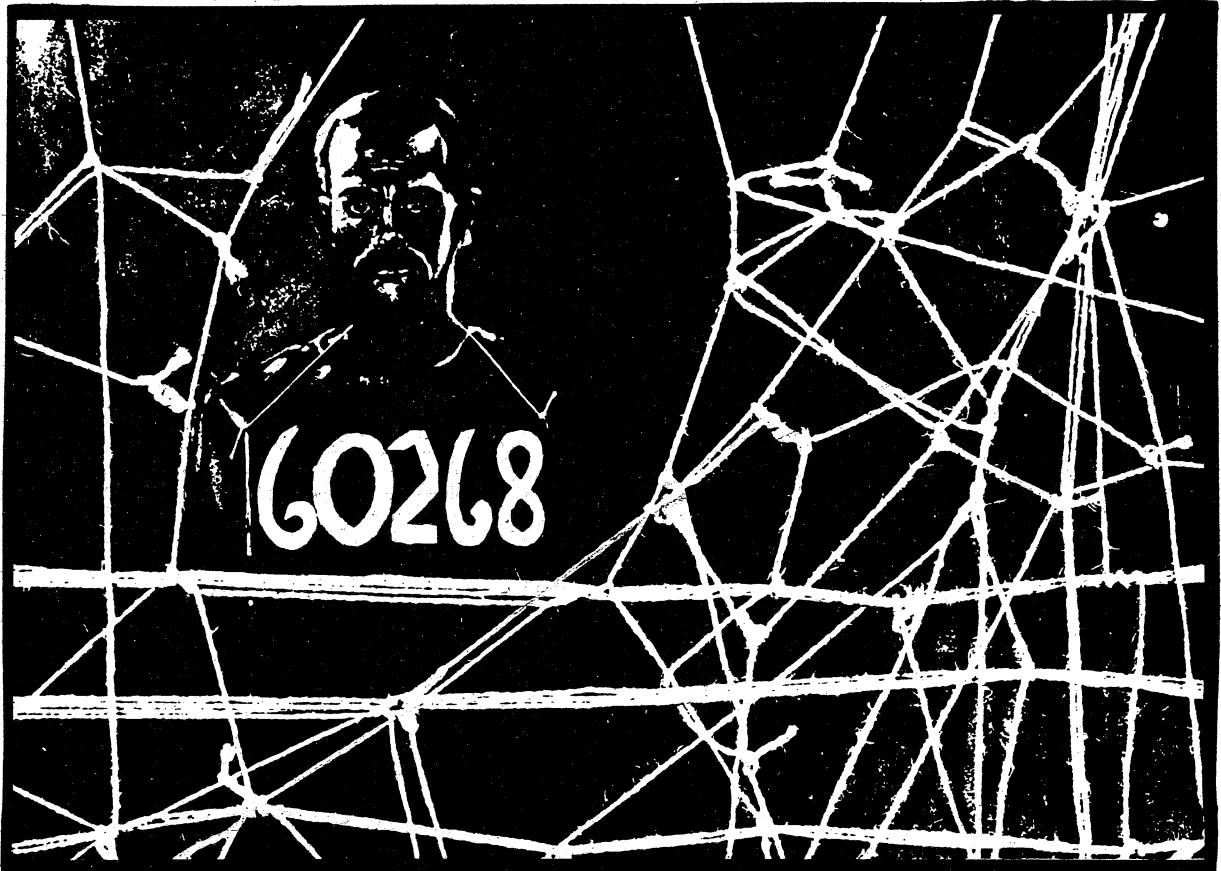
Governor Rockefeller, fearful of establishing a precedent, was against negotiations from the outset. He elected, however, to yield to the judgement of his appointee, Oswald, who initially believed that a peaceful solution was possible. When the talks were hopelessly deadlocked four days later on the issue of amnesty, Rockefeller reportedly refused to leave his residence at Scantico Hills and come to Attica, despite the pleas of his principal representative on the scene, Robert Douglass, as well as those of Commissioner Oswald, a committee of observers who had done the actual bargaining with prisoners in D Yard, the prisoners themselves, and a number of the hostages. From this point on, the assault was inevitable.

September

The Commission has found that "it was not by any process of decision-making, but by default, that the entire responsibility for devising an assault plan devolved upon Major John Monahan, local commander of (State Police) Troop A in Batavia." In addition to Rockefeller's abdication, the Superintendent of the State Police, William Kirwan, took his usual day off on Monday, September 13, and drove to his lodge on Lake George, "where he could be reached by phone if needed." In an agreement signed by both Monahan and Attica Superintendent Vincent Mancusi two hours before the assault, it was proposed that the State Police would control "police matters...such as an assault thrust," while corrections officials would oversee "custodial matters" such as the care of wounded and the rehousing of inmates. One year after the day of the assault, the State Police and the Department of Corrections were still arguing over the definition of these terms, in a

evils of warfare as far as within the signatories' power, and wishing for the amelioration of the conditions of the wounded in armies in the field." The United States was a signatory to this document, which seems to give the U. S. citizens murdered and wounded at Attica the morbid distinction of having been fired upon with devices that their own country supposedly refuses to use on its worst enemies. (Though in fact they are used by the U.S. in Vietnam.)

The McKay Commission, however, seems to have felt compelled to accept, if reluctantly, the State Police justification that such mushrooming bullets lessen the possibility of wounding innocent bystanders by passing through their intended target. Even so, this reasoning is entirely inadequate in explaining the use of the 12 gauge, pump action shotguns, loaded with #00 shot, used on September 13 in the actual clearing of D Yard. These weapons, fired from distances of up to 50 yards,



"60268" by Joel Gaines, Auburn, N.Y. (Midnight Special)

mutual effort to shrink from assuming responsibility for what happened at Attica in the morning and afternoon of September 13, 1971.

Feeling that there was no way to rescue the hostages if the prisoners truly intended to kill them, Major Monahan's first priority in planning the assault was the "safety of the attack force." His troopers were thus prohibited from engaging in hand-to-hand combat with inmates, and were ordered to fire upon any inmate who posed an "imminent threat".

This directive, in conjunction with virtually nonexistent plans for actual supervision of the assault, admittedly necessitated a certain amount of faith in the discretion and restraint of the individual troopers, which the Commission has found "proved in many instances to be misplaced." They report that "from an analysis of the available guidance, the conclusion is inescapable that there was much unnecessary shooting. Troopers shot into tents, trenches, and barricades without looking first."

State Police versions of the action were found in many cases to be "exaggerated, embellished, and even fabricated." Their reports of hostile inmate activity proved to be unsubstantiated by and generally inconsistent with the photographic evidence. The Commission investigators also noted in their report that "a lack of candor, (during interrogation) was encouraged by State Police personnel."

For the assault, in which 30 prisoners and 9 of the hostages died, the State Police were equipped with .270 Winchester big-game hunting rifles and semi-jacketed, Silvertip ammunition, which, in the words of its manufacturer, "penetrates through thick hide and tissue, then deep in vital areas, mushrooms perfectly and releases tremendous energy that stops them cold." The Geneva Convention of 1906 saw fit to outlaw and condemn ammunition of the above description out of a "desire to lessen the inherent e

each released from 5 to 7 potentially

lethal missiles which could not have conceivably hit their intended target. Such findings were obtained from experiments conducted for the Commission by the H. B. White Laboratories of Bel Air, Maryland.

These shotguns also fired single, one-ounce pieces of lead known as "rifled slugs", which are described by their manufacturer as being "suitable for anti-vehicle activity, or whenever tremendous shocking power is required, such as reducing a cement wall to rubble." The State Police knowingly employed this type of ammunition at Attica on September 13, 1971, thus creating, in the words of the Commission, "a high risk of injury and death to unresisting inmates and hostages." Contrary to reports given to the press by corrections officials following the assault, all of the deceased hostages died from gunshot wounds.

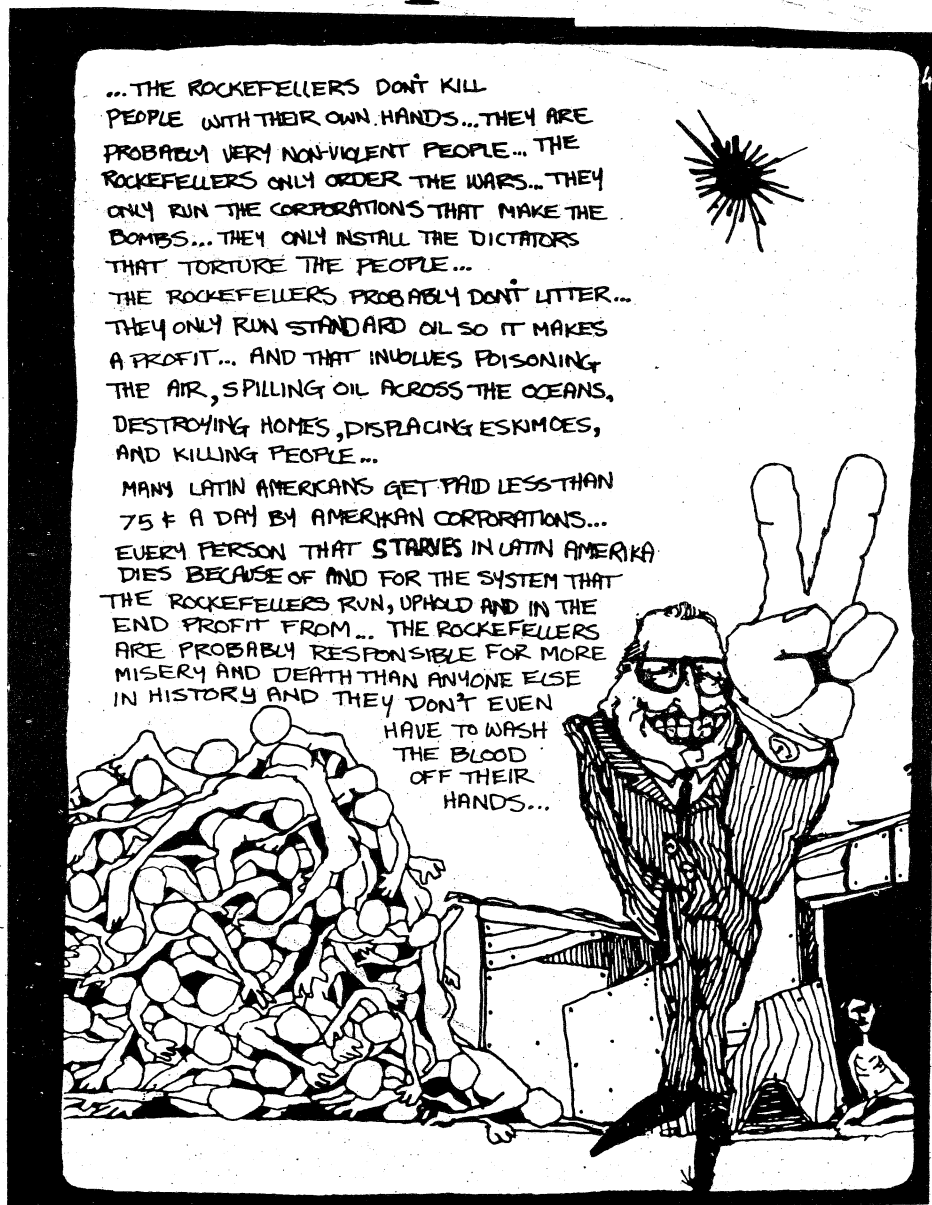
When the official autopsy report affirming the cause of death was issued by the Monroe County Medical Examiner, Dr. John F. Edland, state officials immediately engaged in a systematic attempt to discredit both the report itself and its author. Subsequent examinations by numerous physicians, however, have confirmed Dr. Edland's findings.

Due to their "degree of emotional involvement" in the incident, corrections officials were forbidden by Governor Rockefeller from taking part in the assault. This order mysteriously never reached the prison, however, and several guards participated in the attack, killing at least one prisoner and one hostage.

When the shooting stopped at 9:52 A.M. on Monday morning, there were only 10 medical personnel inside Attica, 2 of whom were doctors, and none of whom were equipped with anything more than small medical bags containing splints and bandages. Local hospitals in Batavia, Rochester, and Buffalo had not been alerted, and even the

Continued on page 15

Stop Nelson Rockefeller



The Incredible Rocky/epf

As representatives of the Attica Brothers, As citizens of the State of New York and the United States, and As human beings, We are outraged by the nomination of Nelson A. Rockefeller for the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

As some of his chief victims, we're all too familiar with his record of public disservice. In particular, we are conscious of his role in and responsibility for the tragedy of Attica. Nelson A. Rockefeller has written the name "Attica" into the world dictionary of crimes against humanity, to be recalled along with such other examples of official barbarism and murder as My Lai, Sharpesville and Wounded Knee. As Chief Executive of the State, Rockefeller held full responsibility for the conditions in Attica prison prior to the rebellion there in September of 1971. As Chief Executive of the State he was responsible for the handling of that uprising. His refusal to go to Attica State Prison, coupled with his order for the state military assault on the unarmed men inside, cost the lives of 43 people. Nelson A. Rockefeller, instead of exhausting every available avenue for a peaceful settlement of prisoner's justified grievances, sent an all white assault force armed with automatic weapons, deer rifles, and ammunition that violated the Geneva Convention to gun down the largely black and Puerto Rican inmate population penned inside.

Though every official investigation since September 1971 has documented the wide-scale governmental lawlessness in connection with the handling of the Attica rebellion, Rockefeller has engaged in continuous efforts to justify the slaughter over which he presided and to whitewash the serious criminal acts committed by himself and his agents.

Through the appointment of a Special Prosecutor and through the illegal use of the Statewide Organized Crime Task Force, Rockefeller has mounted and maintained a set of monstrous prosecutions against the primary victims of the Attica tragedy - the Attica inmates. His Special Prosecutor has obtained not a single indictment against a state official in connection with Attica, while 62 Attica Brothers have

been charged in some 42 indictments. These Rockefeller vendetta prosecutions have been tainted throughout with serious illegalities and are being continued today despite the racially exclusive, biased nature of the grand jury that returned these indictments, despite the failure to enforce the law equally against state officials, despite the willful withholding by the prosecution of information necessary for the defense, despite the gross unfairness of appropriating millions of tax dollars for the prosecution while providing not one dime to the defense.

Rather than elevating this man to the Vice Presidency of the United States, it would seem more appropriate to be considering his abuse of power and his failure to see that the laws were faithfully executed, and any and all other impeachable offenses he committed while Chief

The Rockefeller Family

The Rockefeller family is one of the wealthiest families in the world. Through the persons of the family, their corporations and their foundation, they control Standard Oil of New Jersey (Exxon), the largest oil corporation in the world, other Standard Oil Companies in full or in part (California and Indiana); they control the Chase Manhattan Bank, third largest bank in the U.S.; which controls Safeway, the largest food plant in the U.S. They also own such minor things as Rockefeller Center in mid-town N.Y. City.

The founder of the Rockefeller fortune was John D. Rockefeller, oil magnate, owner of mines, and responsible for the exploitation and even death of countless workers across America and the world. John D., Jr., father of Nelson, continued in his fathers footsteps, being responsible, among other things, for the deaths of 19 miners and their families at Ludlow, Colorado in 1914. Having increased the family fortune, John D., Jr., passed the loot along to his children. One of Nelson's brothers, David, is the president of the Chase Manhattan Bank; another, Winthrop, is the form-

Executive of this state. While it is no longer possible to call him to an accounting in a court of impeachment for his acts as governor, he is still answerable in a court of law for his crimes at Attica. The still sitting Attica grand jury should honor its statutory and constitutional obligation to hear all the evidence relating to crimes before it and receive evidence concerning indictable offenses involving this former Governor and his agents.

We are well aware that the brutality, the racism, the disregard for human life, the arrogance of wealth and power Mr. Rockefeller displayed in the handling of Attica are not unique. Rather they characterize much of his entire political career. Consistently he has exposed his true face through his lack of concern for the poor and black people in this state, his demand for inhumane drug laws and his placing an intolerable tax burden on the backs of the Working man and woman. The callousness at home is echoed in the record of his exploitive corporate ventures abroad, as he extends a personal empire at the expense of the world's poorer and darker peoples.

There are many American traditions -- some of which we can be justly proud -- many of which are a national shame. Nelson A. Rockefeller represents some of the worst in America's past and its present. It is an insult to us and to decent human beings wherever they are that President Ford has brought his name forward as the candidate for the second highest office in the land. Nelson A. Rockefeller is unfit to be the Vice President of the United States. We reject him as our leader and urge all other persons to join us in protesting this nomination and blocking his confirmation.

In this connection the Attica Brothers Legal Defense's central office has today sent telegrams to both houses of Congress deploring the nomination and requesting an opportunity to testify at the confirmation hearings. ABLD had previously scheduled a mass rally at noon on September 14th in Niagra Square to commemorate all who died in Attica 3 years ago and to protest the prosecution of the Attica Brothers in trials that the court is attempting to force us to begin next month. This rally will now address, as well, the need for all persons to voice their opposition to and to work actively against the confirmation of this man as the Vice President of the United States.

Haywood Burns
for Attica Brothers Legal
Defense.

August 21, 1974

er governor of Arkansas. The Rockefeller Foundation was set up by John D., Jr. to avoid having to pay inheritance taxes. It is through the foundation that the family continues to control much of its wealth.

The Rockefeller family has a huge impact on America's government, particularly its foreign policy. Dean Acheson, Truman's secretary of State and the architect of the "Cold War" to contain and prevent the growth of national liberation struggles and socialism, was a former Rockefeller lawyer. John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower's Secretary of State, was also a former Rockefeller lawyer and vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Christian Herter, Eisenhower's second secretary of State, had a son become vice president of Mobil Oil, one of the Standard Oil Companies controlled by the Rockefellers. Dean Rusk, Kennedy's secretary of State, was a former president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Rusk helped create and guide the U.S. attack on the peoples of South-East Asia.

Continued on page 15

McKay Report

prison hospital with its one operating room, had not been notified. Consequently, the first emergency operation on a wounded inmate began at 2:00 p.m. four hours after the assault. Though the decision had been made hours earlier to employ lethal force, and despite fears by state officials that a high casualty rate was unavoidable, there were virtually no arrangements made for the care of the wounded on the morning of the assault. Governor Rockefeller's reaction, when notified of the casualty figures, was that they were "better than he expected."

The Commission thereby concludes that "the assault was marred by considerable excesses", and that "the suffering of the wounded was needlessly prolonged by an inexcusable failure to make adequate prior arrangements for medical attention."



"They took a football and put it under my throat and told me if I moved it, I would be killed. For the next two hours I was used as a human spittoon and as a human ashtray. The scars are still on my body."-- an indicted Attica Brother

THE AFTERMATH

The Commission was also forced to conclude that in the aftermath of the assault, inmates were subjected to widespread physical reprisals as well as "frequent and systematic acts of retribution" which the "officials expected (if only from historical precedent), but did nothing to prevent". Thus, one of the prisoners' principal fears during the negotiations, and one assured against by Commissioner Oswald, became a reality following the assault.

Rockefeller

Nixon first appointed his personal friend, William Rogers, to be Sec. of State, but he was replaced by Henry Kissinger, a former personal advisor to Rockefeller. And this is but the tip of an immense iceberg which shuttles people through the Rockefeller Foundation, or one of its "study groups", through Harvard, on to the government, and back to the Rockefeller.

Rockefeller, who has held various government positions since the 40's, was elected governor of New York. While governor, he had, among other things, the following to his credit:

- 1) Slashed the welfare rolls by 23%.
- 2) Advocated the abolition of rent control.
- 3) Advocated the re-instatement of capital punishment.
- 4) Ordered the massacre of Sept. 13, 1971, which left 43 dead at Attica Prison.

Rockefeller has always wanted to be President of the U.S. A year ago he resigned as Governor and set up a "Commission on Critical Choices", headed by himself and designed to push the future of America in the direction he wants.

Among the persons on this "Commission" are: Robert Anderson, chairman of Atlantic-Richfield Oil, a subordinate of Standard; Edward Teller, noted right-winger and "Father of the H-Bomb"; Daniel Moynihan, advocate of the idea that black family structure is inferior to white's and author of the anti-poor family assistance program;

September



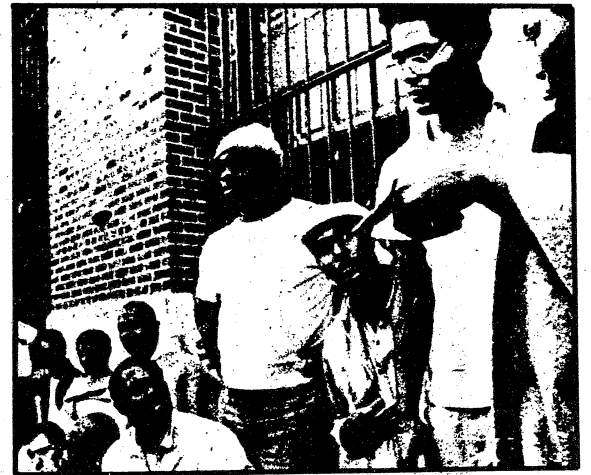
The one plan, according to Deputy Commissioner Van Ekeren, which would have avoided the possibility of reprisals on a large scale (by immediately reclothing and transferring all inmates fit to travel to other prisons) was discarded, in order to "facilitate the interrogations of criminal prosecutors".

As a result, prisoners were forced to stip, crawl on their stomachs in the mud while being beaten, and run through a gauntlet of club-wielding corrections officers in A tunnel. They were then locked 3 to 4 to a cell in A Block, some of them still naked. Senator John Dunne, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Dunbar, was walking through this area of the prison after the assault when they came upon the above scene. When asked by the Commission's investigators to clarify this point, however, Dunbar had "no recollection" of seeing any gauntlet.

The man in charge of the overall rehousing of the inmates, Superintendent Vincent Mancusi, spent the entire day in his office, upon what he states were the direct orders of Commissioner Oswald. Oswald testified before the Commission that he "was sure he did not give Mancusi those orders."

These contradictions seem to be consistent with what was, at best, a general atmosphere of confusion and dereliction of duty among state officials on September 13. Soon after the assault, Dunbar released a statement to the press and a group of legislators which included accounts of hostages being castrated and murdered by inmates prior to and during the assault. Although he claimed to have photographic evidence for these allegations, they all proved to be untrue, which unfortunately did not prevent them from being broadcast around the world. Governor Rockefeller himself stated to the national media that the prisoners were guilty of "cold-blooded killings". In light of this pervasive and indiscriminate dissemination of false reports to the press, the McKay Commission concludes that "rather than seek to verify rumors, officials helped to circulate them."

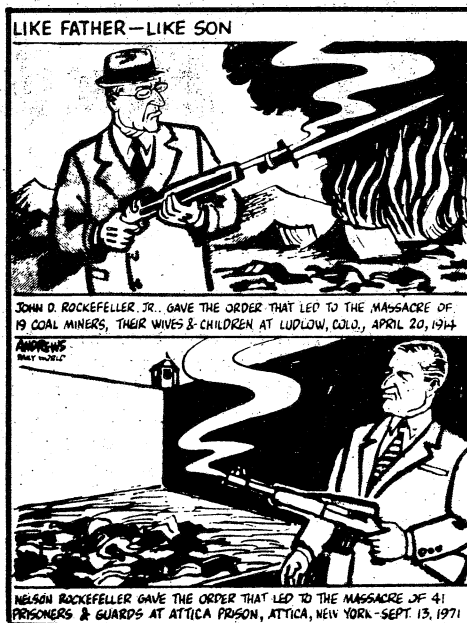
Eight days after the assault, however, an independent panel of doctors (who needed a court injunction to gain access to the prison) found broken bones, bruises, and lacerations on 45% of all the inmates who survived the massacre in D Yard. (Evidence of especially severe beatings was found in the disciplinary section of the prison, where 80 suspected leaders of the uprising were taken immediately after the assault and segregated there indefinitely. This may perhaps account for these particular prisoners' suspicion of the Commission's investigators.)



The McKay Commission's report on the Attica uprising and the recommendations for restructuring New York's correctional system which accompany it were signed on September 13, 1972, exactly one year after 39 people died in D Yard. Since that date, the Department of Corrections has made some minor changes at the prison, but life at Attica remains largely what it was on the day of the revolt. Prisoners still earn an average of \$.61 a day, and the main physical addition to the institution has been the erection of gun towers along the walls, at the demand of the guards and at great expense to the taxpayers. On the other hand, 67 prisoners have since been indicted by Deputy Attorney General Fischer for crimes allegedly committed during the uprising. No police or guards have been indicted. So much for the tangible results of the State's own Criminal investigation.

the existing economic and political structures in the U.S. They are people who profit from rising food and gasoline prices, people who have perpetrated the massacres of poor people all over the world and here, at home, at Kent State, Jackson State, Wounded Knee, and Attica. They are the people who cause little Atticas to happen daily on the streets of the U.S., people who cry for law and order and then break the laws with impunity and create the greatest disorder and misorder the world has ever known. The conditions of oppressed people is critical enough as it is. We must not let Rockefeller's Commission make it even more critical. We want to make our own choices, not have Rockefeller make them for us. We must stop Rockefeller, we must stop the Commission, We must Fight Back!"

But at this point it appears Rockefeller keeps moving on. Now Jerry Ford, the used car who replaced Tricky Dick, wants Rockefeller, "The Butcher", to be his Vice-President. Of course the Congress, which as a whole has essentially the same views as Rocky, will not be bothered that Rockefeller has perpetrated and applauded mass murder and theft around the globe. They will only be concerned about whether Rocky has had illegal financial dealings, etc. With his money, he writes the laws to fit him; with his money, why should he accept a bribe, or even give one? We have gone from a used-car salesman to a lemon with a butcher of humans as the driver.



Daily World/epf

William Baker, president of Bell Telephone Labs, Inc. and trustee of Rockefeller U.; and George Woods, former president of the World Bank (now headed by former "Defense" Secretary McNamara), and Rockefeller Financial Advisor.

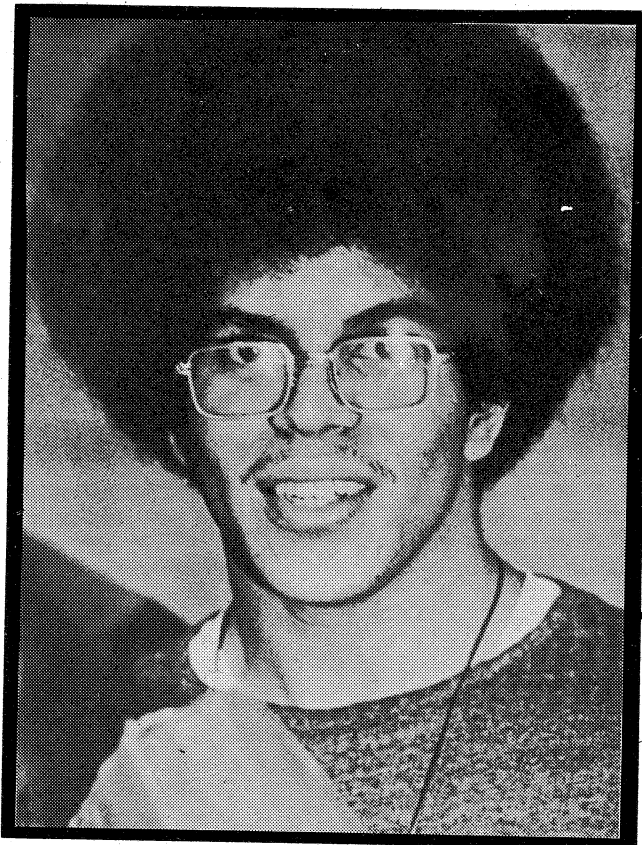
Of the 40 persons on the "Commission" none are Chicano, none are Puerto Rican, none are Native American, only three are black, only six are women. Anyone care for a guess as to what direction they intend to push America?

The Attica Brothers say, "The members of the Rockefeller Commission on Critical Choices have an interest in preserving

Hungry

BY DALOU ASAHI

1. i was a ghetto's kid just one in a family of 8, living in a 4 room apt. we called it a penthouse - though i was hungry.
2. i was a ghetto's kid in the spring, no clothes on easter, hitting bodegas, getting caught and cut loose - though i was hungry.
3. i was a ghetto's kid in the summer, playing in the street's pump, got hit by a car twice, but it was nothing, i got well - though i was hungry.
4. i was a ghetto's kid in the autumn, no welfare check, mama didn't pay the bill, the landlord cut off the light and the boiler broke down - though i was hungry.
5. i was a ghetto's kid in the winter, throwing snowballs in someone's face, in a car, in a taxi, or in a bus, i got kicked, stabbed and shot - cause i was hungry.
6. but now i'm locked up, and sometimes i wonder, "am i a ghetto's kid?" must be, cause - i am still hungry.



Dalou Asahi

Sister

O sister - my half, i must admit,
i did you wrong, i mislead you,
i kept you inferior, i always hurt
you,
i put you in the corner, a symbol
for sex,
but i didn't see you
for what you really are

O sister - your beauty - i overlooked,
your
authenticity - i misjudged, your
sincerity -
i played on, your brightness - i
covered,
your heart - i cheated...

O sister - i need you, Please
forgive me...
i see - you saw, i hear - you heard,
the truth - i've learned,
Our struggle is one,
for that is our deed
Forward with the struggle
Both sisters and brothers...

Dalou Asahi

Due Process??

By Arnie King - Walpole

Since early 1972, black youth have systematically been ripped off from the communities and railroaded into Walpole. Arrested on a suspicion tip, later charged with a felony, the brother encounters the racist state court. Naturally, born poor, he is subjected to the assistance of a state agent for legal counsel. The legal advice given to the brother is usually that which best serves the interests of the criminal justice system and not the man. Pleaing guilty to the trumped up charge is inevitable, being that the advice of the state-appointed lawyer suggests it to be the only way to win. The public defender, commonly known as the penitentiary deliverer, refuses to devote his time and energy into preparing an adequate defense for his client. The P.D. realizes that the court's plan to destroy the young black nation and, because he is a paid agent of the court, he must act in accord with the court.

A present example of this criminal justice system operation is the case of Tyrone Clark. Brother Tyrone was indicted by the grand jury on the charge of rape/robbery of a white girl. Only nineteen at the time of the arrest, he was sentenced to natural life in Walpole on the most conflicting of so-called facts. The following is some of

the information that sent Brother Tyrone to Walpole:

1.) The victim testified that the attacker was stabbed several times in the back by her during the attack, in which the knife was broken off in his back. Shortly after being arrested, Brother Tyrone was examined and there were no wounds/scars on him.

2.) The victim also testified that afterwards she walked the streets with him for the remainder of the day. She also stated that they went inside a restaurant to eat dinner, in which a conversation developed between a Puerto Rican waiter and her assailant in Spanish dialect. Now Brother Tyrone, with an 8th grade education, possesses an early age speech defect. It is well known to all that he doesn't speak any Spanish.

3.) The victim stated that her attacker was 5' 10", weighing more than 160 pounds. Brother Tyrone is 5' 5" and weighs approximately 130 pounds.

This testimony is truly insufficient to warrant conviction in any court. Though Brother Tyrone's case is not unique in Walpole, it is definitely not an everyday thing. It happens frequently enough that we must see the significance of these actions and protect our youth from experiencing the same as we have. Who may be the next victim of the state's judicial process? It may be you....or someone close to yourself. Check it out.....it may be you.

Support Statement

N.H.S.P. NEPA Board of Directors, for the Chapter

August and September are and will long be remembered as months that are significant for the prisoners' movement for Dignity, Unity, and Freedom. On August 7, 1970, Jonathan Jackson, 17 year old Black man-child, fell in battle as he led the Marin County Courthouse Raid. A year later, on August 21, 1971, George Jackson was murdered by California prison guards. From September 9 to 13, 1971, the Attica brothers rose up from their slave like conditions and nobly proclaimed their dignity as men and their need for justice as prisoners; they were answered by the murderous, blazing guns of Rockefeller's New York State Troopers and assorted other 'law' men. Yet by no means have these been the only significant or heroic actions of prisoners, for we are all aware of some of the countless lock-ups, beatings, and other injustices that prisoners have been subjected to in all the states of this union.

The Jackson Brothers and Attica have come to symbolize both the best aspects of prisoners' determination, unity, and struggle, as well as the vicious reprisals that the police/prison powers will use to try to stamp out these actions of prisoners. There are dozens of lessons that these events teach us, but what we see as most significant are:

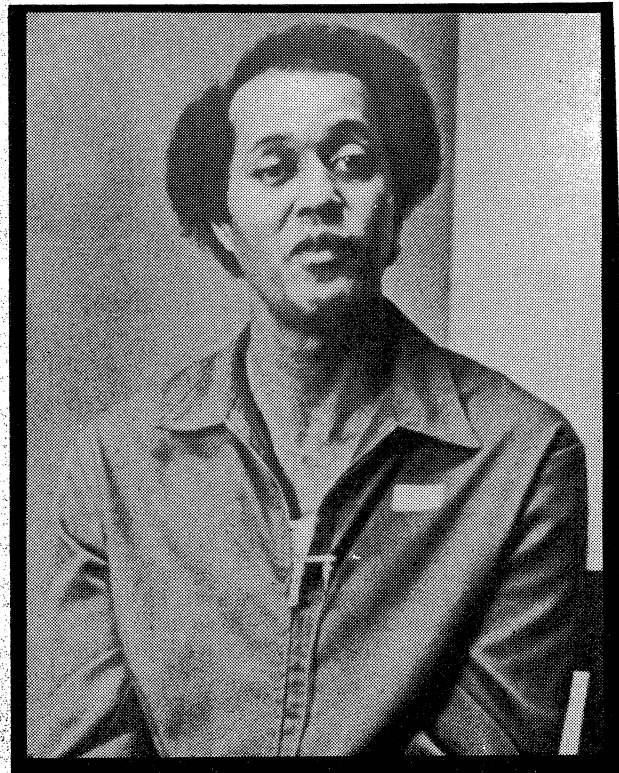
1.) The need for unity, as George Jackson both wrote about and put into practice in his organizing work; and as was shown when over 1500 men at Attica, black, white, Indian, and Puerto Rican, joined together as one, with one voice, one set of demands that took into consideration not only the inhuman treatment that all prisoners face, but also the special racist conditions and treatment that the non-white brothers had to deal with.

2.) The need for determined struggle, again as George showed when for year after long year he demanded and fought for the rights of all prisoners, even though the prison keepers kept locking him further and further into their dungeons; and as the Attica brothers also demonstrated, when after years of petitioning, court actions, and individual protests, they did not hesitate to take even stronger means when they saw that all else failed.

3.) And, finally, we must now clearly understand that the prison keepers, their politician backers, and the whole police system will not hesitate to use extreme force and even murder as a method to stop the just demands of prisoners; not just murder of prisoners, but, where necessary, as in Attica, murder of their own as well.

It is with these lessons in mind, and with the burning determination of the Attica brothers and Jon and George Jackson, as well as all the other thousands of prisoners who have risen up and screamed for justice, that we continue our own struggle here in New Hampshire State Prison. In unity with all others who are serious, with determination, and a realistic understanding of our keeper, we will continue to fight for justice.

STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY



Letters



Dear NEPA,

Shelley Cooper Neill's article about our Woodstock Prisoner Support Group has caused a great deal of concern both within the group and inside the Woodstock jail. There are several aspects of the researching and writing of the article that the Support Group feels NEPA should make standard policy to avoid.

Much of our distress might have been avoided if Ms. Neill had told us she was writing the article... Some of the false impressions she apparently received could have been corrected by members of our group, who have had far more exposure to the Woodstock jail than Ms. Neill.

Of prime importance is permission from prisoners to write about their specific situations. A prisoner should have the choice of going public and the opportunity to make sure that what's being printed is the way he really feels.

This lack of communication between Ms. Neill and the people she wrote about and the lack of research she did led to an over-emotional, one-sided, inaccurate article. The description of the jail (drably painted, a library of books insulting to anyone who can read), points out Ms. Neill's extreme bias against the jail before she even met anyone. Actually, the jail is a nice brick building on the outside, and painted inside in the same kinds of light colors seen in most other buildings in the country; included in the library are encyclopedias, law books, magazines, and many good unabridged novels. No part of the jail is heaven, but it's not the hole Ms. Neill describes either.

Before Ms. Neill made her comments about the jail sexism, she should have talked to some of the men inside. She would have found that their plight was not really any rosier than that of the women. Certainly the men are treated somewhat differently than the women, (they are also a different type of population, mostly detentioners), but they aren't treated better.

Presenting one side of an issue only serves to distort the issue and make it more emotional. This shallow investigation (one two-hour visit with prisoners and the Support Group), in which no attempt was made to verify allegations or to obtain permission to print them, has hurt communication between the jail's staff and us as well as between the staff and the prisoners. The prison support movement cannot afford this kind of thoughtlessness. It should be the responsibility of the NEPA editors to see that NEPA News articles are written objectively, accurately, and with proper permission.

Sincerely,

August Meyer
Karen Andersen

Representing WPSG

Dear August and Karen,

I must begin by responding now, as I have in the past to those individuals past and present incarcerated at W.C.C.C. and to those men and women who work with the W.P.S.G.; that I am very sorry about the amount of confusion and bad feelings that have been generated over the last few months about my article, Woodstock Jail & Support Group. It is extremely unfortunate that so much was misunderstood.

At the time I visited with the Support Group and those women incarcerated at W.C.C.C., I sincerely believed a clear understanding of who and what I was about had been communicated. It is not and has never been my intention to report a "one-sided...inaccurate" accounting. Again, it was/is my understanding

September

by Tom Swift

In concern of the Independents Day protest staged in Bridgewater there are a great deal of things to be said concerning what happened, as well as why.

First, your August Article mentioned that the ten men were in the tree for only an hour; when actually we went up together at 8:30 p.m. and the last three of us were in the tree until shortly before 6:00 a.m. the morning of the 5th. The last three of us came out of the tree because we allowed ourselves to be duped into believing that Superintendent Gaughan was on his way to talk to us. This guarantee, as usual in the prison system, was not lived up to.

At the time we came down we felt we didn't have enough numbers to remain atop the tree in a peaceful manner. From our side the protest was peaceful throughout; while some of the guards pulled the lower branches from the tree so that they could have a clear shot at the men higher up in the tree. Several times they threw articles at us in an attempt to incite us. We remained calm.

The reasons we took this action was because the entire State Hospital population is sick of the brutality that takes place here. The prisoners have a long list of legitimate grievances, and at the top of that list is the fact that Gaughan refuses to deal with any of the grievances. He further states that we, as mental patients, have no rights to assembly or to choose any organization that we ourselves choose to hear our grievances. In the present case this is NEPA. Many of us looked hard through the law books in the State Hospital Library (until they took out all the law books) in an attempt to find such a law. While we found this law not to be in the books, there were found many other laws, covering much of what went on on a daily basis within the State Hospital: involuntary servitude, cruel and unusual treatment, undue harassment, as well as others.

This has gone on over a period of many years and has had the result of totally submitting the patient/prisoners to an iron fist rule.



that those persons about whom I wrote, had been informed of my intentions to do so. I can only say that in the future, I will make a stronger effort to be clear.

Several specifics however, with regard to my reporting, I still stand by.

The description of the jail is in my opinion, accurate. It may be that the inside of "most other buildings" are the same as the colors inside of W.C.C.C. This fact does not make the colors any more liveable or less drab.

I feel your statement regarding the library is also unfair. I spent time looking through the available reading materials at W.C.C.C., and my conclusion, then and now, is that unabridged novels that appear in the Reader's Digest and novels which are, for the most part, third rate fiction from the 1930-40's are much, much less than those men and women incarcerated deserve. I do not doubt that the law books and encyclopedias are available;

For so long as the authorities have a free run at Bridgewater, they think little or nothing of mail tampering, not allowing visits on the mearest suspicion that the visitor might be working with a group, or because they don't want the inmate to leak out things that go on here.

The authorities also lock people in the "f" ward area, which is supposedly for "medical re-evaluation", and forget about them for months at a time. All this is done without any disciplinary hearings at all. The authorities contend that you cannot be locked up for punishment, so there is no reason for any hearing. Of course they have also contended that they come under the Dept. of Mental Health, which is just as untrue.

Now, did the overnight stand of so few make a difference as to the policies? Yes. As pressures have been brought to the surface with the people on the outside. Court suits are being filed that never made it past the front door before; and further, the patient/prisoners have been brought together and have seen that there are ways in which they can go about getting their rightful treatment while incarcerated there. Right now the lid has temporarily been closed to the inmates communicating with the outside world. But people on the street are interested in what is going on behind the green door. Federal Justices are showing an interest that has not until last year been shown.

The juveniles that were being kept there for so long are now being moved out to better places. This was for a long time the # 1 complaint: that it was wrong to mix youngsters in with an older group in such a place. There is legislation being put forth to make sure that the youngsters are kept out of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater has gone on for a long time with no significant change whatsoever. Mr. Gaughan has also enjoyed a sixteen year career in this institution as its administrator. Many times he has openly talked about all the changes he was going to make and for the last seven years has had a scapegoat from making these changes, in the fact that a new State Hospital was being built.

Bridgewater is coming out of the dark ages, at last; but the people incarcerated there need constant and strong surveillance from outside groups to make sure the authorities don't backslide as they have been known to in the past.

The men there in all categories want help to help themselves, and to become useful citizens of society. This help is needed from group and people in private life. Patient/Prisoners too have rights to seek their mental well-being.

(Tom is now in Walpole prison, having been shipped out of Bridgewater on July 5th.-ed.)

however, they were not on the shelves when I was at the WCCC. My personal criteria is that books should "Educate to Liberate"; the books I saw do not perform that function.

Finally, one point that I consider crucial, your statement regarding the plight of men at the WCCC. I realize that no one incarcerated in the U.S. today has a "rosy" time (with the possible exception of Watergate Wonders Colson, Magruder, Krogh, etc. who pass the time putting on the green). The conditions for both men and women are atrocious; the walls must be torn down for both. However, in day-to-day life in America "Woman is the Nigger of the Earth". I have yet to see anything in any woman's joint I have visited which proves any different.

In closing, let me say that I believe we are all working toward the same goals; let's keep putting our much-needed energy there.

Shelley Cooper Neill

News from New England and Around

Well, we have ourselves a new President now. The establishment media is falling all over itself telling us how the system works and how good and great is Gerry Ford. From our view, used car salesman Nixon stuck us with a lemon as his final sale--a junk Ford. Ford has announced he will fight inflation by cutting government services (he has already vetoed a legal aid bill) except for that biggest service of all--the Pentagon.

If anyone doubts where Ford is at, look who he wants a vice-President: Nelson "The Butcher" Rockefeller, noted for his wealth and for ordering the slaughter of 39 unarmed men at Attica. For all of you who still have copies of the first NEPA NEWS, you can write "Apprehended" across the face of Nixon--but we now have more men wanted for crimes against the people, and the list is headed by Junk Ford and Nellie the Butcher.

Well, as we go to press our new used car pardoned his salesman. In essence, this means that Nixon is not leagally responsible for: mass murder in Indochina; counter-revolution in Chile, leading to mass murder; political repression of his opposition, both in America and abroad; anti-poor and working class activities; endorsing and encouraging burglary, conspiracy, perjury; and subversion, or attempted subversion, of the pretences and limited actuality of American freedom. It is beyond our comprehension that there is any person now incarcerated in American prisons who has committed more atrocious, systematic and extensive crimes than has Richard M. Nixon. If Nixon deserves a pardon, then there is no one, anywhere, who does not also deserve a pardon.

September 3 marked the fifth anniversary of the death of Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietnamese Peoples revolution for nearly forty years. He led the people of Vietnam against the French imperialists and then the American imperialists; the first war was won, the second has nearly been finished now, also with success. Ho was a true leader and a true servant of his people.

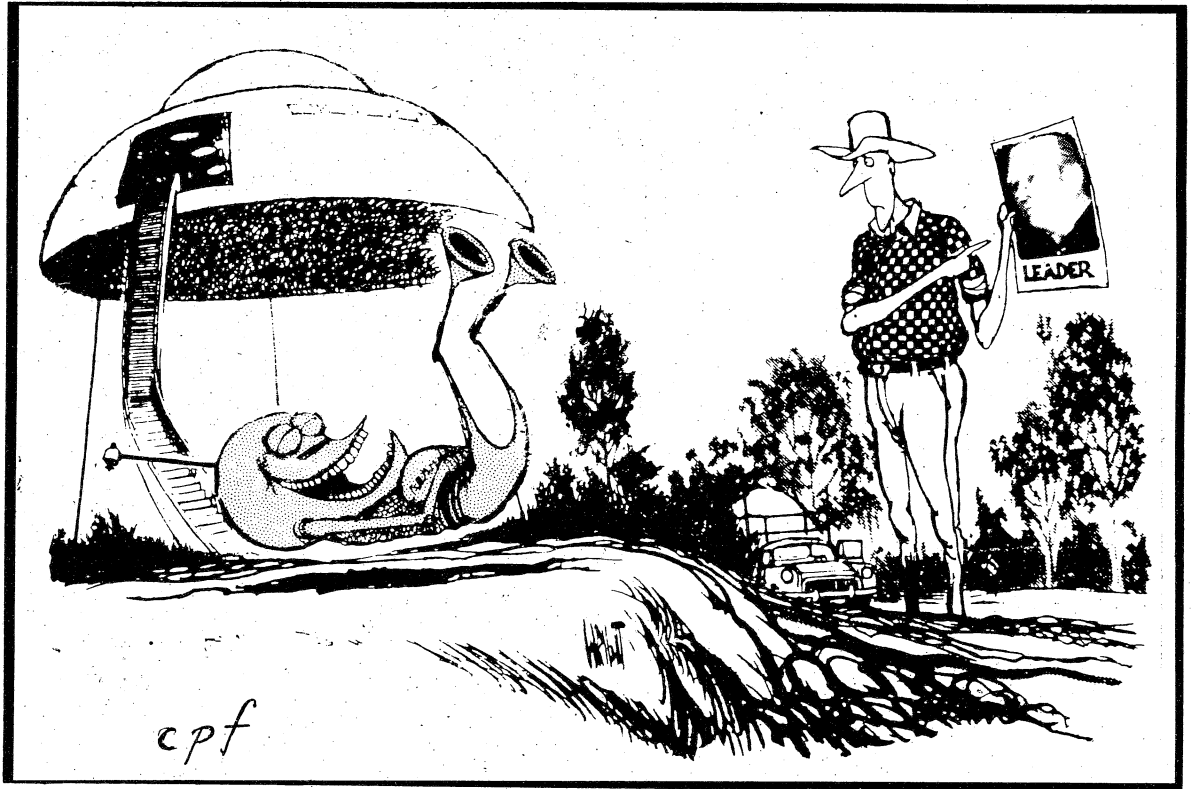
Marion, Ill.

On July 31, 1974 Rafiki, a.k.a. Edward Sanchez, attempted to take a guard hostage at the Marion, Illinois Federal Pen. In a letter sent to The Call, Rafiki said, "My act was solely political as I sought intervention by the public for the prisoners confined in Behavior Modification programs across the country."

Rafiki has been in the forefront of the fight against behavior mod. He was a leader among the prisoners confined in the START program in Springfield, Mo., a program closed by order of Judge James Oliver after protest from within and without. The January, 74 issue of NEPA NEWS printed excerpts from Rafiki's letters explaining the tortures to which he and the other resisting prisoners were subjected.

Marion, Ill. is the "graveyard" of the Federal system. At Marion they have the CARE (Control and Rehabilitative Effort) Program. The prisoners at Marion seek to close this program as they closed the START program. A heavy in setting up behavior mod programs at Marion was a Dr. Groder. Groder got so good at it he is now in charge of the ultra-behavior mod joint-to-be in Butner, N.C.

In his letter to The Call Rafiki said, "Help halt this 1984 house of horrors by writing to U.S. District Judge James Foreman of the U.S. District Court for Eastern Illinois at Danville, Ill. and demand that he close the infamous Control Unit (CARE-ed.) at the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion, Ill. and release the men from their intolerable and cruel confinement."



Tis the season to be locked up and shaken down. This past month have seen lock-ups and shake-downs at Windsor, Vt., Walpole, Ma. and Concord, N. H. Can it be that the various administrations still believe that intimidation can eradicate consciousness? Articles and letters on these stories are in this issue.

ACI News

Since the age of 6 Miss Bonnie Leighton of Pawtucket, R.I. has been confined to an iron lung because she is a polio victim. Her spirit is not only commendable but admirable, making everyone love her. Bonnie is now 32 years old.

Nick Palmigiano of the ACI is sponsoring a fund drive with all proceeds going to Bonnie. A banquet will be held at the ACI on September 1, 1974 and Warden James W. Mullen will present a check to Bonnie.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Bonnie Leighton Fund, please send your donation to:

Bonnie Leighton Fund
Box 8273
Cranston, R. I. 02920

The ACI Library is finally looking like a library ought to look--full of books. Prisoners of the ACI are appreciative of the generous contributions made by citizens, organizations, and book stores throughout R.I. THANK YOU!

We regret we cannot thank everyone personally for their contribution, but we can publicly name a few substantial donors. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following book stores:

The Book Shelf, 1639 Warwick Ave. Warwick, R.I.
College Hill Book Store, 252 Thayer, Providence, R.I.
Dorrwar Book Store, 224 Thayer St., Providence, R.I.
The Book Mark, 285 Thayer St., Providence, R.I.
Paper Back Book Store, 135 Weybosset St., Providence, R.I.

The Coventry, R.I. Jaycees have adopted the ACI book drive as a project. Through their efforts we will benefit by approximately 300,000 books. How can one expect to top that contribution? Fantastic!

The ACI Jaycees held a Board of Directors meeting on August 5th with Len Denomme, R.I. State President, Donald Vornadore, Staff Office of the U.S. Jaycees and Al Murffin attending. After the usual business was concluded those outside members were given a tour of the prison. As promised at our previous meeting, the Jaycees as a whole are showing sincere interest. Welcome aboard.

A new tennis court was recently completed by inmates in the maximum security prison yard, located on the site of the old carpenter shop. Interviewing inmate Frank Fargnoli at the court, we got a very interesting story as to how the project started.

"Slave-driver", an inmate, started the action by grading the dirt on the site. When he was released, work stopped and grass grew over the graded area. Then, Nick Palmigiano and Frank Marrapese decided to continue the project, joined by inmates Frank Fargnoli, Alex Mancini, Ray Jacques and Jim Wicker.

For three days Alex and Frank raked the site, then Nick arranged for the state grader to re-grade the site. All inmates involved then raked and cleared rocks. Marrapese, at his own expense, obtained the clay for the court and for one and a half days the inmates raked the clay. Marrapese, using his own equipment, laid the asphalt, using a rooler to flatten the surface. Devoting almost all their free time the inmates raked and shaped the court. Nick Palmigiano had ordered green paint for the court and a net. The state has refused to pay for these necessary items that the inmates worked so diligently for and one can understand the reason for them being upset.

Frank explained that the state originally intended to build two courts to accommodate the large number of inmates using this facility. There is still an empty lot next to the court, strewn with rubble. The courts are popular with all inmates and remain full most of the time caused in part by the lack of sufficient recreational facilities. The painstaking efforts of those who worked on this court to benefit all in the institution would best be served by the state, if they would abandon their reluctance to build a second court, by providing the needed materials.

We would like to praise the inmates involved for hard work, thus giving us the best recreational facility here.

ACI Humor

by Jean Duffy (Women's Unit)

Prisoners of the R.I. Adult Correctional Institutions, as a means of communication between administrative personnel, submit a form titled "Request for Interview" better known as a "Pink Slip" because the form is printed on pink paper. On the form the prisoner writes out his/her request of whatever problem he/she has.

One such request was submitted by a staff reporter for the NPRA NEWS and deserves to be called to your attention.

TO: Warden James W. Mullen
FROM: Jean Duffy (Women's Unit)

I respectfully request an interview regarding: Would I be able to go to my own funeral? Please! Do you think I'll ever get a Yes?

DISPOSITION OF CASE:

Interviewer's Comments:

*No you may not go to your own funeral.
/s/ James W. Mullen, Warden*

Mass.

We received an anonymous mimeod sheet in the mail the other day from MCI-Concord. It called for a memorial week from Sept. 8-13 to commemorate the Attica Brothers.

Fast week for our brothers who were killed in battle, fighting for a cause they believed in, shot to death while struggling for each and every one of us.

All inmates participating should agree to fast during the noon meal on Monday. We should also refrain from work for the rest of the week. Within this time period we should be able to come to some agreement with the administration on the following:

1) Harassment in the Visiting Room and Mail Room. Revision and improvement of the present system (this is not a drug house, it's a prison).

2) Improvement of the present medical staff (the system calls for "Care and custody, in that order).

3) An end to petty 'D' reports and Kangaroo 'D' Board hearings. (Half the officers bring the offences on themselves.) Removal of the badges, uniforms, whistles and chains (we're people, not animals).

4) An end to loss of furlough, parole, and use of court as threats by the administration. We're men entitled to rights, not children entitled to privileges.

As we go to press we do not know of the results of the mimeod sheet inside Concord. Hopefully we will have a report next issue.

Daily World/cpf



On Labor Day, two legislators visited Ten Block at Walpole Prison in Massachusetts and talked to Jerry Sousa, Arty Morrow and Bobby Daigle. NEPA called a press conference on the steps of Walpole, at which time these legislators verified the hunger strike and the deplorable and repressive conditions to which these men are being illegally subjected in the Departmental Segregation Unit. The legislators demanded that Ten Block be opened to the media so that the public could view the utter waste of millions of their tax dollars which are supposedly being used for "rehabilitation." They also vowed to confront Corrections Commissioner Frank Hall on the issue, stating that he had a "moral responsibility" to order a further investigation.

Prisoner Jimmy Bell, who has initiated numerous suits against both Bridgewater and the Department of Corrections, and who has also been the primary NEPA organizer inside Bridgewater, is now being segregated in what is infamously known as "the fort". Efforts are being made by NEPA attorneys to secure his release. This is just another repressive tactic by the backward Gaughan administration of this prison for the so-called criminally insane.

On Sept. 3rd the first meeting of the New Bedford NEPA chapter was held. They are hoping to coordinate efforts of concerned citizens in the area with the local state prisons and county jails. They have planned a demonstration and leafleting at Bridgewater for Sept. 11th.

The demonstration will focus on the issue of ACCESS. NEPA remains banned from the prison and all mail is still illegally seized. Continuing efforts are being planned to open the repulsive conditions of Backwards Bridgewater to public scrutiny.

September

Two months ago the Massachusetts Governor's Commission investigated the beating of Danny Martin and presented Commissioner of Corrections, Frank Hall, with what was reportedly a scathing indictment of the eight guards involved. The report recommended their immediate dismissal. After considerable pressure and threats from the Guards' union, the report was not released, but forwarded to District Attorney George Burke, whose views on prisoners are well known. The type of justice we have come to expect from the Department of Corrections can be found in this example. Instead of the guards being reprimanded in any way, Danny has been sent from Nine Block, where he was awaiting action, to Ten Block, where he is continuing to be punished under the rubric of "Administrative Segregation."

It's about time we started to move on this and demand Danny's immediate release to population. The new NPRA Board at Walpole has made this one of their priority demands along with the release of Jerry Sousa, Arty Morrow, and Bobby Daigle. They have been caged in Ten Block for eleven months now.

The time has come to close down Ten Block for good!

Any Massachusetts prisoners who would like to sell handicrafts or leather goods in some outlet other than the front room of a prison contact Pam Nickerson at 26 Ellery St., Cambridge. She and some other women have a small shop in Cambridge and are willing to sell prisoners' goods at their store. They know how cons are exploited with slave-labor wages, so they'll be willing to donate the space in their store with no charge. Just get in touch with Pam and we'll try to work out arrangements to get the crafts there. There is plenty of demand for your work...all you have to do is provide the supply.

Prisoners Rights

The Prisoners Rights Project is currently looking for an Executive Director. The Project is a Federally funded group of lawyers and paraprofessionals in Boston who, for the last year and a half, have been providing comprehensive legal services to prisoners at Walpole and Framingham.

The Project is looking for a person with administrative and criminal or prison law experience who is interested in working in the following areas.:

Administrative: Overall supervision of the project. This includes supervision of the staff, the finances, recruitment of volunteers, etc.

Legal: Assist staff in its work. The director should be familiar with several substantive areas of the law involved in prison work and should be able to coordinate the caseloads of the staff to insure the optimum utilization of our resources in providing quality service.

Liaison: In addition to becoming familiar with needs and goals of prisoners, the Director represents the project in communicating with community groups, other groups involved with prison work, the Department of Correction, prison administrations and the courts.

Available immediately, pays \$14,000. Info, applications, resumes to: Bernard Groosberg, Esq., Prisoners Rights Project, 2 Park Square, Room 616, Boston, Ma. 02116

Court Decision

In the case of Richardson v. Ramirez--- U.S.---(1974), the U.S. Supreme Court, working on a strict basis of the 14th Amendment, upheld the right of states to withhold voting privileges from ex-felons. In a 6 to 3 opinion, the Court said that Section 2 of the amendment leaves a presumption that the states may deny a franchise "for participation in rebellion, or other crime." The issue of other disabilities to ex-offenders was not addressed in the majority or dissenting opinion.

NHSP

The Prison Reform Council (PRC) at New Hampshire State Prison held a meeting of the full population to elect new officers. About 100 men voted. The new officers are: Leon Chasse, Executive Secretary; Lionel Pelquin; Eddy McMillan; Ron Gelinis; Richard Dunne; Bob Breest; and Caryl Hoitt, legal advisor.

Impeach Manson

The campaign to impeach Connecticut Corrections Commissioner John R. Manson is beginning to gather some momentum. Tony Saia, formerly incarcerated at Somers, Ct. and now at the Federal Pen in Marion, Ill., who initiated the move to impeach Manson, received the following letter:

August 19, 1974

Dear Mr. Saia:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 8, 1974. However, Mr. Stewart has been away on vacation since that time. We have begun a preliminary investigation into the matters contained in your correspondence with us and feel that the situation does warrant further attention. We have discussed this with several involved individuals and do have some serious questions in the matter. We are unsure, however, as to the extent which this office may act in your behalf against Commissioner Manson, as Mr. Stewart has recently been appointed to the Public Utilities Commission. We will keep you advised in this regard.

(S) Josephine M. Lemieux
Legal Asst.

The above-mentioned Mr. Stewart is an attorney in the office of Ct. House Speaker Collins. As Tony pointed out in a letter to me, this looks pretty good, but, "This isn't a matter of helping me but rather a public duty since Manson is a foul and corrupt pig acting in the people's (alleged) name." Further, as Speaker Collins passed the matter on to the attorney in his office, a new attorney should continue any investigation.

In addition to this investigation, we have begun to receive back petitions for Tony's return to Conn. Among them was one signed by 86 men at Thomaston, Maine Prison.

So the campaign to return Tony and to impeach Manson is progressing. We would like as many people to fill out the petition, found on this page, and return it to us. The full story of the corrupt and sick doings of Manson and his subordinates was printed in last month's NEPA NEWS.

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

NAME ADDRESS

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

Prisoners and Revolution

by Edward Mead

People are becoming increasingly concerned over the problems involved with living in modern day America. One of these concerns is the growing problem of crime. The Government has spent literal billions in an attempt to hold the rise in crime to a tolerable minimum. By increasing the sophistication of police hardware and the number of enforcement officers, the Government has succeeded only in bringing the nation still closer to being a police state. Increased enforcement of the law has little relationship to the actual causes of crime. In a land of limited opportunities and heavy emphasis on individualism, where there is poverty in the midst of plenty, it should not be surprising that a growing percentage of people feel compelled to meet their needs through criminal means. Increased enforcement of the law can direct crime away from certain segments of the population, but it cannot eliminate the problem of crime or its causes. The root causes of crime can be traced to the lopsided way in which the wealth and power of this nation is distributed. This accounts for the Government's unwillingness or inability to take the steps necessary to eradicate the problem.

A growing number of people are looking behind the official mystification of crime. Among these are those who often suffer most from crime -- the criminal. The criminal suffers more because he is the victim of far worse criminals than he could ever hope to become. The real criminals are the greedy few who, through their direct or indirect ownership of the means of production, the media and the schools, and the Government, perpetuate an oppressive structure of wealth and power. A structure without regard to the real needs of people; one where every human ideal and even life itself is subordinated to the insane quest for profits. This realization has caused an upsurge in the number of prisoners developing the ability to understand the social context in which their criminal acts occur -- they are becoming aware of the political nature of crime. There are only a few options open to a person who wants to survive in a land where opportunities for the poor are almost nonexistent, where unemployment is widespread, and where runaway inflation eats away at the exchange value of what little money one can obtain. One such option is crime.

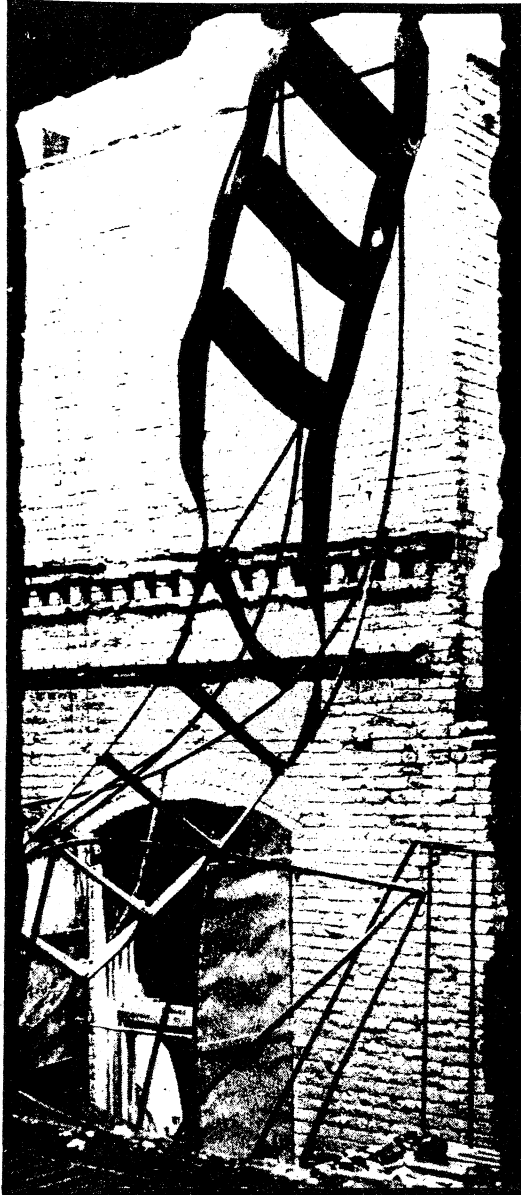
The profits of the capitalist class are growing at record breaking rates. But because of the way in which this system must operate in order to continue its survival, the gains of capital must necessarily mean a loss to common people. Under such circumstances, is it any wonder that the number of people committing crimes of acquisition is on the increase? And over ninety percent of the crimes committed are crimes against property. The men and women who commit these crimes are usually driven by the simple economic need to acquire the means to secure adequate food, shelter, clothing, and a few diversions from the harsh realities of living in capitalist America. Crime is one way of responding to the existing situation in life, sometimes it is the only rational response.

Sometimes the perpetrators of crime aim at trying to keep themselves above the level of absolute destitution, as in the case of white-collar offenders. But this is true only because the ruling class has programmed us from infancy to equate happiness with the fulfillment of artificially created needs -- with perpetual consumption. The white-collar offender steals to satisfy false needs for status and the like; the poor steal to meet more or less real needs. In either case, crime is the reaction of individuals victimized by the inherent problems flowing from trying to live in a system based upon the competitive motive of profit.

Nearly all prisoners are poor, white-collar offenders and the rich seldom find themselves inside a prison, and when they do their stay is usually a brief one. Prisoners know how really few the opportunities are for the poor. Available employment is generally meaningless and underpaid. The education level of prisoners is somewhat lower than that of the general population, but tests indicate that their intelligence is equal to or slightly higher than the norm. It was once thought that

education was the solution to the "opportunity crisis", now college graduates, when they can find work, are performing drudgery so alienating that only the mentally numb could tolerate it for long. Ex-prisoners, especially black ones, usually wind up with the worst jobs imaginable, assuming of course that they can find work.

Is it any wonder, then, that more and more people are adopting the selfish, manipulative, and anti-human ideology of crime? There is more excitement in stealing than there is in the performance of today's repetitive work. At least crime, however briefly, affords a measure of power in the hands of its perpetrator. At least while engaging in crime one is able to exercise some degree of personal initiative and feel a sense of challenge. And for the recidivist, crime provides one with the added satisfaction of having revenged, however primitively, against the offending state -- a misguided outlet for peoples understandable anger.



The so-called experts in penology claim that prisoners are "emotionally disturbed" and in need of "treatment" as a cure for their criminality. In support of this contention they point to the offenders unwillingness to postpone gratification of needs. This is supposed to be evidence of ones impulsiveness and immaturity. If refusing to bend to those forces that would have people do without the means to gratify their needs is a sign of immaturity, then on this count the majority of prisoners must certainly plead guilty. But it seems as if it is only the poor who are asked to wait and to control their impulses, while the affluent can afford instant gratification of their needs. For the poor, delayed gratification of material needs can be equated to doing without gratification altogether. To many this is unacceptable.

Those caught up in the crippling cycle of recidivism and the corrupt prison culture are labeled as "sociopathic personalities" by the so-called experts. Those so labeled are said to have little respect for authority and property and are usually considered to be beyond "treatment" by prison administrators. However it should be remembered that it is the administrators of the prison complex and their bosses who are the ones who define sanity. They define it in such a way that people are unbalanced unless they have respect for their

system of class inequality and the authority that perpetuates its existence. Using their yardstick as a measure, one could certainly conclude that the nation's prisons are stuffed with some really sick people. But there are others who measure things differently. They define as healthy the process of resisting those forces whose aim it is to break the free will of people. They say that to resist exploitation and oppression is a liberating experience, and if in the process of doing so one should earn the label sociopath, she or he should wear it proudly.

The object of a criminal justice system is to force people to conform to the status quo, regardless of the pressures inducing them to act otherwise. It is nothing other than the means by which one class forceably imposes its will on another. The prison plays a key role in this system of force; it is the place where the physical act of punishment takes place. The administrators have tried to mask the true nature of prisons with a lot of rhetoric about rehabilitation. While token programs and talk of rehabilitation worked to conceal the true nature of prisons for awhile, the growing rate of failure soon exposed the sham for what it was. Now enters the liberal crusader, and from his grab bag come the modern approach to the problem of crime: More talk and token programs. Now the naked force of prison is to be dressed in the respectable cloak of psychiatric rhetoric, and with it they are bringing prisoners the dreaded benefits of behavior modification programs. The ends of the liberal are exactly the same as those of the most reactionary penologist; the aim of each is to force the offender to adjust to the existing order. What they fail or refuse to understand is the fact that it is their society who is ill and in need of treatment, and that the growing number of criminal offenders are merely symptoms of this illness. Were prisoners to follow the advice or, more accurately, coercion of administrators and adjust to this insane society, they would in the process of doing so become equally as sick. Rather than conform to that which is clearly wrong, people would be better advised to try and become more healthy by working toward the creation of a more healthy society.

I believe criminals are more or less intuitively moving in the right direction. But because they are a reflection of the society at large, their solutions are individualistic and short-sighted. For prisoners to remain as they are is out of the question -- it is too self-destructive and exploitive of peers and class allies. The typical prison administrator and their masters would like to see prisoners move backwards; into the past where like robots they will blindly accept the circumstances which led them to crime in the first place. A better course, however, is to follow the path leading into the future. By moving ahead the conduct of prisoners can be made to coincide both with the needs of people and the course of history. There is only one constant in the universe, and that is change.

It was mentioned earlier that criminals are victims of an efficient capitalist system inasmuch as there must be poverty and insecurity at the bottom in order for it to function properly. By making crimes against the property of capital super risky and enacting laws with severe penalties for offenses against the rich, the ruling class has effectively channelled most crime away from itself and directed it back into the lower classes. Not only does this insulate them from the serious effects of crime, but it has enabled them to pass themselves off as the peoples only protection against crime. Thus, in addition to being victimized, criminals are manipulated into providing the justification for the expansion of police power.

It is within this context that prisoners should view their up-until-now-individualistic response to the options presented them by circumstances. Surely none can justify crime in this context -- crime without political direction. As the victims of conditions that breed crime, it is in the interest of prisoners, as well as in the interests of the working men and women who are in turn usually the victim of criminals, to pursue a course of action aimed at re-

continued on page 21 September

Terrorism In Walpole & Roxbury

by Arnie King, Walpole NPRA

In urban communities, the problems that exist are very similar in nature to those of the prison system. Some of these problems have greater similarity than others in relation to both urban and prison environmental structures. Many times the problems begin primarily from the same source.

We must first begin by objectively discussing the actual facts of police brutality inside the prison. In Walpole, there exists a core group of guards that are known to prisoners as the "goon squad". This goon squad operates, within this prison, as the strong-arm of the guards' union. Usually the group is assigned to the separate confinement blocks of the institution where they can brutalize and subject rebellious prisoners to intolerable conditions. One such incident is the case of a prisoner named Robert Daigle. He was beaten severely by several members of this goon squad, armed with clubs, steel brackets, rubber hoses, and leather belts. After being knocked into a coma, he was placed into the hole and burned unmercifully from cigarette ends in the hands of the guards. He was later transferred to the "blue room", supposedly outlawed by international agreement, and left unattended through his unconscious state of being. Because of a strong prisoner demand, the prison doctor was summoned to examine Robert Daigle and suggested that the prisoner be transferred to an outside hospital. This man remained in the hospital for several days fighting to get it back together after such experiences.

Still...in early April, 1974, a prisoner named Danny Martin was severely beaten by a platoon of eight sadistic guards. Several contradictory statements were made afterwards, referring to the reasons why this man was beaten. Not any of these statements justified the actions. One report, submitted by a guard involved, expressed that the prisoner held a knife at them in a threatening manner. But the validity of that report, as of many others, was challenged by prisoners witnessing the action. These witnesses stated that the guards' unnecessary action was extremely brutal. A lie detector examination was requested, due to the conflicting statements, and the guards refused to submit to the test. The prisoner witnesses were examined and falsity was not detected. In support of the prisoner allegations about police attacks, the governor's investigative committee reported that the guards did, in fact, use excessive force to subdue a minor incident. To add further insult, prison authorities are now requesting that the prisoner be indicted for an alleged assault upon eight gestapo guards.

Meanwhile, back in the world...people have become hesitant in leaving their shel-

Revolution (Cont.)

placing the existing order of profit over need and individualistic competition over the principles of cooperation and brotherhood. Such a course of action is now in the process of development; this process is called revolution.

Prisoners were once faced with the option of either committing a crime or else trying to fulfill their needs within the framework of a structure incapable of providing opportunities for all people. For most the choice was made by the harsh realities of material circumstances. That was yesterday. Following the dictates of circumstances is no longer enough. Prisoners must now learn the science of controlling circumstances. An art about which they have much to learn, but one that will free them in the learning.

The most action prone element in society is presently faced with another choice: Prisoners must decide whether to continue to exist as they are; alienated from themselves and one another, and acting personally and in a near-sighted manner in an attempt to solve problems common to all. On the other hand prisoners can unite together and in fellowship with their comrades on the outside in the struggle to create a land where each will share in the wealth and power of this nation.

ter because of the recent police attacks upon the community. A serious threat of terrorism has revealed to people the true nature of "law and order"! In early June, 1974, a Roxbury brother was shot and killed by the police department in front of several witnesses. The police stated that as they were making the arrest of Walter Robey, the man resisted and a fight broke out. A policeman's gun was suddenly discharged; after restraining the man, they transported him to the police station. It was later stated that the policemen involved didn't know that the man had been hit by the bullet. They said that it was known that the gun was fired, but not where the bullet had landed. Can you really understand the stupidity of such statements? Everytime a bullet strikes the human body at least some traces of blood can be found at the bullet's entrance on the body. This is a natural reaction from the body, and Walter Robey should not have been considered an exception. In addition there is usually verbal response from the mouth, such as crying out, shouting, etc. Such movement of body and/or mind should have been sighted by those in the vicinity. But still, the brother was taken to the jail cell and forced to undergo the slow, painful process of death.

The community's timid response to this overt racist murder meant nothing to the police terrorists. The black community again was subjected to the iron claw fascism during the month of July. The facts of Brother Robey's death had not even been disclosed fully to the people before "officers friendly" moved upon black people once again. On July 11, James Wilds was



deliberately shot in the back at close range by members of the police force. This act, happening in the crowded business section of Roxbury, should demonstrate fully to us the seriousness of the opponents' threat upon Black Liberation. Such bold actions enable us to define who the true enemy is. We are now capable of distinguishing who we can work with and who we must confront. To shoot a man in the back and then to express the reasons as being (1) that he might possess a weapon or (2) that he might be an escaped prisoner, is truly an ignorant move. Whatever rage that exists within people behind these incidents should not be allowed to die. Using history as a guide, we realize that this is happening in every urban area in America and it will continue to exist as long as we remain passive.

Many Walpole prisoners have suffered the same brutal treatment the community is experiencing presently. Being primarily from the Boston area, we have also been victimized by the racist police department. It may also be a proven fact that the same "officers friendly" have been involved with past ruthless actions upon certain prisoners while in their community. Black prisoners identify with these issues because tremendous burdens have been placed upon the prisoner, the same as happens to the community. It is realized that prisoners are an important and vital segment of the community and that, whenever released, the problems will be more detrimental to us if they are not dealt with immediately. Everybody in the community is affected by

People to People

Karl Grunert, coordinator of the People-to-People program, has informed us that in some prisons obstacles exist which effectively prohibit the implementation of the program. For example, some prisons do not allow any correspondence between prisoners and outsiders unless the prisoner puts the name of the outsider on a list. Some joints go even further and prohibit all correspondence unless the con knew the outsider before being incarcerated.

A few things can be done. Some joints require little red-tape. If a prisoner writes to Karl, or another P-to-P coordinator, he/she should put his/her name on the correspondence list, if such a list exists.

Unfortunately, Karl is simply unable to fill out all the red-tape, forms, etc. that some joints require. This effectively prohibits Karl from acknowledging receipt of a letter and from setting up a correspondence.

We at NEPA NEWS are under the impression that such rules are contrary to recent Supreme Court decisions. In any case, such arbitrary, mindless and destructive regulations should be fought and defeated. Due to the amount of work he has assumed, Karl is unable to lead this fight. Prisoners being subjected to this form of censorship should contact a lawyer, file a writ in court, get together in the joint to protest, and otherwise move to change the rules where they exist. Unfortunately, until these regulations are changed, Karl will not be able to help cons get a correspondent when they are subject to such rules.

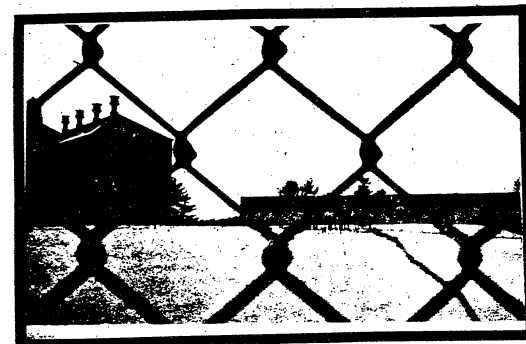
For all of you who are interested in People-to-People, inside or outside, here are the addresses:

Karl Grunert
321 Wallis Rd. RFD#1
Rye, N.H. 03301

Rev. Francis Gibbs
Box 14
Concord, N.H. 03301
(New Hampshire State Prison)

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

Amy Davidson
311 Temple St.
New Haven, Ct. 06510
(Connecticut only)



such police action and we must all work towards eliminating these repressive moves.

In the same sense, the community must become responsive to the prison movement and its needs. Police brutality is nothing unique inside Walpole. Danny Martin's case is not an isolated one. There are many instances when prisoners are severely abused by the guards' union. It is extremely important that the similarities between the two are recognized as being perpetuated by the same force -- the oppressive state government. We must combine our forces to confront and effectively eliminate malicious actions from within our midst. If we refuse to move collectively, the oppressive state government will continue to exist and operate as it presently is. IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH.

More Letters

Dear Comrades,

Greetings in Revolutionary Unity!

I write this letter in memory of Comrade William "Whitey" Hurst who you all probably know was killed while in Federal custody from the State authorities of Massachusetts. Comrade "Whitey" was sent to Federal Prison even though he was a State Prisoner. The reason was "Whitey" was an organizer of prisoners of all races and led many struggles in the State of Mass.

In Federal custody he was sent to the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. There he was successful in organizing and bringing to the Federal Prisons the Socialist Brotherhood Party first formed in the State Prisons of New England. He was also able to mobilize the Federal Prisoners into participating in the 1973 National Prisoners Xmas Fast. He was one of the prisoners known as the "Leavenworth 7" who were made scapegoats for the July 31st, 1972 slave revolt at that prison. He also participated in a protest at Marion Penitentiary in Illinois over the killing of a prisoner in the "hole" by the pigs.

Comrade William Hurst sponsored me into the Socialist Brotherhood Party and I've tried to follow his strong example of organizing. And I've been prompted by this comradely feeling for Comrade William to write this article in his memory.

Comrade William Hurst met his death being held in a Redneck County Jail in Kansas for trumped up riot charges against him from Leavenworth. The pigs' story said "Whitey" committed suicide. But all who knew "Whitey" know this was bullshit. Comrade "Whitey" was the type if he was that pressed he'd take some pigs with him.

The convict theory is this (nobody knows what really happened to "Whitey" and we know the pigs will lie so our theory is as good or better than the police version), Comrade William already had so much time (a couple of life sentences) and was facing the trumped up charges of murder of a guard, rioting, meeting, hostages for ransom related to the Leavenworth slave revolt and that Comrade William was making a desperate bid for freedom in simulated suicide so as to grab and overpower the jailer and escape. But the jailer noticed he was only simulating and grabbed his feet from the simulated hanging and actually killed him.

We cannot prove William was killed but we will remember it well and remember also that this is war. So you kill us, so you shall be killed!

A Comrade in Arms,

Rafiki Eddie Sanchez
Edward Martin Sanchez
Reg. No. 18827-175
P. O. Box 1000
Marion, Illinois 62959

Editor's Note: Charges against 5 of the remaining 6 "Leavenworth 7" were recently dropped. Brother Eddie was in the START program at Springfield, Mo., and was a leader in the successful fight to close down that totally destructive program.

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

Russ Carmichael's article in the August issue on psychosurgery is more than reasonable, it's one of the best pieces written on the topic which I've read.

I thought your readers might like to know what became of the young man in San Quentin who was "seeking" brain surgery to curb his violent tendencies, whose letter Hunter Brown quotes at length in his article. However, I should first note that the man first learned of Dr. Brown when in an isolation unit at Vacaville prison (which we Californians call the "California Medical Facility"). At that time a proposal by the Director of Corrections to obtain LEAA funds for large scale psychosurgery had created loud stir in the state, causing the Department of Corrections to drop that plan. However, this man was given to understand that without some "medical help" he could never expect to get out of the hole, let alone on parole, so long as he lived. He was then provided with

information concerning the good doctor and allowed to follow the suggestion through if he wished. It was clearly impossible, politically, for California to go ahead with forced brain operations, but it seemed possible that a man who had first sought his own out, might prove to be a healthy (?) precedent for the Department.

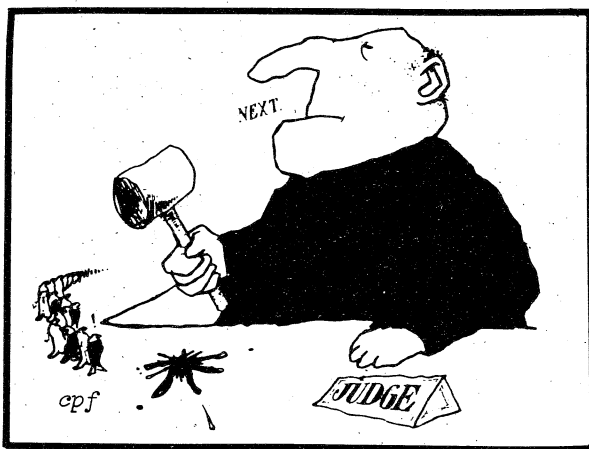
By the time the prison movement and medical community became aware of this situation, he was in the hole at San Quentin, scheduled to have a hearing to determine whether or not the department would give permission to him, since the doctor was offering to perform the six-target brain operation for free. A letter to the director of corrections from a well-known psychiatric resident at a major hospital was responded to with a phone call assuring the doctor that, under no circumstances, would the department go along with this proposal. The politics of the situation are apparently still too hot for that.

At the same time, fellow prisoners of the man in question, alarmed at what the consequences of his precedent might mean for them, began to provide him with what information they could get hold of (articles by Breggin, etc.), to educate him on the issue while there was still time. Realizing what was going on, the man changed his mind, rather than the physiology of his brain. He is still in prison, but no longer seeking psychosurgery. Possibly he is beginning to realize that his original crime may have been the result of a combination of a childhood characterized by abuse and legitimate anger. Such things can not be changed by surgery, certainly.

The scary thing is that it got this far. Whether the Department or individuals within it made a conscious decision to exploit Dr. Brown and this man or not, one can only guess at. What if the psychiatrist had not written the director of corrections in time? It is important that we recognize that nobody should have their mind or body altered without their full and voluntary consent. And we must also recognize that nobody in prison, under any circumstances, can ever be in a position to volunteer.

Again, congratulations for a great article in a first-rate issue. Keep it up.

Peace,
Ron Silliman
for the Committee



By Leroy Lockwood

It has come to my attention that the N. H. Chapter of the American Red Cross refuses to accept the donations of blood from the inmates at N.H.S.P. I am appalled by this decision, as before my incarceration I was a steady blood donor. This is not only a personal affront, but also disqualifies me for ten days a year deducted from my sentence as provided for in the state parole laws.

Said law, RSA 607:51-A, states as follows: CREDITS FOR DONATION OF BLOOD. Any prisoner who is confined to the state prison, any house of correction or any jail, shall be granted credit for five days against both the minimum and maximum terms of his sentence for each donation of his blood to the American Red Cross, to blood banks of nonprofit hospitals and to similar organizations or institutions, or to members of the armed forces of the United States or to residents of the United States in times of disaster or to recognized public agencies engaged in medical or scientific research: such blood shall not be sold or shall it be devoted to any commercial

use. Provided, that no more than ten days of such credit may be earned in any twelve month period.

It seems to me that there are too many stipulations as to who and what type of an agency or organization we are allowed to donate our blood to. Since the Red Cross won't take it, I feel we should have the option to choose an alternative taker, such as possibly one of the hospitals in Massachusetts. It's my understanding that they pay for blood at these hospitals. To me the money is irrelevant as it's the ten days credit per year off my sentence that is important to me and many other inmates. Ten days credit may not seem like much, but to me it will mean the difference between spending another Christmas behind bars or being out on the street.

Let's hear it from you people in Mass.! Any correspondence on this matter should be mailed to:

Mr. Leroy Lockwood
P. O. Box 14
Concord, N. H. 03301



To The People of New England,

Unfortunately today, many people are incarcerated in our county jails because they are financially unable to make bail.

Based on the U.S. system of "Justice", each person is to be treated as innocent until that person is proven guilty in a court of law.

How should an innocent person be treated? I believe innocent people should be treated with respect and courtesy. I believe that every person's civil rights and constitutional rights should be unquestionably upheld by all public servants!

Why is it that turnkeys in the county jails are allowed to deprive citizens of even the most basic of human rights. When I was incarcerated at Androscoggin County Jail, I witnessed many illegalities on the part of the jail's personnel staff, who in reality are merely public servants. These charges range from slander to oral threat. In the interest of Justice, I feel that every inmate, whether sentenced or not should have access to Law Books with which to prepare his case or his appeal or writ. It is every citizen's constitutional right to read law books whether sitting in a cornfield or incarcerated in a county jail. However, when inmates of Androscoggin County Jail requested law books, they were told by its' staff that law books were contraband.

One time, after having run out of toilet paper, I asked an officer if he would get me some. He replied, "Use your hand.", and walked away forgetting the whole incident as if it were beneath his dignity. Now that I'm no longer an untried innocent citizen, I run the risk everyday of being "rehabilitated" for re-entry into society. Rehabilitation is just another prison horror.

In the Struggle,

Daniel Covert
Maine State Prison

September

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

- I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.
- I am a prisoner. Here is my subscription in the amount of \$ _____
- \$2.50 regular subscription.
- Here is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support the continued publication of NEPA NEWS.
- ADDRESS CHANGE. I am moving to a new address. Please mail future copies of NEPA NEWS to me at the above address.
- \$10 Institutional Subscription

MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

Cover Graphic

Once again we present a graphic by Ken Westhaver, Professor of Art at Franconia College, on our cover. Titled, "The Departure", it is one of a series of four etchings on Rikers Island done by Ken. We feel it is strongly appropriate that this graphic commemorate the fallen brothers of Attica, as well as all the other brothers and sisters who have given their lives that the walls may be torn down. We will present the other two of the series in the future. Thanks again to Ken.

Rocky Comic

In case you haven't yet noticed because you are reading this paper back to front, we trash Nelson Rockefeller several times in this issue. Want to know more about "Nelson the Butcher" and why we attack him? "The Incredible Rocky" is a 50 page comic book on the Rockefeller family available from the North American Congress on Latin America, Box 57, Cathedral Station, NY, NY 10025 for \$1.00.

Women in America



I am offering a course of study to any prisoners, male or female, interested in studying "The Role of Women in American Society". This study will examine the social, economic, emotional and historical condition of women in the U.S. and will explore those factors that helped define the past and present status of women. I will begin the course in early October. A possibility exists that this course may be college accredited.

I have compiled an extensive reading list, part of which follows below. We

will read about one book, or the equivalent in articles, per week. Each correspondent, or group of correspondents if there is a group in any particular joint, will write to me about their reactions, their analysis, etc. of the materials. In return I will both provide my own reactions and thoughts as well as pull together excerpts from a variety of the papers I receive and then send copies of this to all the participants in the course. The course will last for approximately four months.

We may have something of a problem getting the books and pamphlets. Some are available free to a prisoner who orders directly from the publisher. I will try to get others for free. However, some may only be available for cash, in which case the book will become optional reading. Unfortunately, I do not have the money to pay for books for prisoners.

This course will be a correspondence course. If a possibility exists, I will attempt to go to a prison on a regular basis for discussion of the readings. The precondition for this would have to be interest from a group of persons, closeness to northern N.H., and willingness of the administration to let me in.

At the conclusion of the course I will assemble a paper from the various papers and notes that have circulated during the course in an attempt to sum up our experiences, ideas, knowledge, conclusions and disagreements.

Again, this course is open to both men and women prisoners. Please write to Shelley Cooper Neill, NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580.



by Thomas Scott

Partial Bibliography

- 1) Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, The Woman Question
- 2) Rubenstein, "How the Russian Revolution Failed Women"
- 3) U.S. Dept. of Labor, "Handbook on Women Workers--1974"
- 4) Buhle, Gordon, Schrom, "Women in American Society, An Historical Contribution"
- 5) deBeauvoir, The Second Sex
- 6) Rowbotham, Women, Resistance and Revolution
- 7) Morton, Peggy, "A Woman's Work is Never Done"

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

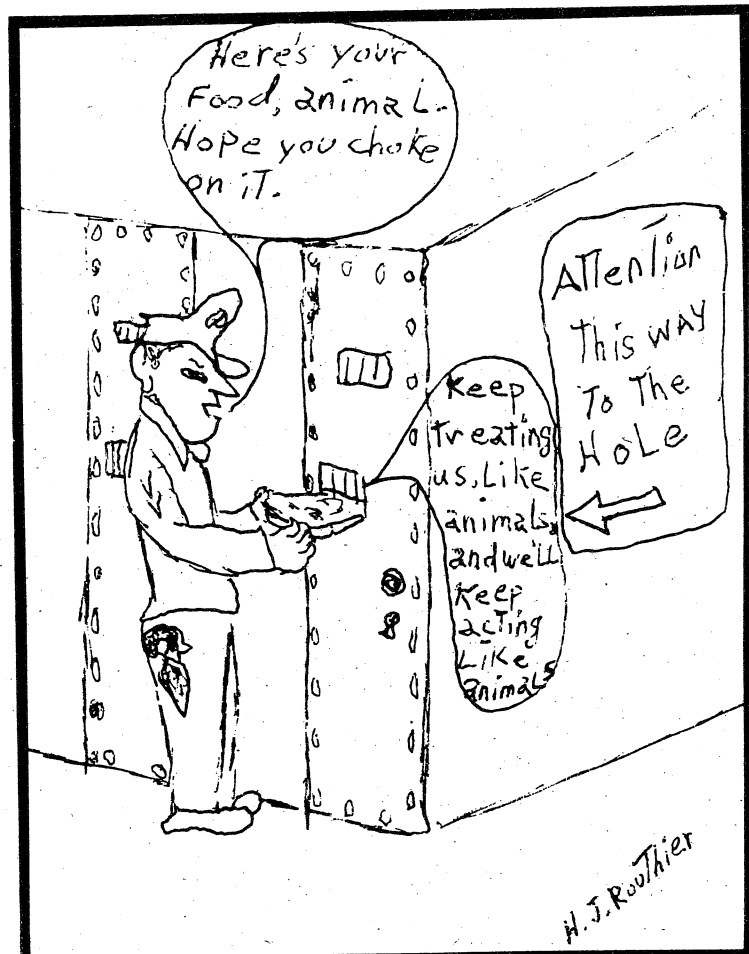
A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

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



Community Centers

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

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

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

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

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