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NEPA NEWS

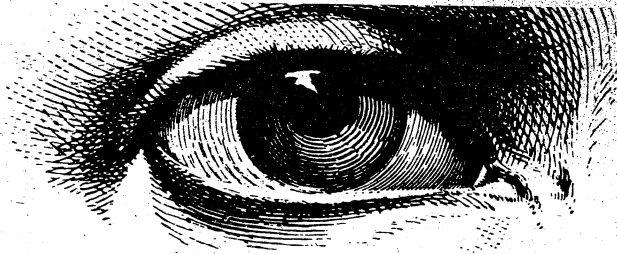
The Voice of the North East Prisoners Association

Franconia, N.H.
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Jesse Fowler

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Mel & Bill

by Monty Neill

Since the middle of May, N.H. Governor Meldrim Thomson and Manchester Union Leader publisher William Loeb have embarked on a campaign of distortion, half-truths and fear-mongering in an apparent effort to close Franconia College and to stop NEPA NEWS. It would appear that their major target is the college, that they are attempting to get the college by, among other things, attacking NEPA NEWS. While the college is their major target, it is clear that we are a target in and of ourselves.

No doubt the readers of NEPA NEWS do not take Mel and Bill seriously, except for the damage they do to the people of New Hampshire. But we feel it is important to understand the basis of their attack. NEPA NEWS is not Franconia College, and we do not speak for them. What follows is no more than a sketchy introduction to the methods and the politics of Mel and Bill. In the future, we will explore in more detail the various aspects of their attack on the people of New Hampshire.

Among the distortions about NEPA printed in the pages of the Union Leader, as presented by Mel Thomson and the papers reporters, such as Arthur C. "Ace" Egan, are the following:

1) That "Franconia College...is the center for all prison agitation and prison reform in a seven state area of the Northeast, as the NEPA headquarters are located on the Franconia College campus." Tell that to SCAR, the NPRA, SDG and other groups. Tell that to the NEPA folks around the Northeast. Franconia is the headquarters for NEPA NEWS, only.

2) That Franconia College used more than \$7000 of Federal money in a short-lived educational program at NHSP. T'ain't so. The program, in fact, was sabotaged by Thomson flunkies former Warden Joseph Vittek and Director of Treatment David Clarke. (See NEPA NEWS Vol.II, #2, page16.)

3) That the newly formed Prisoner Education Project is "to be conducted on the Franconia College campus..." Unfortunately, the prisoners cannot come to Franconia, we have to go to them. What is here for the project is the administrator and project director.

4) That the "prisoners association" (small "p", small "a", because they know its not NEPA, though they want their readers to think so) wants to take over the local high school by creating a "curriculum for schools on junior high school and college levels." While we are pleased to present our ideas and information to any students, we aren't developing curriculum. Prisons should be run by prisoners (as part of the process of closing them down) and schools should be run by the students, parents and teachers (and not closed down.)

Why The Distortion

What is the basis for all this distortion? For the answer, lets take a look at a press statement by Mel Thomson which was printed on page 1 of the Union Leader on June 16. He stated that NEPA NEWS is a "revolutionary, anti-business, Communist oriented publication."

In essence, he doesn't like our politics, he is trying to combat our ideas, he wants to close us down; his means is red-baiting. Let's check out what Mel says.

To cite our being anti-business, Thomson quotes our last issue: "as always, the struggle continues in the face of brutal repression from the bosses and the government they control." (page 2). The repression is real; ask the unemployed, the striking workers, prisoners, and political groups such as the American Indian Movement. It is led by the bosses who want to put the burden of the economic crisis on the backs of the workers and the poor. So long as business tries to do this, and so long as their puppet Jerry Ford tries to help them, we are opposed to big business. At the NEPA meeting on May 31, we real-

ized that because of what the bosses, the capitalists, do to the people, most everybody in NEPA opposes capitalism. And we support and link-up with peoples' struggles in the workplace and the community.

Then Mel said we were communist oriented because we supported "the great victories of the people's of Cambodia and Vietnam" (page 2). We sure do. So do lots of other people, communists and non-communists. NEPA is not a communist organization, and NEPA NEWS is not a communist publication. But we refuse to be red-baited: we will work with those who support our goals, whether or not they are communists. Sorry Mel, it's not a crime to be a communist.

Mel really gets down on his charge that we are revolutionary. His reasoning is that we must believe in everything we print-which ain't necessarily so.

First, what are we? The best summation is what we passed as a resolution at our April conference: "We are working for a society in which the worth and the dignity of all people is of the first priority." We added that we see our primary task as organizing. When Thomson states that we are "revolutionary", does he mean that the



worth and the dignity of all people is something that does not happen in America?

Mel's biggest beef is the discussion of armed struggle. Let one thing be clear: NEPA NEWS, and NEPA, does not and has not called for armed struggle. Each of the members of the editorial board of NEPA NEWS has serious problems with the political analysis of those who call for armed struggle now.

What does that mean for NEPA NEWS? Regardless of whether or not any one of us thinks it correct, discussion on the role of armed struggle goes on, and it happens a lot among prisoners and ex-prisoners. If the ideas of those who call for armed struggle now are incorrect, then their incorrect nature must be brought out through public debate--that is, unless Mel and Bill are opposed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A second point is that we support prisoners, including but not limited to, "political prisoners", who may or may not be incarcerated for alleged acts of "armed struggle". Which does not mean that we necessarily support the action for which they were incarcerated.

We do not intend to abandon or disavow all persons engaged in the movement whose analysis and /or acts disagrees with ours. We are not a political party with a clear-cut political line; we are an organization concerned with prisons and the criminal justice system. There are vast areas of disagreement among our members. We do unite around the need to organize

large numbers of people behind our goals, including the abolition of prisons. We see the need to openly discuss our analysis of America and the means to create social change. We use NEPA NEWS to do this, which in no way indicates we support any particular analysis or means proposed in the paper (a fact we state in each of our issues).

About revolution. Social change comes when the majority of society sees the need for change. If the government of the U.S. decides to eliminate its own constitution in order to stop change, then I for one stand with Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Tom Paine, Abe Lincoln, Nat Turner and other heroes who understood what appears on every N.H. license plate: "Live Free or Die."

So, Mel and Bill, now you know a little more about where we stand--if you can comprehend it. But where do you stand?

Where Do You Stand

You call for freedom--but want to curtail the bill of rights.

You talk about "the people", but Loeb derogatorily refers to Blacks' "Jungle-like heritage", yet never mentions Whites' "cave-like heritage"--never mind explain what either has to do with anything.

You say you support the working people. But you support the most regressive tax system around, the property tax, which costs the workers a far greater part of their income than it costs the bosses. You support only union mis-leaders like Jimmy Hoffa, who is more interested in helping the bosses than the workers. You support welfare cutbacks and oppose "crime" without understanding what a person must do if he or she faces "steal or starve". You do nothing to combat N.H.'s anti-worker Division of Employment Security, whose director has a life-time tenure and which opposes every proposed improvement in the Division. 80% of the unemployed who don't get benefits, then appeal to the courts, win their appeal.

You say you support home rule for towns. Yet you tried to ram an oil refinery down the throats of the people of Durham, and you spread distortion and fear in an effort to interfere with the affairs of the towns in the Profile School District around Franconia.

You say everyone in America has an equal chance, but you oppose state spending for education, Mel helps make UNH the most expensive state college in the U.S. and votes scholarship funding. So how can working people get an education?

You say America is for us all, but oppose spending for decent medical care and public services. If we are sick and can not get care, how is America for us?

You call for reason in government, and Mel wants the National Guard armed with nuclear weapons. You call for freedom and support every depraved, fascistic government in the world--Spain, Brazil, Chile, South Korea, the Philipines, and many more.

What is your campaign against NEPA all about? Do you fear us? As yet, we have little political impact on N.H. But perhaps you know that the people are stirring, and your demagogery is being exposed. People are learning what you are up to--you who are opposed to the welfare of the people. You sense that the time is coming when the people will not vote for you or buy your hate-sheet journalism.

So you react, trying to suppress us. But we will not go away. Our numbers are growing--yours dwindling. You cannot speak the truth, for the truth refutes your words.

How long can you expect the poor and working people to bear the brunt of your hate and fear? How long do you expect the people to suffer oppression for your benefit? We suggest it won't be much longer.

Conference Responses

From Walpole Action Committee

General Comment

For us the 1975 NEPA Conference says where it's at, and the NEPA NEWS reportage of it was a masterpiece.

The conference/ convention accurately reflects the reality of the situation in prison and out. The Walpole prisoners--principally in their Federal Complaint of Layne and Nassar--lay down the same challenge the militants laid down in Franconia. Namely, if the society or the law of the society cannot redress the legitimate and legally presented grievances of its people, armed struggle is the inexorable, historical consequence.

The prisoners of Walpole have presented to the Federal courts several complaints of grossly illegal conduct on the part of the officials of the law-enforcement correctional field. In many of these cases--just about all--the court has found overwhelming evidence that the authorities were in violation of the law they are sworn and paid to uphold. Now, in the Layne and Nassar case, the court is asked to judge the total prison structure.

In the meantime the authorities have harassed, intimidated and punished in the attempt to force the prisoners to give up their court action. The court has taken its time to consider the case. The prisoners have patiently waited, submitting addendum after addendum of further harassment and punishment. The court is approaching the time when it must decide. And that is the point of the Complaint. We shall know, with the court's decision or indecision, whether there is still legal redress left in this country; we shall know for sure whether the law is to be obeyed even by those who wear badges or cloaks of law.

The explosion at the NEPA conference/convention, by ex-prisoners in particular in demands for support of armed struggle, is the expression of what the prisoners inside the prisons have been going through to get their legal complaints duly processed, free from suppression, and fairly brought before the courts. The ex-prisoners know of dozens of instances where law-enforcement people inside prison and outside prison have conspired to suppress the prisoners' legal remedies and support, suppression by illegal means, suppression by brute force. Law-enforcement people have threatened, stolen, smashed, burned, beaten, tortured the people and things of the prisoners and their outside supporters for the past several months, especially since the prisoners have brought their court actions. Ex-cons are being set up on

into power through some form of popular vote, fraudulent or not, and maintains at least an appearance of constitutional legality, the guerrilla outbreak cannot be promoted, since the possibilities of peaceful struggle have not been exhausted."

As long as the courts do not receive or deny a comprehensive and adequate challenge to the prison system, Che's minimum conditions for and natural fructification of an armed struggle have not been met.

It is the purpose of the Walpole prisoners--through several court actions, culminating in the Layne and Nassar Complaint--to give the court the challenge in a comprehensive and adequate way. We await the court's response to engage the issues in open court by the rules of law. We have been waiting for six months. The time is drawing to the point where we shall know whether legal justice is possible.

We would not have made this attempt if we phony criminal charges and sent back to prison. Families and friends of prisoners are called on phones that when answered are silent. The fact is that certain guards and cops are into criminal conduct, and not just locally but state-wide, regional and national. Prisoners know this. Ex-cons know it. What the prisoners in Walpole who are continuously locked up are going through, what those who are struggling to redress grievances through the courts are going through--this knowledge is the experience at the NEPA Conference. All power to that experience.

There is no viable criminal justice system except as it accepts the challenge the prisoners have given in their Complaint. Therefore all intellectual, social science talk about prison reform or community corrections is so much dreaming unless the criminal justice system is a system of justice. The Walpole prisoners shall shortly determine whether this fundamental quality of our society, the truth of a society that comes out of its criminal justice system, is indeed true. We shall find out who the real criminals are. And if we find they are those who wear the badges and court cloaks, then the people have the sacred duty of their common humanity to bring the criminals to justice by all means necessary.

There is no other answer. There never has been. There cannot be without giving in to the crime.

Theoretical Formulation

Che said at the very outset of his *Guerilla Warfare* that certain minimum conditions are necessary for the establishment of armed struggle. He cautioned, "Where a government has come

From N.H.S.P

This paper is written as a general response to the 2nd Nepa conference as we understood and evaluated it from the April-May issue of Nepa News, and specifically as our opinion of the May Day Proposal--New Basis for Nepa (April-May issue).

We feel relatively safe in saying that our opinion that this latest Nepa conference was a needed and constructive get together and that it will help build the prison movement, is the way most prisoners viewed the convention. The fact that there was quite a bit of discussion and even outright dispute on issues of strategy, support for the underground, sexism, reformism, etc., we view optimistically. It is necessary for our movement to at least begin asking and hopefully solving these issues, although we urge everyone to remember a "reformist" or a "supporter of the underground" is not the enemy--we can not let our discussions and arguments turn into antagonistic, "you're the enemy" trips. There might come a time when certain elements or ideas will no longer be able to harmoniously work in our movement, although we do not foresee this yet, but for the immediate period it is necessary for us to expand our base of support among the people and to build our understanding and fighting unity among prisoners. Nepa and the prison movement as a whole is not a revolutionary party, nor a direct support wing of the underground, nor for that matter a reform group. Basically we are and should further build ourselves as a mass movement, as a united front of all people that are concerned and active with the issues of prisons and efforts of prisoners, and secondly: as part of the overall People's struggle for justice and freedom. Yet we are a movement that is at least two years old and therefore it is logical and good that we are moving away from the "do your own thing" approach, and we must continue to discuss strategy and through this work closer together in the different states and joints.

We were truly sorry to see that there was a lot of sexism going down at the meeting and generally in the work of Nepa. For those of us that have had movement experience before captivity, it seemed that the resolution on Women sounded like something out of 1969 or 70. It is unfortunate and a sad sign of our progressive, let alone revolutionary (for those of us who consider ourselves such), standing to see some of our comrades pass resolutions demanding equality. Many strong words as well as a thousand resolutions will not change this reality--only some changed attitudes and methods of practice will change this, must change this. We therefore suggest that sisters themselves should just take a more active role and thus change things directly. In the meantime, we do support the resolution on Women, but feel that words alone will not alter things--everyone must act and act harder and let us make a point of not having to pass further similar resolutions next year. We also urge our sisters in captivity to take a more active stand, let us hear your voices and ideas more often. Certainly there can be no question that all of us, women and men, must work together with mutual respect, effort and love.

We thought the ex-cons caucus was a positive happening even with the hassles and inconclusiveness that resulted. This caucus, not surprisingly, seemed to be the single most decisive factor in infusing the whole conference with a sense of militancy, as well as bringing out issues such as support for the underground. We were glad to see this since we felt it is time for all of us at least to begin talking about these issues on a group level. We support the resolution the caucus passed, but wondered why the resolution did not contain all the points that the caucus voted and approved. Namely, as reported in the article dealing with the caucus, "to promote and assist all prisoner and ex-prisoner associations and organizations and to coordinate a form of communications... to support and aid all groups, organizations, and movements who we feel will support us in our struggle to abolish prisons." We also support these resolutions, except that we would qualify it by saying we support all prisoners groups that are progressive--non-racist/fascist.

It appeared that one short-coming of the conference was a lack of input and attendance from third world people. This would be a mis-

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Conference Response

Action Committee

did not want to believe that this country and its people can find the answer to a social-economic revolution through peaceful, legal means. In fact, and this is vitally important, our principal task is to free the society from criminality, which especially includes armed struggle between people. And though we have found that to seek the legal answer we must suffer the suppression of the penal authorities and their allies on the street, those are the orders of our combat.

However, that struggle to find peace through peaceful means is also the overriding conviction that criminality must be overcome. Therefore, though we struggle with all our minds and hearts to find a legal, peaceful answer to illegal, violent means, we do not leave our guts behind. If there is no legal means, we shall make the means.

This attitude is in the tradition of all revolutions. It is within the traditions of humanism--revolution and humanism are synonymous.

Yet we know that the answer to creative change must be found that does not require violence. Therefore those of us who are required to engage in violent combat may hopefully be the sacrifice of the few to awaken the power in the many to peaceful revolution.

This general course of action is the best we can think of and has grown out of our experiences in a struggle at Walpole since Attica. Those law-enforcement officials who are really criminal and crush all legal redress of grievances will propagandize that we are already actively violent in revolution and are using a legal complaint without substance as a sham. To them we reply we don't need excuses to be frustrated enough to take up armed struggle against the wrongs in America. Rather we are pushing to the limit--to our human, fallible limit--the urge for peaceful creative change. If it comes to armed struggle it will therefore be our mutual failure to find a peaceful solution.

NHSP

take in any meeting of activists, but especially so in a prison conference since third world people are a large percentage of most prison populations, as well as often being some of the best militants. Probably one reason for this low attendance was that the meeting was held in northern N.H., so we would propose that future meetings, especially full conventions, be held in urban areas, which would also make it possible for more ex-cons in general to attend.

Turning now to the May Day proposal, it basically calls for 0L mass struggle to fight racism/fascism, 2) equal support for all prisoners, 3) united front to abolish incarceration of the oppressed.

The proposal on these issues is important and we support it, but we feel that there are sections in the explanation of it that are wrong and in fact contradict the three points that it calls for. It seems that at least a secondary purpose of the proposal was an attack on militant struggle and the underground. Nepa, as we see and earlier explained it, is a mass united front type movement, which obviously means that we as a group should not take an active organizational stance in support of armed struggle, other than generally supporting the People's struggle and armed activity is often, if not always, a part of this. We hope that individually there are many people that at least study and evaluate the ideas and need for

But it will be our creativity against criminality and destruction that we gave ourselves for a world with more power to have peace.

Specific Issues

One basic solution is the answer to a host of secondary problems. Everything falls into place. It becomes easy and satisfying. The correctly re-named NEPA--North East Prisoners Association--asked questions to help build the organization and newspaper. In the two previous sections we have given what we believe are basic answers, and time will demonstrate their worth and applicability. Now let's run down what must be a brief and tentative analysis and program commentary.

1. There is no question that the prisoner-ex-prisoner-supporter-families-friends need

and are a community. They need a community in the sense that they must forge links with others who are imprisoned in unemployment, unattended sickness, friendlessness, helplessness. They are a community because they represent the seedling of a new community.

2. Work and exchange with prisoners is essential, for it is this which is the nucleus and prime force of the movement, not simply because prisoners are in a certain prison, but because they are likewise most representative of the imprisonment of the society. Therefore they hold truths that must be dug out from behind massive concrete walls. Their special attention is in a way the difficulty of freeing the kernel of their truth.

3. Let the politics issue be. America is in search of a synthesis of philosophy and ideology, culture and economics, localism and internationalism. NEPA NEWS' analysis is rightly entitled, "Let Many Flowers Bloom"--that is, give people a chance to define and argue their Americanism, Marxism, anti-imperialism, etc.

4. The Resolution of the Women's Caucus is, if anything, only arguable on the ground of the issue of quotas. If "equal representation" means in numbers, some of us take issue. But if it means in quality (equality), we demand it. For in truth women are the most potent motive-force for prisoners and a quickly growing world force. For prisoners the problem is precisely the motive-force of women, which is so tied to sex as to make the sexism problem even if there were not such a cultural problem. Women must help men in prison with this; it is a special prisoners problem. And it is one of women's most potent means of communication and organizational power of prisoners. Precisely in answer to the Resolution, we agree with the resolution.

5. The racism question looms too large. As does the women's question in this special context. Though these problems and forces must be understood and handled, it is our unique strength that we work with people simply as people, even

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armed peoples' force, but on an organizational level it would be wrong, primarily because it would not be a true reflection of the people who are Nepa or feel close to our movement, to say Nepa as a group is for armed struggle. Saying this, we therefore support Nepa's main purpose being mass struggle, but we just as strongly feel that we can not pass proposals claiming that armed struggle is counter revolutionary at this present time. In fact we hold just the opposite, that armed force is a necessary and integral part of any revolution, including our struggle here in the belly of the shark.

Armed struggle should not, can not, be a substitute for mass work, but it is just as true (and we are not playing semantics games here), that mass struggle can not be a substitute for armed activity. But must work in harmony and we feel simultaneously, now. The direction and emphasis must remain, for now and forever, on the political, but there can be no short cut or magic route around the need for sure 'nuff militant activities.

Actually, to give due credit to the authors of the May Day proposal, they do verbally recognize the need for a violent effort in order to achieve the final defeat of the present oppressive system. This of course if the "it's not the right time" argument that is and has been expressed in every revolutionary movement at one time or another. As the proposal states, it is true that every tactic not advancing our aim assists the enemy, but it is also true that negating or deriding essential methods of struggle also plays into the hands of the enemy, and when we are talking about armed strug-

gle and being prepared to at least offer defensive armed struggle as well as taking the initiative in attacking the enemy in ways and times that a demonstration or strike can not do, then we are risking lives and really saying we can not fully fight back. We do not want to toss labels around, but in essence, urging this is a defeatist outlook.

Since we do not plan to make this a strategic outline on the need for armed struggle we will not try to argue this point further here, other than to say that Nepa must not adopt a proposal that coldly (and, we would add, with little real theoretical discussion or practical examples), denies the need or even positive discussion of armed struggle.

On the point for equal support for all prisoners, we agree with the basic idea of this, but we can not, must not, at the same time close our eyes to the very real special harassment and victimization of captured revolutionaries, such as Susan Saxe and Cameron Bishop, to name only the two mentioned in the proposal. As was written in the Prisoners, America and Revolution article (Feb. 75 issue, Nepa News), there are various types of prisoners today and while these differences should be recognized and appropriately dealt with, "basically any differences between political and criminal prisoners are not crucial, for only with unity and understanding of each other can victories be won". This is especially true for work inside the prisons, but this is not to say that we simply ignore the fact that the State

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the very young (like the pre-adolescent "delinquents"). Racism and sexism are, for us, we believe, tools to be used to solve problems, not hangups among ourselves. This should be our attitude, and if such problems arise among us we should swiftly and precisely solve them with our fundamental principles of unity. This attitude "internally" should be our basic approach "externally" (with other groups, the community).

6. The problem of uniting radical and liberal, revolution and reformis, is the problem we must live through, not theorize into a mold. We have established our basic philosophy, which finds its nexus in the prison experience, whether that prison experience be behind penal walls or elsewhere. But it must be a true prison experience. And one of the most objective measures of its truth is in the penal setting, though as we have found from bitter experience not always, as when prisoners become reformist and "improve" prisons as "permanent" improvements, like settling down to slavery forever. The revolutionary movement, which is the prime force of the reformist movement (of liberals, social scientists, etc.), will, given its head, lead, and rightly and easily. Our special strength politically is that we accept the dynamism of the revolutionary movements without being caught in the stereotypical abstractions. Our natural unity will grow in such soil. People are naturally drawn to a power for freedom, as by concrete definition the prisoners' association is. Trust that power. It is existential. People want to be free, creative. Wanting to get people out of penal institutions and give them a creative life in a free society is the unfettered reality of today's universal human need. That is what makes NEPA and groups like it so powerful beyond their numbers so true beyond their reasonings.

7. The attack on John Boone was a double attack: first an attack against a "corporate" approach, second an attack against a diversion into a premature national organization. There can be a time and place for both, as there is a time and place for the liberals and the workshops and their specific programs. What is central and must remain so is the dominant mood, temper, direction, character of the conference as manifest in NEPA NEWS. The other aspects, such as Boone's and the specific workshop programs, like probation, etc., must be elements within the larger system and direction, and each of their times will no doubt come. It remains true that the struggle is here in this geographic area and must be defined and resolved here first. Only tentative and secondary ef-



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is trying to super-railroad the conscious revolutionary fighters who they capture or frame up. To say that we glorify such captives misses the point totally. These are people that the State has decreed as super-dangerous, and that it intends to make public victims out of--for various reasons, high among which is, as examples to any other people that fighting back militantly will only get you totally screwed. This does not mean that we do not support other prisoners, and especially those that are heaviest into the fight behind the walls (by the way, almost always the captured revolutionaries become ardent fighters, or rather continue as ardent fighters, behind the walls as well), but if a prisoners organization does not offer full support to people being railroaded with huge sentences for political actions, then who exactly are we supporting? We might be wrong, but

our impression was that the meaning of this point was not to create some kind of elitism in our support efforts, and this is worthy, but really, if you think about it, the point does exactly that--it defines who is to get the needed support and who isn't.

While we should verbally and concretely support the last point of further creating the united front to end captivity of all oppressed, and in this same regard we agree that it is important, necessary, really, to build our ties beyond just prisoners and supporters. Wherever possible, we should unite with other working class people and groups for in reality the prison struggle is part of the overall struggle of the laboring class. Thus, our basic strategy should be firmly within the struggle of our class in general, and while we might find it very useful to unite with various groups or sections of the population, we must maintain and build ties with our class, the working class.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-UNITY



orts should be made elsewhere in place or program.

8. The Ex-con Resolution we must agree with, but with the qualification of our section on The Theoretical Formulation.

9. NEPA NEWS is doing a great job. It is not too abstract or rhetorical; it has a deep feel for the prisoners and apparently ex-cons and society's imprisoned. Its anxiety to do a good job, its desperate struggle to survive, to gather material, to meet deadlines, and so on all show through but are transcended in a spiritually and intellectually reviving newspaper.

10. The Nagle and Scollard keynotes were well-balanced and each was a solid general opening.

Intervention showed us how much real reform means social-economic, community restructuring.

The Bail Project showed laudable efforts, but revealed how totally unfair is the very existence of bail.

Parole is revealed to be useless except as a mechanical check-out system.

CCC's in Vermont exposes the death-trap of liberal reformism. You don't reform prisons: you reform societies, if you want to solve the problem (crime). But as the next workshop--

County Jails as Community Resource indicates, a lot can be done in the phaseout part to community corrections that humanizes the people who must make the new society work.

Probation, the community approach, is that like Parole it is a bureaucracy and a cop-approach system, which destroys its community meaning, therefore its true effectiveness.

Justice and Architecture is another of those liberal reformist Frankenstein projects. The intent is noble, the fact is a horror. If someone is going to have to live in a confined space, they should at least principally design it.

Community Re-Entry--the John Ramos, SDG, thing--the other programs like it are, we sense and frequently know for a fact, the real seedlings of tomorrow's crimeless society.

Prisoner-Run Prisons: we have had experience with: it is mixed: temporarily good, long-term the prisoner becomes his own keeper--an insanity. Solution: no prisons--a society that doesn't need them. And those people who think that impossible are the kind of people who would never have thought of making a wheel.

The Alternative Master Plan--primary speaker Honey Knopp--was a teaser. This woman sounds like she has really gone into depth on the problem. She should have more time to explain herself. She has good theory and effective-sounding practice working well together.

Role of the Press: "The papers must be integrated with and reflect the struggles of the prisoner movement, and must link-up the struggles of other people as well." That sum-up sums it up.

Role of the Legal Profession: All praise to lawyers who honestly discuss the problems of the legal profession vis a vis the prison and social-economic problems that continue to go unsolved. But it remains true as the workshop article summed up, "Another lawyer... said he was trying to find a way out, but has run out of ideas."

Alternative Juvenile Programs: Some of us have worked closely with juveniles. To work with them like you work-with "problem people" is self-defeating. To truly work with a young person you must love her or him and be prepared to live with them forever if need be. In short, we must be we and us to one another always or forget it.

Decriminalization: So much should be decriminalized immediately it is a problem figuring out which to start with. But for each decriminalization someone in "law enforcement" is going to be put out of work, and that is unprofitable.

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Meeting about NEPA NEWS

As scheduled at our April Conference, the meeting to discuss NEPA NEWS was held May 31 in Amherst, Mass.

About 30 people, representing Maine, N.H., Vermont, Mass. and New York City, attended.

We began the meeting with a rather general political discussion. Some folks felt more political clarity was needed before we could talk about what NEPA NEWS should be. Others felt there was sufficient agreement--and proposed a vote as to whether the persons in attendance approved of capitalism. One person did, so we figured we could proceed from that point and integrate the politics as needed.

NEPA NEWS staffers gave a run-down of the history of the paper, including where news comes from, how we decide what goes in, the role of Franconia College students, circulation and funding.

The staffers explained that some of the copy is generated from Franconia or is compiled by people at Franconia (such as the news shorts, legal material, and some feature articles), but most of the copy comes from prisoners and people in the prison movement.

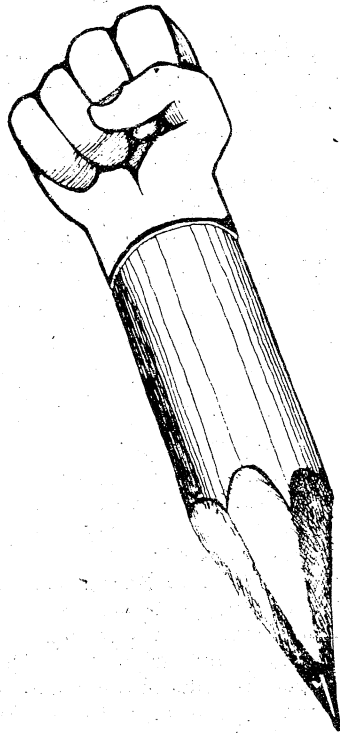
We generally work for two pages of news per state, but this is not always possible, and affects what goes in. For example, Ray Blais of ACI, R.I., generally sends us much more copy than we can use, and we select from there. On the other hand, SCAR has often sent little copy, and we usually run what they send. Where we have had a strong state editor, such as Donna Parker in Mass., that person does most of the selection for that state.

We felt that more copy generated by and largely controlled from each state would be an improvement. That would demand a serious commitment from more people.

Generally, the editorial board determines what goes in. We try to limit the number of long articles, but have one or two features of important prisoner events and persons from outside our region, and one or two more analytical pieces on topics known to be of interest to many prisoners, such as behavior modification.

The NEPA NEWS staffers assessed the major weakness of the paper as the fact that it basically is not in the community. The majority of our readership is prisoners; our outside readership is generally scattered around. We also felt this was a reflection of the fact that NEPA itself is not out in the communities doing the necessary organizing work.

We next discussed changes that could be



Bulletin Populaire/epf

made. We decided state editors was a good idea, and people volunteered from each state represented, plus we already had Dwight Green in Ct. (see page 20 for names and addresses). Also, Jim Bell agreed to do legal writing for us.

We talked about how the content could change to make the paper salable in the poor and working class communities. We agreed that because the paper was regional in scope, it would be impossible to cover actual community news in any depth and still be a prison paper.

The idea came up and was approved that what we could do was cover news of interest to community people by dealing in depth on particular topics. For example, we could cover welfare state by state, including a general analysis, and in each case explain how welfare affects prisoners and their families. Also, we could cover medical care, housing, unemployment, state by state, and relate them to the needs and problems of prisoners.

In this context, SCAR members discussed how they moved to a more community based organization and community oriented publication. At first, folks inside thought they had been deserted, because the reasons for the change were not pointed out to them. They concluded that such changes were necessary, but that they had to be worked out with the prisoners.

From there we discussed distribution. State editors agreed to help find more outlets for distribution, and asked and will ask others to help. We considered the possibility of commercial distribution, but need someone to look into this more.

This tied with questions of the papers salability and questions of fund raising. We felt the emphasis should be on a more salable, community oriented paper, than on marketing. We agreed there is an interaction between moving to a more community oriented paper and taking the paper into the communities where we do work, and the fact that we won't be able to have a paper that really reflects and helps a community until we are in the communities. We agreed the two parts had to work and grow together.

On fundraising, Bill Farmer, Joel Newstetter, Donna Parker and Gail Siegal agreed to put some effort into fund raising benefits, primarily concerts. It was suggested that each of us try to locate a concerned person or more who has money who would be willing to pay, once, the \$250-300 needed to publish an issue of NEPA NEWS.

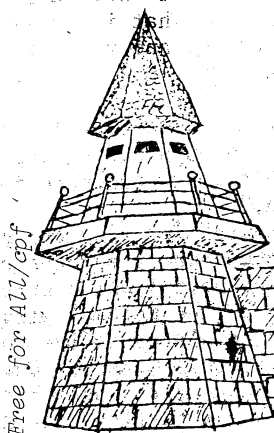
We all summed up the meeting as very positive. We expressed anger and concern toward persons who did not come to the meeting, particularly people who had taken a strong role in the conference, but then did not follow up on their many words. No one was down about it, as we sort of felt that, if necessary, "better fewer but better". We strongly urge people to attend the meetings.

The second meeting, on Women in Prison and Women in the Prison Movement, will be held June 28 in Nashua, N.H. (the same day we go to press). We sent out a mailing about the meeting--if you did not get one but want one, let us know as soon as possible.

The third meeting--topic and place to be arranged--as well as the fourth, will be decided on the 28th. So advance information about the third will be only by newsletter, but we will get advance info about the fourth out in the newspaper.

Comments and feedback are welcome and encouraged. We urge all who can to come to future meetings.

Response To The Women Imprisoned Workshop



Free for All/epf

by Sonia Dettmann

First let me say that what appeared in the paper and attributed to me was overstated and distorted. I don't think that men were transferred to Framingham first and foremost to dispel militancy among the women. Men being at Framingham did initially have a quieting effect on the institution. However it would be highly insulting and untrue to say that women will not react to their oppression in the company of men. In reality, the apparent calm works more like this: men are transferred to Framingham from higher security institutions like Walpole and Norfolk, and are generally in reach of parole. Any major infractions on the part of men means being shipped back to Walpole or Norfolk.

Some men who were previously rebellious at Framingham settled into getting out on work-release and eventual parole. Framingham has become a privilege to the men incarcerated there, whereas the situation for women has not



epf

changed much at all. This clearly works to undermine any efforts to organize.

Though I was a resource person for the workshop, I came away frustrated with the thrust of it, which was merely a reflection of the original agenda of the conference.

The workshop kept getting carried away with Alternatives to Incarceration. In fact, we were discussing alternative prisons and how to make prison more tolerable rather than questioning the very nature of society and how this is merely reflected in its most intense form in America's prisons.

We need to talk about a multitude of issues: why this subject of women in prison gets so little attention; why women get sent to mental institutions from prisons (as a disciplinary measure), which mirrors Society's view of women; and how we go about tearing down the monstrous structure of this society that needs prisons (old-style and now-style) in order to exist.

Vermont

Burlington Support Group

The Burlington Prisoner Support Group held its first meeting on March 10, 1975. About 20 people from the Burlington and St. Albans area who were concerned about the plight of prisoners in Vermont and elsewhere attended, including some ex-cons who had done time in Vermont and other places and knew the experience first hand.

Since then, the group has met regularly, every 2 or 3 weeks. We have made contact with people locked up in the Burlington and St. Albans Correctional Centers and learned about the conditions that exist in those two jails. We have sought representation on the steering committee which was and is planning programs for the new South Burlington Center. We have discussed goals and strategies for the group, and we have grown and involved more people.

We have also made some changes. We are changing our name and structure from an outside support group to an organization made up of people both inside and out. We are doing this because we felt that it would be more effective and more unifying to have membership in the group from both inside and outside of the jail. Rather than having a prisoners group inside and a support group outside, we wanted to establish an organization that would bridge the walls.

We are now in the process of designing membership cards and as soon as they are printed we will start signing people up--both inside and out. All of us believe that

reforms within the prison system are essential--that they should be more human places, that prisoners should have more decision making power over their existence within the walls and that there should be meaningful activities available to people while they are locked up. Most of us believe that, ultimately, the prison system should be abolished because it does nothing to help the prisoner and it does not protect society from crime. It is a complete failure, which should be obvious to anyone who looks at the recidivism (rate of return to incarceration). Most of us also believe that it is no accident that the vast majority of people who are locked up are poor and, in other states, racial minorities. The real purpose of the prison system then, is controlling the poor, not controlling crime or changing the circumstances in society that create it.

We are starting a newsletter which will be a cooperative effort by people inside and out--an effort at communicating current news about the prison at Burlington, and maybe St. Albans--and a vehicle for public education about the realities of these jails, and life inside them and an analysis of the prison system as it exists in our community.

Vermont Co-editors:

Martha Abbott, P.O. Box 192, Essex Center, Vt. 05451 879-6740

Martin Fishman, Spear St. Ext., Charlotte, Vt. 05445 425-2817



"Shy Love", William Cruz, ex-Comstock

Lawsuit Filed

A lawsuit has been filed by 16 prisoners of the Burlington Community Correctional Center against the administration and members of the staff. The suit, filed in Federal District Court, challenges the quality of food and medical care, as well as shakedown procedures and various types of harassment by the staff. Some of the allegations set forth in the complaint are these:

1. "(One prisoner) has had a heart condition for which he has had drug prescriptions for the past several years. Defendant (Dr.) Woodruff (the staff physician) has refused his heart medication and has refused to check background on the heart condition of the anxiety state, ordered by three specialists in that medical field. Since he has been at the Burlington Community Correctional Center, (the prisoner) has been denied that medicine even though he has repeatedly requested the medicine."

2. "The food at Burlington Community Correctional Center comes from a frozen food catering service. As far as Plaintiffs can determine, the food comes from out of the State of Vt. Because of this, or for other reasons, a great deal of the food is what is known as 'freezer-burnt' before it ever gets to the center. That is to say that food has become thawed out and then frozen over again, and again, how many times no one can say...."

Plaintiffs are allowed very little outside foodstuffs to be brought in on visits, only cookies and fruits. No homemade food of any kind is allowed."

3. The procedures for conducting strip searches and shakedowns (searches of cells and prisoner's property) which were set out by Judge Holden of the Federal District Court in Vt. are being violated at the Burlington Community Correctional Center. During one recent shakedown and strip search of all the prisoners, which was particularly disruptive and violent, several federal prisoners who were being held at Burlington requested that the federal marshalls be called in to protect them. After the marshalls discussed the situation with members of the staff and administration, the shakedown was abandoned without being completed--but not until after one of the prisoners was bodily injured by a staff member.

4. Other allegations in the suit pertain to the lack of access to books, magazines, and law-books and difficulties in calling and receiving calls from lawyers.

This lawsuit was prepared entirely by prisoners at the Burlington Center. It has generated a lot of unity among the prison population there around the various issues regarding prison conditions.

The prisoners at Burlington are badly in need of a typewriter to continue their legal preparation. Anyone willing to donate a typewriter should write to Martha Abbott, P.O. Box 192, Essex Center, Vt. 05451.

Struggle at Vermont Hospital

by Tracy Knapp

At the Vt. State Hospital in Waterbury, a new upsurge of militant union activity started after the Commissioner of Mental Health, Dr. Robert Okin, announced last April that there would be massive lay-offs of hospital employees. Around forty-five of these employees, some of them patients and former patients, are to be laid off in June and will receive notices up to that time. Dr. Okin SAID he was not singling out any individuals for the lay-offs but it is anyone's guess what kind of dirty tricks he is up to. There has been a fight to establish a new union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, in the hospital. This demand for an AFL-CIO union instead of the reactionary, no-strike, employer VSEA (the Vt. State Employees Association) has swept from Windsor Prison, the Vt. correctional centers to the hospital and back again. The demand has been raised by a small but brave group of hospital aids who are interested in having a better union that is not an employer union. This small group of low-paid hospital workers are friends of the patients and take their interests to heart. This is evident by the excessive and ridiculous harassment these aids have suffered. We have a lot in common.

The organization committee fighting for the AFSCME states that around 25% of the employees support the new AFL-CIO union. When at a meeting of the VSEA, the conservative VSEA will have to take its disgusting, shameful, employer-favored business elsewhere. This will also come about IF the organizing committee is not fired or among the forty-five laid off.

At almost any instant any aid supporting the AFSCME can be fired simply if his supervisor turns in a low, disgustingly ambiguous, monthly performance report. Even more outrageous is the fact that NO information meeting or any other kind of vitally needed meeting can be advertised ON STATE PROPERTY! Any state employee caught doing this is subject to immediate dismissal! For this reason the Vt. State Hospital is a hell for both patients and aids--especially the aids who want to do something to help make lives just a little bit easier. This brings up the question of the rights aids have to assemble and form another union. Their rights are obviously being abused and denied by threats of dismissal for union activity.

Probably the most disgusting spectacle aids and patients have to put up with is the Vt. State Hospital newspaper, "The Bungle" (ap-

propriately named). "The Bungle" refused to print petitions patients submitted regarding the hospital's policies on job discrimination because of sex and policies on moving patients excessively from ward to ward because "no decent paper prints petitions". Ever since the upsurge of the militant union activity "The Bungle" supposedly a patient and staff newspaper) has been ranting and raving about the great virtues of the VSEA to intimidate and frighten both workers and patients. After one issue "The Bungle" put out, fanatically praising the virtues of the employer-union the VSEA, a quotation appeared on the first page. This little gem was "I may not agree with what you say but I defend to death your right to say it" by Voltaire the great French revolutionist. Despite the fact that they cannot even advertise their meetings or even criticize the VSEA publicly the feelings against the VSEA have survived. Despite the fact that even to mention the AFSCME could get an aid fired, this courageous group of aids fights on.

The Vt. State Hospital is saturated with repression that falls on both patient and aid. It seems the Vt. State Hospital administration is intent on having a bossy automaton for an aid, not only an inhuman robot who carries out orders without question to the letter, but also a "screw" who can think of ingenious petty ways to torture and make patients more miserable. The Vt. State Hospital administration wants the aids with a sadistic, German Shepherd mentality who slap out the needles, wristlets and thorazine at the slightest provocation or whenever a patient gives out a little "lip". The Vt. State Hospital administration does not want young, intelligent, independent aids who are able to solve their problems from the standpoint of their being able to look at their problems correctly. The administration of this hospital wants frightened, cruel, intimidated, effeminate bullies set in their ways, who can blame their working conditions on little inconveniences they imagine the patients inflict on them. The hospital does not want an aid who will run to another part of the hospital to get a patient a copy of SOLEDAD BROTHER by George Jackson. The hospital wants employees who will pretend they are living in the tenth century.

The hopes of this patient are with those few aids and hospital employees who live with the fear every day of being dismissed for union activities and who dare to criticize the VSEA, the Commissioner of Mental Health and repression in the hospital.



Second demonstration for Yancey in Portsmouth, N.H.

Free John Yancey

The movement to build support for John Yancey, a Black prisoner at NHSP, continues on the outside. But the John Yancey Defense Committee (JYDC) faces some real problems, and needs the help of us all.

John maxed-out (did every single day) in the sentence for which he was in jail during May. He is charged with assault on a guard stemming from an incident in which he was attacked by guards and decided to defend himself. (See August, 1974 NEPA NEWS and other issues.) He is now in prison waiting to make

\$10,000 bail.

Initially, the bond was \$5000. The court raised it to \$10,000. The JYDC has raised about \$1500 in cash, but no bondsman will take it unless he/she has property collateral for the remaining \$8500. Thus far, the JYDC has been unable to get a person to put up their property. Your help is needed.

The JYDC is currently seeking a bail rehearing. They will ask the judge to accept \$1500 cash--or at least to reduce bond. This request will certainly be fought by the state

New Hampshire

of NH, so it may not succeed.

John also needs a good, politically conscious lawyer. He has a lawyer now who does not wish to make a political trial. John and the JYDC understand that his case is political, and that community support is needed.

John has been the victim of racist attacks for many years, particularly in NHSP. Capt. LaVally, who led the attack on John, has been exposed as a racist by many prisoners. The JYDC calls for the firing of guard LaVally.

The JYDC has been active in building support for John in NH's seacoast region. They have had two demonstrations, national news coverage, benefit suppers, film showings and speaking engagements, and have leafletted and gone door to door. Support for John is growing steadily in his home area, Portsmouth.

But John himself remains in NHSP. His trial is currently scheduled for September. The JYDC sees that it is crucial that John be released on bail if he is to have a fighting chance in court. He needs the active support of the people and a good, fighting lawyer.

Right now, he needs money. We call on committed people to come forward and help. John intends to fight because he knows he is right. He does not plan to split.

If you can help, contact either the JYDC, Box 401, Portsmouth, N.H., 03801, or N.H. NEPA, Franconia, N.H. 03580, (603)823-8501. Your solidarity and strength is needed by this fighting Brother. We thank you for that support.

FREE JOHN YANCEY
FIRE CAPTAIN LA VALLEY

Can Prisoners Run NHSP?

We in NEPA have begun to kick around the idea of prisoner-run prisons. The idea of really pushing for con run prisons first occurred to the SCAR folks in Maine. Oddly, the idea had really been under our noses for some time--but had not been recognized.

For a long time, as NEPA, SCAR and other folks showed the NEPA film, 3000 Years and Life, to audiences in New England, we would always explain to people that the film proved that prisoners could run a joint better than guards and administration.

For a long time many of us have talked about--and some folks across the country moved on--the idea of prisoner unions. The idea was that unions would bargain with the administration over wages and conditions, as do unions on the outside. Those of us familiar with the history of unions are also familiar with the attempts, here and there, of the unionized workers actually running the work places.

Those of us familiar with the history of people's struggles and movements, in this country and elsewhere, are aware of efforts of workers and communities struggling to gain control over their day to day lives.

Yet the idea of prisoner-run prisons was always kept on the shelf. A nice idea, but... it seemed to improbable to take as real.

Finally, it occurred to the SCAR folks, why not push for a prisoner run prison? The SCAR chapter in Thomaston Prison, as well as on the streets, began to really work on the idea. How could it be put into practice? Where should we begin, and how should we move, step by step? As we move, what obstacles and dangers would we face?

These are complicated questions, not to be answered off the tops of our head, or figured out by a few of us, inside or out. As SCAR began to move on the idea, people in N.H. NEPA, inside and out, began to talk about it.

At first, as brother Roger tells in his letter (on this page), folks said, "Well, it's a nice idea, but..." So we talked more. We began to come up with more concrete ideas. We tried to figure what the first demands on the warden and trustees should be.

We thought perhaps a general demand for an open prison could be first. Cells, classrooms, gym/auditorium, yard and so on could be open 24 hours a day--unless a prisoner wanted to be locked in. The men could then use the prison resources--such as they are--when they wanted. The opening up of the prison could be done in stages, gradually increasing both areas of the prison to be kept open and the length of time things are kept open.

Prisoners could then move, as a group, to

run the prison's industries. Examples from all over the world show that when the workers have a say about the work, productivity increases. Because it is to their benefit, the workers constantly come up with new ideas that improve both working conditions and productivity. We say again, this only happens when the workers (in this case prisoners) have a real say about the industry, in every part of it, and not some sort of fake participation--like, "We'll consult you (and ignore you when we want)."

Increased productivity could be reflected in two ways. One, it would produce more income. This profit should be controlled by the cons, and used as they wish (which could include increased wages, or purchase of things of benefit to the prisoners--books, athletic equipment, machines, whatever). Secondly, the increased productivity could be reflected in getting the job done sooner--so more free time for all.

This process must be under the cons' control. If not, prisoners would just work harder for the same amount of time, and the administration would control the proceeds (again, the "We'll consult you" line).

The third area we will mention here is that prisoners should begin to control inside discipline. A prisoner-run prison demands solidarity and self-discipline. Again, this could be developed slowly. Perhaps a beginning could be a new sort of disciplinary system: A disciplinary board could be composed of cons (elected by the cons) and guards (elected by the guards). They would hear all grievances brought against both guards and cons.

But the object of this sort of disciplinary board would be different from simple punishment. The goal would be to sort out problems, find the cause, and eliminate the cause to the satisfaction of all persons concerned.

The last area to mention here is the role of the guards inside the prison. We feel that as the prisoners steadily control more aspects of the prison, the guard force should be both reduced and pulled back to the wall. This can be done without firing anyone--just hire no more guards as they resign or retire.

This would also free up lots of money. For example, of the \$2.2 million in direct taxpayer money proposed by Gov. Thomson for the 1976 fiscal year (beginning July 1, 1975), about \$1.5 million goes to salaries, personal services and fringe benefits for administrative, custodial (guard), maintenance and treatment personnel. Much of this money could

be used for other purposes in a prisoner-run prison.

We would also suggest that as the prison becomes con-run, and as the prisoners bring in job training and education of their choosing, the remaining guards should have access to these services, if they wish. This is now being done in the Hampshire County Jail in Mass., which has become in effect a school for guards, administration and prisoners.

These are some of the ideas we have come up with. They are just some initial proposals, for discussion, development or rejection.

The important thing here is the idea: that the goal is a prisoner-run prison. It can be developed step by step. At each step, the practicality of the idea will become clearer. At each step, the living conditions will become better. And at each step, prisoners will have to be careful not to be co-opted. The danger is an illusion of a prisoner-run prison in which all that really happens is the cons police themselves and exploit their own labor power--for the ultimate benefit not of themselves, but of the administration.

We think that the idea is feasible. Nothing in the N.H. laws prohibits it--though it will demand the cooperation of the warden and the trustees. A carefully thought-out, step by step approach, backed by all the prisoners, using their elected representation--the Prison Reform Council--could make the idea a reality.

The benefits are clear: a more liveable prison, some real "rehabilitation", diminished taxpayer expense. Also very important, as the public sees that prisoners can exert self-help, self-determination and self-discipline, they will be increasingly receptive to closing the places down in favor of community release supplemented with a few halfway houses as needed.

In sum, we think prisoner-run prisons is a good idea, and we can make it work. We ask people inside to think about the idea. Talk among yourselves, write to us, talk to the NEPA folks inside. If the consensus is that it is a good idea, then let us move ahead. If folks think it is a bad idea, then perhaps the discussion that comes down will result in better ideas, ideas that will have the support of the prisoners and which folks on the outside can help to implement.

We await your comments and criticism. Through discussion and struggle, unity can be attained, and we can all move ahead.

Unity, Unity

by Roger Boberg, N.H.S.P.

A friend of mine told me of an idea that he and some others in the North East Prisoners' Association were talking about. It was the idea of a completely prisoner-run prison. At first I just gave him a blank stare and nodded my head at the appropriate times in the conversation. All I could think was that my old buddy had finally wiggled out. I could think only of some of the worse aspects if the idea were taken out of context and used against prisoners, instead of for them. But later, when I got back to my cell, I started thinking about it more seriously. This is the way I see NHSP being run now and the way it could be run using the idea NEPA is discussing:

The way it is now, most prisoners don't have a real good idea of how the joint is run. They see a certain structure, a hierarchy of command, but mostly it's on a gut-level of understanding.

Starting at the very top, there is the Governor. Thomson has interfered with the running of this prison more than any other Governor of any state, that I know of. He has a direct influence because the Board of Trustees and the Warden depend on him to keep their jobs. Those are appointed positions and largely depend on the whims of that man. If Thomson does not like the way things are being run, he may revoke the appointment and the Warden or the Board of Trustees are out of work. Or he may block any new fundings for proposed programs. Either way, he has the ultimate authority of decision.

Now we go on to the Board of Trustees. These are the people who decide policy and ask for funds to run the prison. Mostly, they're decoration; they implement Thompson's policies. Then comes the Warden. More decoration; Oh, he puts on a good front. He smiles a lot and takes a good picture, but all he has done so far is to think up a lot of petty rules to pass on to the prisoners. He has sponsored a furlough bill but it's a joke. He places emphasis on earning it instead of furloughs being a "right". Furloughs must be a "right" of prisoners if they are to maintain family ties but we're not discussing furloughs here.

The Warden delegates what little real authority and responsibilities to others, like his Deputy (whom we almost never see) and his custodial staff, headed by the Major. Little is really known about why the Warden needs all these people as a buffer. It only makes him more inaccessible to prisoners. The custodial staff is charged with the responsibility of enforcing all those rules Helgemoe keeps making up. Largely they do a zealous job of enforcing them, too, and where a rule does not cover a given situation or circumstance they make up their own rules. Even when it has been proven that sometimes the guards are wrong in their treatment of prisoners, the Warden feels compelled to back them over the words of prisoners. Clearly this is not a healthy attitude for cooperation between guards and prisoners.

There are also some white collar types working here, but I'm not sure what it is they do. It seems to me that their only function is to put a barrier between prisoners and the Warden. These are the people who seem to run the programs here like work-release, education, jobs and cell-changes. Their final authority rests with the Director of Treatment and the Deputy.

There is a lot of discrimination coming down here for various reasons, largely fostered by the guards and directed against specific individuals and generally against anybody they happen not to like.

We come now to the programs here at NHSP, of which there are all too few. Work or Study Release is almost non-existent. Of the 250 plus prisoners here, there is room for only about 18 or 20 prisoners at the halfway house.

We have some education which has included elementary, high school and college level courses. Except that the college level courses have been cut out due to lack of funds. Of the elementary and high school level courses I can't say much. Basically they are about the same as what there is on the streets but that also means they are rife with the propaganda of the rich ruling class. A class of owners which uses racism, sexism, money and prison to keep people in line.

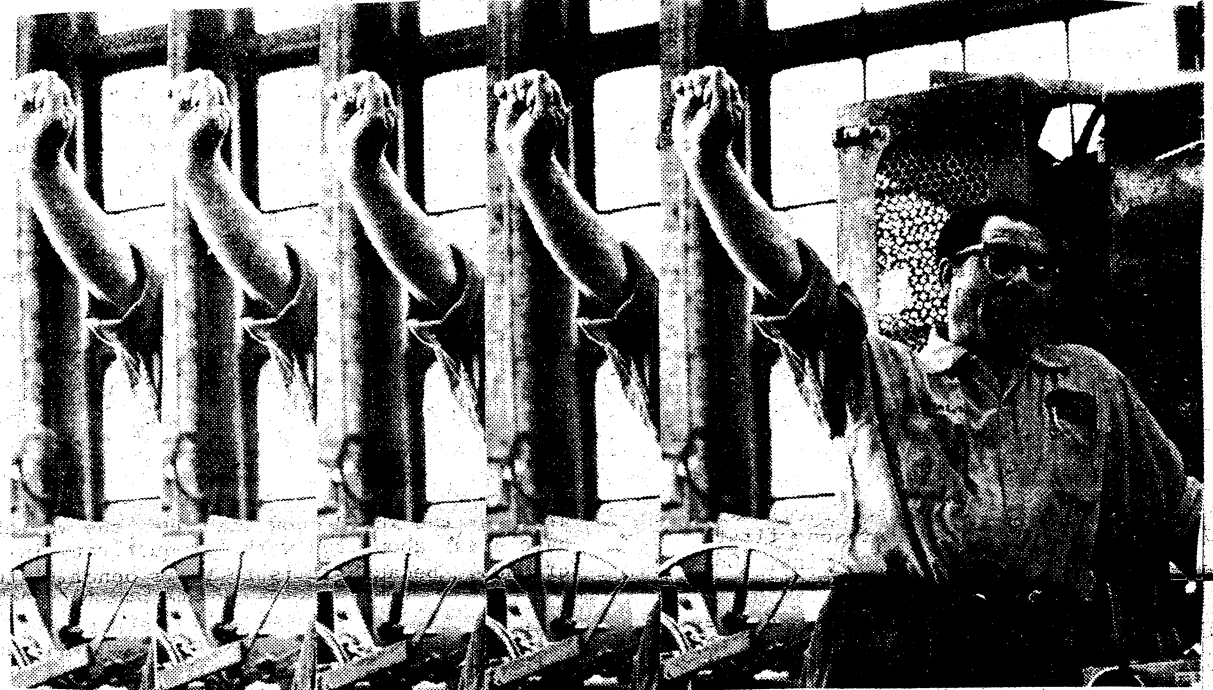
We have an auto school which is fairly de-

cent. If prisoners wish to learn auto-mechanics this is the only good school at NHSP.

We have a print shop which uses out-dated equipment so we can't get much practical experience there. Everything else is just menial labor.

We do have a little sports activity. There is soft ball which must be played on a too small yard, a half court of basketball, a handball court (in which we lose our balls over the wall). We have some ten year old weights, two ping pong tables and a TV in the recreation hall that doesn't work very well. All that is left is to play cards, if we buy the cards ourselves. Or, if one is interested enough, there are a couple of guys who are willing to teach what they know of karate or boxing.

We have a few prisoner organizations. First, the Jaycees. These are a group of about 40 prisoners who are trying to help us by using the system. They can't get much done, though, because the system is shot to hell. There is NEPA. These guys are trying to help prisoners too, but are under the handicap of being a special target of Thomp-



son and Loeb. NEPA is unrecognized despite the fact that it claims about half the prison population. It has made enemies because it is not afraid to cry foul. Only a few determined people are keeping the prison chapter alive. It would seem that Thompson sees NEPA as a special threat to his domination of the prison so he has recommended to the Board of Trustees not to recognize it, hoping prisoners would lose interest in it if they see that it's frowned on. Last is the Prisoners' Reform Council (PRC). This is the only prisoner organization which is recognized to bring up grievances to the Warden. Every prisoner belongs to the PRC and its leadership is elected by popular vote. Since it was formed in 1973, it has been able to help prisoners in some ways but it is not very effective in its present form because it relies on the Warden to grant concessions. It doesn't usually present demands for needed programs and treatment, backed by the entire population, rather, it asks favors. If it were to re-form into a prisoner union, it could present demands, not ask favors. If it could consolidate, tighten up, as it were, its position would be greatly enhanced and it would have the immediate one hundred percent support of over 250 men to back its play.

OK. If the PRC were to present demands, what should they be? Remember, this whole piece is about the idea of a completely prisoner-run prison. Other prisons have been toying with the idea. For a very short time, our brothers at Attica ran their own prison. Walpole has too, when their guards went on strike. SCAR in Maine is also laying in the ground work for it. The first step is to remove all the guards from inside the prison. We could get along very well without guards to hassle us every day.

Next, we take control of every program which employs prisoners. If we could control the profits from industry, we could plough those profits back into useful items for prisoners, such as better food and clothing, expanded sports and recreation and education,

Film At NHSP?

We of NEPA would like to have a showing inside NHSP of our film, *3000 Years and Life*. We propose that a time be set up by the PRC and the warden for us to show the film to prisoners, guards and administration, and to have discussion afterwards.

etc. Having control and using profits for our own benefit implies we are responsible people. I think the majority here are. We could do any needed policing and disciplining ourselves. Of that, I think we would need very little. We would not be working for the man any more; we would be working for ourselves.

Relying on ourselves, we could open everything. All the cells would be open, day or night. No count would be taken; that would be done as new prisoners enter. Only if individual people desired to lock their cells would it be done. We could have unlimited yard and visiting time after the work is done. The library would never close, as also the canteen. There would be no structured eating time. Set up as a cafeteria, one could eat or not, as one chose. There would be no restrictions on what could be studied and, thus, would be a greater incentive to learn.

As this program of complete self-rule

succeeds it would eventually lead to the abolition of prison altogether. Prisoners would be more self-confident to handle their own affairs in an effective manner. We would be able to function quite well in a community-based institution like a halfway house. Since it would be community-based there would be better relations between prisoners and actual citizens. For the first time we would be able to take an active role as a prisoner, as a citizen, in society.

As for where did all the guards go, put them on the walls. That should be enough security to prevent escapes.

If we are to take this qualitative step we must continuously be on guard to see that this plan does not get subverted by anyone. The eyes of the entire country would be on us, watching to see if we stumble. Our Strength would lie in our unity. Once we are united, really united, the strength of the community would be with us. We must also not repeat any of the mistakes of the capitalists. They have run this country into the hole and now they can't climb out.

But first and foremost, we must get together, get strong and unionize, unionize. Then may we start a completely prisoner-run prison.



People's Voice/cpf

Statement Of Arthur Tavares

Arthur Tavares is a prisoner at Clinton, N.Y. He was recently convicted of second degree assault on another prisoner. The judge deferred sentence, though he indicated it might be a maximum of three years.

Tavares' statement, which follows, exposes the brutality and racism of both Clinton Prison and the court of so-called law.

I wish to begin this statement by making it understood to this court that I am here today to be sentenced for a crime which I confessed my guilt of.

It is not, in truth, the crime itself which I stand guilty of, rather it is because of other factors, one of which is my participation in certain activities while confined within Clinton Prison. Included as one of these activities is the influence I held over other inmates of my generation during the organization of a liason committee to express our grievances regarding the everyday injustices perpetrated against us by our jailors: brutality and depriving us of the basic necessities. I am quite sure that it is understood what I mean by everyone within this court room so I will not further elaborate on this subject.

On March 7, 1975, I appeared in this court to receive sentence, but my lawyer and I asked for a postponement for the purpose of preparing a pre-sentence report in my behalf. After much unnecessary deliberation by the judge, this motion was finally granted. Also on that date the subject of my illegal confinement within Clinton Prison for a period of 8 months (from February to October 1974) was discussed. Let me make this matter a little clearer so that it will be fully understood by everyone here. I was arrested in 1969 for committing the crime of manslaughter. In February of 1974 my conviction and sentence were vacated by Justice Tyler of the Supreme Court in New York City. The reason for this judgement by Justice Tyler was that since I was only fifteen years old at the time of the commission of that crime, I should not be held accountable for my actions relating to the crime. When the subject of those eight months were brought to Feinberg's attention, he simply stated that it was some kind of mix-up down in the city and that he was sure that the parole board would take the matter into consideration.

What comfort does this give me? What comfort, when the fact that 8 months of my life were stripped of me for no apparent reason, stares me in the face. The court and I are fully aware upon whom the responsibility lies. Yet I know that nothing is being, or ever will be done to rectify this injustice.

In addition, allow me to relate some of my experiences at Clinton Prison, experiences, incidently, which I have previously related to the District Attorney of this county, Asadourian. Specifically speaking, six beatings I received from sadistic prison officials for wanting to maintain the little manhood left to me after spending six years in various penal institutions in this state. More expressly, beatings for refusing to surrender my dignity in regard to the policy of dehumanizing prisoners by utilizing degrading rectal examinations which are a part of their so-called searches.

The District Attorney responded that prison officials were being repeatedly victimized as a result of them performing their duties.

It was no surprise to me that I received a response of this nature, for Malcolm X had a philosophy that this system has a way of making it appear that the victims are the criminals and the criminals the victims.

In essence, I feel I was the victim and the prison officials were the criminals. By this system's own standards I had wished to make a complaint against the prison officials for their assault upon me on the occasions I was beaten. The District Attorney said he would not assist me in this matter and made it clear that he wouldn't because of his feeling that these officials were being victimized.

How funny it is when we the prisoners hear such a thing from the District Attorney, a so-called public servant, knowing that in



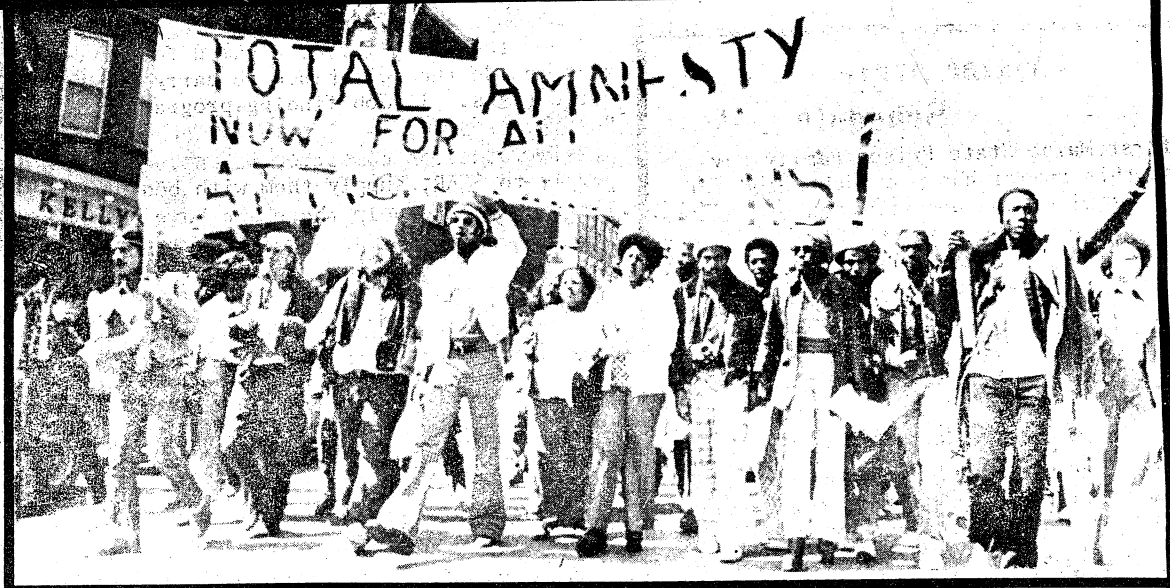
order to be victimized must one not suffer some type of injustice? What type of injustice do we inflict upon these officials when we simply wish to take legal action when we feel that they have used illegal means against us? None whatsoever if you ask me!

I am guilty not because of any violation of the penal law but because of the color of my skin which is, obviously, black. To me this means that I cannot receive justice in this court because of the practice within this country to give justice to those with power and to deprive those without means. As I, being poor and black, along with low class whites, have learned, we cannot expect justice because of our condition, we cannot expect it because of those who continue to practice the philosophy of the Ku Klux Klan in this nation. So we must suffer until we can bring them to the people's justice, yes indeed, justice.

Let me say now that since that day six years ago when I was arrested, I have disciplined myself to realize that one day I may die at the hands of those I oppose. I ask for no pity or sympathy from this court for I realize the true meaning of what is taking place today. I would like you all to know that what I am today, you have created with your cruel and heartless system of oppression.

I can almost feel your hate because of this statement, as I am sure you feel mine. So I know I will never see the streets again, due to the manner in which you intend to deal with me. One thing amuses me: Who will be my executioner? A fellow prisoner? Or will it be the prison officials who pass themselves off as upholders of law and order? One thing is definite, it surely will not be myself for I intend to oppose everything that the prison officials support and to support all that they oppose.

I now conclude my statement, so come on with the time! I am totally prepared in both mind and body to cope with the beatings that await me at Clinton Prison.



Attica Trials

The Attica trials continue. New trials, new defendants, come forward, but it remains the same.

By court order, the juries now should be racially balanced. But Black men are tried by all White jurors.

Again and again prosecution witnesses contradict earlier sworn statements. When the defense probes to find the reasons for the contradictions, the answer always comes clear: the witness traded parole or immunity for his testimony. One case was so blatant the judge threatened the witness with a perjury charge.

The judges remain part of the prosecution. They say it makes no difference that an FBI informer Mary Jo Cook told defense information to the prosecution. Political issues--the reasons for the rebellion--are disallowed.

The prosecution continues to fabricate evidence, coerce witnesses, tap telephones, find infiltrators; use peremptory challenges to create all-White juries, and withhold evidence that supports the defense.

Government officials remain silent--good Rockefeller flunkies. Assemblyman Eves of Buffalo introduced a bill in the N.Y. legislature to grant amnesty to all. But nothing has happened. Governor Carey pretends to do something by appointing a special prosecutor

to investigate the old Attica special prosecutor. But he takes no real action.

The defense continues. Decajeweah (John Hill) was sentenced to 20 years. He has appealed and the struggle is on now for him to be released on appeal bond.

Shango (Bernard Stroble) fights as his own lawyer in a murder trial--with other counsel assisting. He faces an all-white jury of mostly middle-aged males. More murder trials are forthcoming, as well as other trials.

The defense continues to expose the deeds of the prosecution. The judges side with the prosecution, and the prosecution continues its acts.

But even with false evidence, informers, liars as witnesses, wire taps, and all-white middle-class jurors (half of whom are friends or relatives of guards)--still the prosecution has trouble getting convictions.

The fight continues, the Brothers need our support, and it appears they will need that support for years to come. We would make a terrible mistake if we allowed the unrelenting sameness of the trials to make our attention wander, to cause us to divert our support.

We must never waver, never cease our support. Attica is all of us--free the Brothers, free ourselves!

Maine

Prison News-Thomaston

1. We want an end to collective and/or mass punishment. The collective lock-up of inmates is in open and flagrant disregard of controlling law and is in direct violation of the United States District Court consent decree. The inmates who are locked up should be released. If any further action is taken, it should be in accordance with due process of law.

2. We want an end put to unnecessary write-ups, harrassment, and unjust kangaroo court hearings.

3. We want an end to the use of segregation as punishment.

4. We want the cell doors left open till 11:00 p.m., locking just the door at the end of the tier. The dorms are set up this way, and there is no reason why anyone has to be locked in a cell alone.

There has been disorder in the prison for quite some time, primarily over open disregard by the prison administration of the consent decree, harrassment from certain guards and prison administrators, write-ups and the unjust kangaroo court that follows them, mass punishment, and the use of segregation as punishment. Warden Mullaney has ignored such greivances in the past, and continues to thumb his nose at the United States Federal Court Consent Decree, which guarantees certain rights and protections to prisoners.

The rally was sparked this time by another violation of the Consent Decree as regards mass punishment of inmates. A couple of inmates threw some jars out of their cells, and in response to this, the administration locked up three tiers and took an inmate advisory council member to segregation.

Inmate Advocate Robert Carlson, Gus Herald, and the Inmate Advisory Council met with Warden Mullaney as the prisoners requested. Mullaney released the inmates who were locked up in the mass lock-up, and has agreed to point #4, but will not implement it until a program has been laid down in black and white.

Maine State Schedule

The first Maine State Prison Family Day Picnic of this summer has been scheduled for July 29. Families and womenfriends of inmates can go inside the prison for a picnic in the yard and informal visiting. While female non-family members are allowed into the picnics, male non-family members are not. Discrimination!

Feed A Neighbor

SCAR has begun to develop a program called "Feed a Neighbor". The object of the program is to distribute excess produce grown by Maine farmers to poor people in Maine's cities. Tentatively, SCAR plans distribution in eight cities: Bangor, Skowhegan, Waterville, Augusta, Lewiston, Brunswick/Bath, Portland, and Biddeford/Saco.

SCAR has sent out letters, will be doing ads on radio and in newspapers. Their letter begins: Dear Friends,

This is a time when many of our people are experiencing very hard times. Many people are finding themselves unable to meet even their most basic needs. One of the most basic of all needs is food. There exists within this state the resources to properly feed everyone here yet we are finding undernourished children in our cities, too many people having to get by for the most part on substandard diets as a result of living on government commodities, and even many people (especially older people, pensioners) resorting to cat food and dog food in order to balance their diets. Most of us who work with and live with or are poor people don't need too much elaboration on this point.

We are writing this letter to introduce you to a new program that we will be running for the next three months, we call it our feed-a-neighbor program. The idea, which we tested on a smaller scale last year, is to get people in the rural areas who have gardens to donate their excess produce for distribution among needy people in the cities.

To make the program work, SCAR needs volunteers, help from other organizations, vehicles and financial assistance. To help, to get more information, call or write: Feed a Neighbor, SCAR, 374 Fore St., Portland, Me. 04111 (207) 773-7218, 7219, 7210.

Scar Open Meeting Canceled

In the last few months, SCAR has, for the first time, been allowed to hold open meetings with the entire population of the Maine State Prison, the same as AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and religious groups are allowed to hold. Two such meetings have been held in the prison to date, and their effect has been to greatly increase not only our numbers, but our strength and clout as well.

The third open meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, was cancelled yesterday by the prison administration, and all future open meetings have been disallowed. To date, we have been given no reason why.



Dr. John Rosser/Commissioner
Bureau of Mental Health and Corrections
State Office Building
August, Me. 04330

Re: SCAR activities.

Dear Dr. Rosser,

We direct these requests to you, as Warden Mullaney ignores requests from SCAR and makes every effort to harass and suppress SCAR activities as will be briefly outlined in the body of this letter.

Approximately three weeks ago we sent Warden Mullaney the below listed requests. After the three weeks had passed without a reply, the Inmate Advocate wrote him asking that he answer SCAR's letter. Still no reply. However, this instance is typical. We have been going through this for 2 1/2 years with almost every request being denied or ignored by Warden Mullaney with the result that we have had to turn to your office.

We would like some SCAR people cleared from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm, i.e. cleared for movement inside the cell block to carry out specific tasks: 1. Job finding program, 2. Bussing program, 3. Internal SCAR editor, 4. Introduction committee to introduce new people to SCAR, supply them with books and literature, and help those who have no money with essential items, 5. Study group for Educational purposes.

The Jay Ceas have clearance from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm to see inmates, as do the Alcoholics Anaymous, Inmates Advisory Council and store runners. We are not asking to have all the SCAR people out at one time, but rather two or three on a rotating basis. This clearance is regularly granted to other groups but it is being withheld in the case of SCAR.

There is a small office in the counseling annex that is not being used. We would like to use this as a SCAR office. We also would like to have a phone which is important for finding jobs for inmates, editorial work, bussing program and legal work. SCAR would of course pay all expenses. Presently we do not have a place to work or even to keep files. As mentioned in Dept. Policy No. 32, part 1, #4: "To provide opportunities and facilities to promote peaceful assemblies and organizational and/or group activities".

We have gotten much feedback from prisoners that Prison Administrators had told them to "stay away from SCAR, they are a bunch of trouble makers, etc." Under Departmental Policy No. 32, part 1, #3: "To permit and encourage offenders to belong to and participate in organizations of their own choosing." Prison administrators remarks are often accompanied by the veiled threat that retaliation will be taken against those associating with SCAR. We want this deliberate harrassment stopped.

Warden Mullaney will not allow us to put out a biweekly SCAR newsletter. As described in Policy No. 32, part 1, #1, "Individual residents of correctional institutions are able to exercise the Constitutional guarantees of free expression and association to the same extend and subject to the same limitations as the public at large."

Warden Mullaney and Deputy Warden Finney have limited our meetings of external and internal SCAR members to a total of eight without the presence of a guard in the room. If over eight people are present a guard must be stationed in the room. The Jay Ceas and AA are allowed to hold meetings without a guard in the room. At some of their meetings,

20 to 30 people attend. We feel that this is good, but that SCAR should be given the same treatment.

Dep. Finney stated that "there will be no more meetings with the general population. We have a guard shortage because of Governor Longley's cutbacks." However, he did say that we could have a meeting with SCAR members when you file a membership list. We filed a membership list well over a year ago, and here were never any stipulations that only SCAR members could attend at Town meetings.

These limitations are not in compliance with the Departmental Policy No. 32. It is a deliberate attempt to suppress all SCAR functions. The lies, contradictions and harrassment are designed to wear us down and demoralize SCAR people.

However, we are not going to let this happen, we are getting stronger and will exist and serve the social needs of the people.

Legislation

Two SCAR-written bills were introduced into the Maine legislature this session.

The first bill, the Private Visits bill, would have allowed prisoners to visit privately with their families, woman friends, a doctors, or attorneys. The bill came out of committhe with a unanimous "ought to pass" recommendation, was passed overwhelmingly in the House, then was passed in the more conservative Senate, only to be vetoed by "King James" Longley, Maine's independent governor. The House did not override the veto, so the bill is now dead.

The Private Visits Bill is the first SCAR bill to come so close to being passed, but almost doesn't mean much to prisoners who are struggling to hold their outside relationships together an hour a week in a crowded visiting room.

The second bill, the Good Time Bill, would allow 14 days per month Good Time per inmate instead of the present 7. It is still to be voted on.

A bill to re-instate the death penalty, sponsored by Reactionary Stan Laffin, was defeated in the House. The bill would call for the death penalty for anyone convicted of killing a law enforcement officer, a fireman, an informer(!), prosecutor, President, Vice-President, or governor.

Laffin stated to the press that if the death penalty were re-instated, it would be "Maine's finest hour", and that he himself would be proud to push the button for Maine's first execution after the law was passed. Tough luck, Stan!

Maine Community News

Portland Housing Authority Bans Guns in "the Projects"

The Portland Housing Authority has decided that guns and housing projects don't mix, and have issued a ban on guns in the projects. The ban is said to be in response to several incidents involving guns.

Peter Howe, director of the PHA stated that "they weren't going to enforce the ban; it was just there in case an incident did arise." This sounds like selective enforcement.

Several residents, many of them hunters, object to the ban and have taken the case to the MCLU (Maine Civil Liberties Union). Robert Howe, of MCLU, states that there are several legal issues to examine concerning the ban, including the issue of "Does the PHA have the right to tell Public Housing Tenants that they can't own guns?" There is also the issue of the PHA altering the lease without the tenants' consent.

Howe summed up the position of the ACLU as this: "It's basically a question of fairness. Why shouldn't these citizens be allowed to own guns when other citizens do?"

The owners of the big houses on Baxter Blvd. are allowed to keep a gun in the house to protect their premises, but the low income people in the projects can't even store a hunting rifle in their homes.



not for women only



EDITED BY: SHELLEY COOPER NEILL



Joann Little

Joann Little will file suit against the estate of Clarence Alligood, a Beaufort County, N.C. jailer she killed while he was trying to rape her. Jack Harris, sheriff of Beaufort County at the time of the slaying, is also included in the \$1 million damage suit.

The Federal suit contends that Alligood violated Little's constitutional rights by acting under the cover of North Carolina law to inflict cruel and unusual punishment upon her and to invade her privacy by attacking her sexually. The suit is being brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center and by Little's attorneys, Jerry Paul and Karen Galloway.

In addition to seeking damages, the law suit includes a class action on behalf of all female inmates in Beaufort County Jail. It charges that women prisoners there are mostly supervised by male attendants who can see them when they bathe, undress, or use the bathroom.

The suit contends that female inmates "are confined in such a manner that male trustees, jailers and other male persons given free run of the jail expose their genitalia... and make vulgar and obscene remarks against the will and beyond the control" of the women locked in their cells.

Prior to Alligood's death, women's cells were monitored by closed circuit TV cameras which could be watched by male guards or by anyone else in their office. These cameras were removed after Alligood's death, but could be reinstalled.

The court is asked to find the described conditions in the jail unconstitutional and to prohibit the county jail from continuing to treat women imprisoned there in the same way.

The case of Joann Little has attracted wide attention from groups concerned with abuse of prisoners and with the right of women to defend themselves against rape. Little has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Alligood. Her trial is scheduled to begin in Raleigh, N.C., July 14. A major rally of her supporters from around the country is being planned for the opening day.

--Thanks to the Guardian

Legalized RAPE

Britain's highest appeals court has ruled that a man cannot be convicted of rape "if he honestly believed the woman consented to sexual intercourse, no matter how unreasonable that belief was," according to Reuters, the British wire service.

"I find it difficult to believe that anyone will ever be convicted of rape again," said Richard du Cann, a criminal lawyer. The three-to-two ruling by the five judges "ignores the peril a woman is under when she faces an attack of this kind. It is a disaster."

One Member of Parliament, Jack Ashley, protested, "This deplorable judgement introduces an entirely new factor into trial for rape. Henceforth the man's belief that he was not committing rape can prevent conviction."

"Every vicious sexual attack can now be excused on the grounds that the aggressor claims to believe that his victim's pleas were not sincere," Ashley said.

N.C. SISTERS STRUGGLE

'We got mad...
and sent them running.'

(UPI) Raleigh, North Carolina

Women prisoners armed with chunks of concrete and hoe handles fought night-stick swinging guards on June 15, 1975 at the North Carolina Women's Prison. Eleven prisoners and six male guards were injured.

After the first assault, the guards retreated, surrounding the prison, while women inside resumed a night-long sitdown demonstration.

At 11:00 a.m., the following morning, prison officials agreed to meet two of the five demands--that included shutting down the prison laundry industry. The women still refused to go back to work.

Singing and chanting resumed, until 35 helmeted guards herded the women inside a gymnasium, "in an effort to end the demonstration".

The guards beat women down with the night sticks, but the women fought back with the concrete slabs, and used the gymnasium's volleyball poles as a battering ram to expel the guards.

Susan Blackwell, a prisoner, is quoted as saying, "They started pushing and hitting us. We got mad... and sent them running."

Advantage in Fear

(UPI) Reno, Nevada

A robber learned from two teen-age women that the "weaker sex" theory is a myth.

Myer and Cheryl Silva had entered their car in a parking lot, when a robber climbed through a window into their car, and attempted to hold them up.

The women told the police that they hit the robber in the neck, causing him to choke. Then, together, they pushed him out of the car door.

A policeman arrived on the scene. He concluded that the women had done the right thing, stating, "The only advantage a man has over a woman is fear."



Health-EAC Bulletin/cpf

Help Free Ella Ellison

Ella Ellison, 28, was convicted in November 1974, of first-degree murder in connection with a Nov. 30, 1973 Boston robbery in which Police Detective John D. Schroeder was slain. Central to her conviction was the testimony of two participants in the holdup who were subjected to intense pressure by the District Attorney's office.

Ella, presently incarcerated at the Mass. Correctional Institution at Framingham, received a "natural life" sentence, that is, without possibility of parole. She had no previous arrest record. In exchange for their incrimination of Ella, her accusers received sentences allowing for parole eligibility after 15 years.

Ella moved to Boston with her four children in May 1973. She resided at the Columbia Point Housing Project, where the three men also convicted of the crime were living.

Arrested the day after the crime, the two key prosecution witnesses told conflicting stories about who had driven the getaway car, at one point claiming that a 16 year old woman they didn't know had been the driver. As the months passed, faced with threats of "life" and "the death penalty", they finally offered up the name of a woman from Columbia Point whose acquaintance they had made--Ella Ellison. No other witnesses at the trial implicated Ella.

Writing in the Boston Globe on Dec. 6, 1974, Howard Zinn said, "Mrs. Ellison is in prison because we live in an economic system that manufactures criminals endlessly. It is a system of insecurity and unequal competition, where the quiet, legal crimes of the rich lead to the overt, violent crimes of the poor, and where the criminals, manacled and threatened, turn on others to save themselves."

Ella continued to live at Columbia Point for several months after Nov. 1973, using her right name and making no attempt to conceal her identity. Later, leaving a forwarding address, she moved back to live with her parents in Rochester, N.Y. There, in May 1974, she was arrested.

Ella is in prison today because she is a Black woman whose limited income forced her to be living in the wrong place at the wrong time. And her trial took place during a time when racist feelings were running high in Boston.

Her attorney has appealed the verdict and has begun the process of trying to win a new trial. An Ella Ellison Support Committee has been formed to bring public attention to her plight. Help is needed. Contact DeCourcy Squire--491-1575, or Pat Farren--891-7724.

Ella Ellison Support Committee, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139

SUSAN SAXE



On March 27, 1975, Susan Saxe was apprehended in Philadelphia, after a four and a half year search that put her on the FBI's ten most wanted list.

On Monday, June 9, 1975, Susan pleaded guilty to Federal charges stemming from a bank robbery in Philadelphia. At that time she released the statement reprinted in its entirety below. Her statement speaks for itself.

Susan will soon be transferred to Mass. to stand trial for bank robbery and murder. Kathy Power, another suspect in the Mass. bank robbery, remains on the 10 most wanted list. Robert Valeri, who was apprehended almost immediately after the robbery, turned state's evidence, and was the prosecution's key witness in the trials of Stanley Bond and William Gilday, also indicted in the robbery.

Valeri, who was transferred to Philadelphia, in order to testify against Susan, escaped from Chester County Prison, in Philadelphia, on June 5, 1975.

Last month's issue of NEPA NEWS included an interview with Stanley Bond, who was killed in an explosion at Walpole State Prison three years ago. The explosion occurred two weeks before Stanley Bond was to stand trial.

Statement Of Susan Saxe

The most significant point of this plea agreement is that the United States government realizes that I am not and never will be a collaborator. I have made it clear to them that if I am called as a witness in any government proceeding, I will refuse to testify. The government has agreed that I will not be held in contempt for this refusal. In return I have agreed to enter a guilty plea and receive a ten year and two year sentence. The length of the sentences is a direct result of my refusal to talk.

Today I am in effect pleading guilty in federal court to charges stemming from a period five years ago when I believed, as I still do, that armed struggle against the Amerikan State was a valid and necessary escalation of the politics of the '60's. I understood at the time that the Amerikan Government was the most dangerous, powerful, organized, violent opponent of the people's liberation around the world. I also felt at that time that the liberation of women, to

which I was already deeply and personally committed, could best be achieved by our full participation in and leadership of what I then perceived as a worldwide humanistic economic and cultural revolution led by the Third World and aimed against the Yankee Empire.

Over the course of the last five years, four and a half of which have been lived underground in Amerika, I, like many other women who came to politics through socialist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist causes, have changed, have grown, have emerged a feminist. Like these thousands of other sisters, I am no longer content to be just one strong woman fighting for a revolution which, though it is just and necessary, does not speak to my own highest aspirations, my own most personal and immediate needs. Over the past five years then, I have emerged a feminist, a lesbian, a woman-identified woman. This was not a "conversion", but a development, a natural process that followed my previous commitment as day follows night.

There have been many women throughout history who have taken great risks, put great faith and energy into movements that spoke to our liberation as workers, as poor people, as members of every oppressed race and class, as everything but women. And while many of these struggles have moved our people forward, have improved our real lives in concrete ways, and therefore, by definition been in the interest of women, no struggle but our own independent of others, and just and necessary in its own right can ever hope to meet all our needs. We have a right to this struggle, a right to self-determination and self-definition as women, for women, a right to a new world of our own creation.



I am only one of many women who have come through these changes in the past several years. Unlike many others, though, a few of us have been brought up sharply, face to face with our past and had to confront our former selves, for better or for worse in the public eye and under rather dramatic and serious circumstances. At the same time and around the same issues, a deep and significant split has developed in the women's movement. On the one hand are women who, like Jane Alpert feel that the Amerikan system can peacefully accommodate their feminist demands and that women as women have no obligation to support or protect any peoples' struggle that is not explicitly feminist in ideology or even separatist in practice. These women feel that it is permissible, even desirable, to colla-

borate with the state in the name of feminism, and that it is in the interest of feminist revolution to dissociate itself from any forces or individuals which are identified as enemies of the state on the assumption that it is we who bring down state repression on a movement that otherwise could comfortably exist within the belly of the beast.

On the other hand, are we women whose growth into feminism has made us even more determined not to give in, not to accommodate ourselves to Amerika, not to collaborate against sisters and brothers who are our natural allies in revolution, not to repudiate our past, or cut ourselves off at our won roots. For me, feminism is a commitment to be even more radical, to strike more deeply at the root of our oppression. My feminism does not make me regret economic "crimes" against one institution of capitalism; it makes me even more determined to see that whole system uprooted forever. My feminism does not make me regret the theft of classified documents that exposed the U.S. government's treachery against the people, including U.S. Army O Plan G--Operation Geronimo Bravo--contingency plans for counterinsurgency operations against the civilian population of the Boston area in the event of martial law. My feminism doesn't make me regret the destruction of a single National Guard Armory; it only makes me wish to see every last vestige of patriarchal militarism permanently blotted from the face of the earth.

But most importantly, my feminism does not permit me to collaborate with the Man in order to reduce the amount of time I will have to spend in his prisons. The agreement I am entering into today is made on the condition that I will never testify against Kathy Power or give any information concerning anyone I have known or known about in the past five years. And the ten year and two year sentences are based on the government's understanding that I will give them nothing, ever, not in ten years, not in a hundred years.

My feminism does not drive me into the arms of the state, but even further from it.

My guilty plea is predicated upon my understanding that as of this date the government has agreed to end its investigation in Philadelphia. This means no grand jury, no harboring prosecutions, no legal torture of sisters who refuse to speak to the FBI. The credit for this victory goes to the feminist

community here, and to the sisters in New Haven, Connecticut and in Lexington, Kentucky, whose courage in the face of FBI and government harassment has been an example to us all. Their resistance has given us time to prepare to protect our communities, our sisters, and ourselves. The government would never have agreed to end its investigation here if it had any hope of success. We have made it clear to them that we are together and un-

afraid, that our community is closed to their threats, closed to their lies, closed to divisive tactics, that we will stand together and protect what is ours, our homes, our organizations, our friends and lovers, our private lives. The enemy cannot isolate and terrorize us, cannot walk among us with impunity.

We have shown those few desperate, self-serving, terrified women who have urged us to collaborate, to rush to preserve ourselves as individuals, to dissociate ourselves from anyone who poses a real threat to the state, we have shown these frightened women that there is an alternative. When we place the blame for repression squarely on the enemy, not on his targets, when we unite to oppose him, he can be driven away. But when we run to the Man for shelter, when we betray ourselves to appease him, we only expose others to his tactics and increase the danger to us all.

Feminism is not collaboration. Ellen Grusse, Terry Turgeon and Diana Perkins in New Haven, Gail Cohee, Debbie Hands, Linda Link, Jill Raymond, Marla Seymour and a gay brother James Carey Junkin in Lexington have shown us the way. Jill Raymond is still imprisoned in a Kentucky hell-hole and Ellen, Terry, and Diana still face more time in the pastel

Write to these sisters, send love and encouragement. Let them know about our victory here and about their role in making it possible. Support them the whole time they are in jail and when they get out, invite them to Philly for a huge celebration. Our victories should be marked and our heras honored.

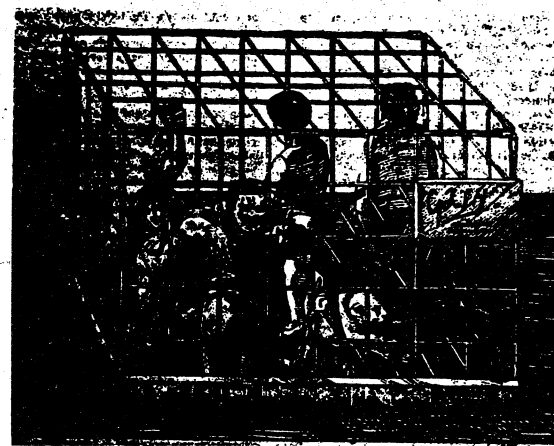
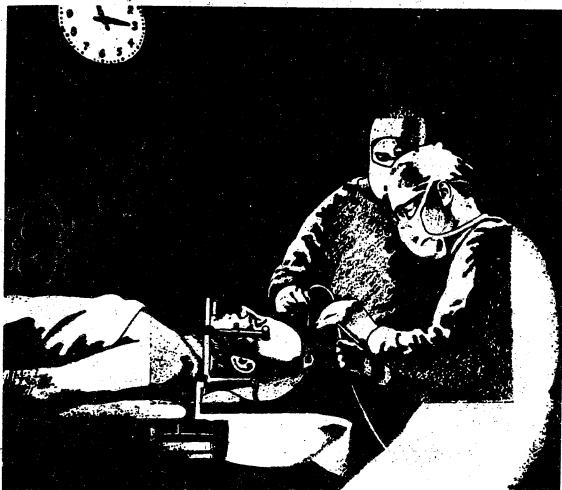
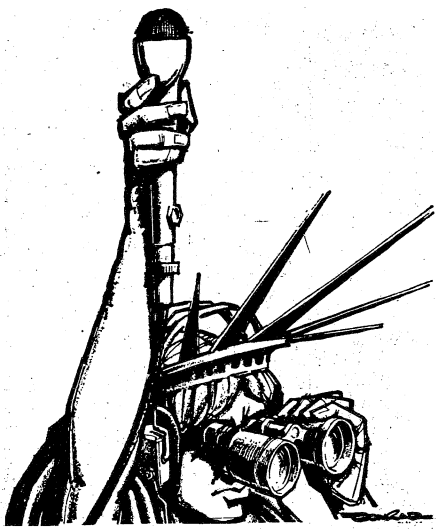
And now, I'd like to reaffirm the statement I made at the time of my arrest:

First, a greeting of love and strength to all my sisters--courage for our warriors, hope for our people and especially all my sisters and brothers underground in Amerika. Keep on fighting, stay free, stay strong. I promise you a courage to match your own. I intend to fight on in every way as a Lesbian, a feminist, an Amazon.

The love that I share with my sisters, my people, is a far more powerful weapon than any the police state can bring to bear against us. What else can I say but, once again, that I love you. We are strong and we are not afraid.



LNS



Robert M. Layne
MCI-Walpole

Behavior Modification

BIG BROTHER COMES

The Department of Corrections has recently embarked upon its newest, most elaborate, and most expensive plan for turning the clock back and "solving" the problems at Walpole Prison. Unfortunately, none of these elaborate type "security-suppression" plans have ever accomplished anything in the past, except to compound an already intolerable situation within Walpole, and there's no good reason to believe that this one is liable to end up differently. In addition to being complete failures as far as remedying conditions within Walpole, none of the past elaborate type plans have ever accomplished anything in the field of "correcting" behavior or attitudes either (the job for which the Dept. of Corrections employees collect their paychecks). And, to add insult to injury, none of these elaborate type "security" plans have ever even made their self-serving job of "control" any easier for them (although this is mostly due to the fact that the majority of the Dept. of Corrections officials in Massachusetts are so inept as prison administrators and penologists that they cannot even perform a job of planned oppression with any particular expertise). The fact that they do the job so badly when they attempt these things is almost always what accounts for the long periods of turmoil and brutality at Walpole. The Department itself has a built-in "Peter Principle" which accounts for the large number of inept administrators at all levels of the Department and the Walpole Prison. It appears that the only necessary qualification for promotion within the Dept. or the prison is "boot-licking", and the people with the longest tongues do not necessarily make the best prison administrators. And I sincerely wish that I was either just joking or being insulting when I say that, but unfortunately for us it's the absolute truth. "Wacky Wally" Waitkevich is a prime example. Admittedly one of the foremost book-lickers and ass-kissers within the Dept. of Corrections, he's ended up as Acting Superintendent of Walpole several times during the last few years, and has now moved up to a position in the central office in Boston. Everyone that I know of, who's met Wacky Wally, has almost immediately classified him as a complete retard. I even have it from a pretty reliable source that someone had to read his morning mail to him. And this man has had complete control of the Walpole Prison at several really critical times (all of which ended in turmoil and bloodshed, thanks to his "expert" handling). The damage that Waitkevich alone has done has amounted to many injuries, some deaths, and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money in property damage. Multiply this by the rest of the "Waitkeviches" in the Dept. and the Walpole Prison and the major problem in Walpole becomes very clear.

However, even if the job were done efficiently with a minimum of turmoil and brutality, the "planned suppression" itself should--inevitably--always fail. Attempting to turn the clock back at this point in time will do them no good. The only reason that the "good old days" were so good for prison administrators was because nearly everyone in the communities consciously ignored what was being done behind prison walls. This included the State and Federal courts, which followed a "hands-off" policy in relation to prisons, and left the administration of those prisons to the

"professional expertise" of the prison administrators. When the "hands-off" policy was dropped by the Federal courts a few years back (mostly because the prisons were blowing up so badly all across the country and could be ignored no longer), the courts got a first-hand look at the "professional expertise" of prison administrators in action. The court decisions which have resulted since that time do not show those judges to have been particularly impressed by the collection of professional megalomaniacs and useless political flunkeys that were being passed off as professional prison administrators and/or correctional employees. So, it's doubtful that the "good old days" could ever return for the Dept. of Corrections, because too many people are now interested in and aware of what has been occurring in prisons, and, additionally, because most of the "good old methods" (e.g. beating, killing, long periods of enforced isolation or segregation, and the rest of their arsenal of "rehabilitative" tools) have been declared illegal or the use of them severely restricted and regulated.

This has therefore led to the situation at the present time and the dangerous new game that they are now playing with words. The essential purpose of this new game is to disguise the old brutality and dehumanization techniques under shiny new medical names (e.g. therapy) in order to dupe the judges into not looking too closely at them, and to brainwash the public. The old isolation and segregation punishments have now become "specialized" or "individualized treatment programs". The old disciplinary board powers now reside in committees which hide under titles like the "Intra-institutional reclassification committee" in an attempt to bypass all the recently established safeguards of due process for prison inmates at disciplinary hearings. And that is exactly the way it is being used. In addition, all of the written regulations and guidelines which define inmate rights and/or regulate correctional employees behavior and responsibilities are being systematically re-written in very ambiguous language so that nearly any Dept. of Corrections employee can interpret them to say, in effect, whatever is convenient for him or her at the time. These guidelines are becoming as "flexible" (e.g., devious) as most Dept. of Correction employees are themselves, and are an accurate reflection of their way of thinking.

In short, they believe they've found a Twentieth Century disguise for their Nineteenth Century methods by hiding their actions behind the vocabulary of the social and behavioral scientists. Strange as it may seem, this perversion of the vocabulary and methods of the behavioral scientists is as disturbing to some of the behavioral scientists (and their Government sponsors) as it is to prison inmates. Some of those people have bigger and better plans for that method of "control" than just to run prisons quietly, and--although they need to test many of their theories out somewhere--the amount of adverse publicity that they're getting for testing it in the prisons across the country is forcing them to come out from under their rocks and give answers to some serious and embarrassing questions about their methods and ultimate goals. They do not care for this at all. Like the C.I.A. and the White House "plumbers", these people prefer secrecy and a behind-the-

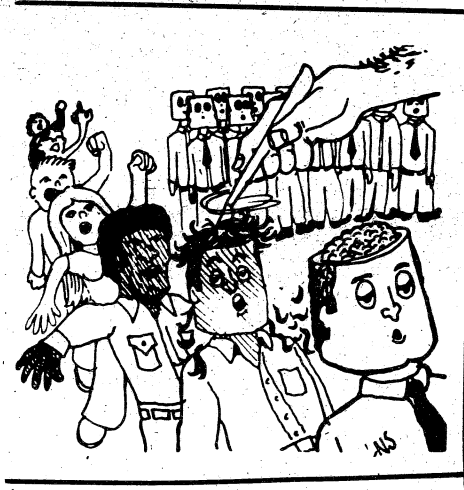
scenes low profile until such time as they've secured their objectives. Those few of them who have been forced to define some of their objectives are frightening when what they have to say is actually analyzed. One of the clearer illustrations of behaviorist objectives was printed in an article in the September 1974 issue of "Human Behavior--The News-magazine of the Social Sciences" on page 22, column 3:

"Those behaviorists who have taken up the challenge are not lacking in confidence that that they can make this (prison) system work for the first time in history. According to psychologist James V. McConnell of the University of Michigan, the power to restructure the entire personality of prisoners is within society's grasp at last and the appropriate therapies are either already underway or in the planning stages at prisons across the country. Says Mc Connell flatly, 'I believe the day has come when we can combine sensory deprivation with drugs, hypnosis and astute manipulation of reward and punishment to gain almost absolute control over an individual's behavior.'

"As to the larger issue, he sounds the standard behaviorist line: 'We should reshape our society so that we all would be trained from birth to want to do what society wants us to do. We have the techniques now to do it...No one owns his own personality...You had no say about what kind of personality you acquired, and there's no reason you should have the right to refuse to acquire a new personality if your old one is antisocial.'

So, the ultimate objective of at least some of these social scientists seems to be fairly clear. Particularly those behaviorists that are developing the behavior modification programs within the prisons. The psychiatrists who can't accept this approach don't last long in the prison setting. Typical of this is psychiatrist Frank Rondel, now practicing in Carmel, California, after being fired from Soledad Prison because he refused, in his own words, "to prostitute principles of good medical practice to the institution". He went on to say (in relation to what he had witnessed at Soledad):

"If there is any doubt whatsoever about the origins of most of the violence within prisons, it is a testament to the steel and concrete mentality of the people who operate the prisons. Any person trained in behavioral science or maybe any reasonable, sensible, sensitive person who had the opportunity to see what I saw in the adjustment center at Soledad would have no doubt whatsoever that the behavior of those men labeled violent and aggressive and destructive--whatever it might be called--was in large part a response to the procedures and practices of the institution... The few examples I encountered of men who I considered really dangerous, because it was clear that they could kill without compunction and without provocation, were the men who had been locked up almost continuously in adjustment centers. They were so filled with bitterness, resentment--rage isn't even a strong enough word--at the treatment they had been accorded, that they were prepared to kill at a moment's notice. The kind of violence that has been occurring in the California system, in my opinion, stems from a human personality that has been developed within the Dept. of Corrections."



TO WALPOLE

To say that the application and use of this form of control is sponsored by the federal government is not the slightest exaggeration. It can be clearly seen by a review of known facts. For instance, the federal government has sponsored and paid for with grants most of the basic research to develop these kind of "programs". Most of these methods and programs were first tried out in the federal prisons, and the federal prison system has recently built a 42 acre prison complex (Butner, North Carolina) for experiments to test new behavioral programs and techniques. Butner is the first of three such facilities and, under the enormous construction program to follow, 66 new prisons will be built, including 12 special youth facilities, that will employ "operant conditioning" (behavior modification). Target date for completion of the entire system is, ironically, 1984.

Some of the current behavior modification "treatment" methods employed in the prisons--such as "Anectine aversive therapy" and "Apomorphine aversive therapy" were first experimented with by the government on prisoners of war in South Vietnam (where, incidentally, "Anectine aversive therapy" (e.g. drug torture with synthetic curare, the drug South American Indians use on their poison arrows) was outlawed as a war crime, before it was eventually used in American prisons).

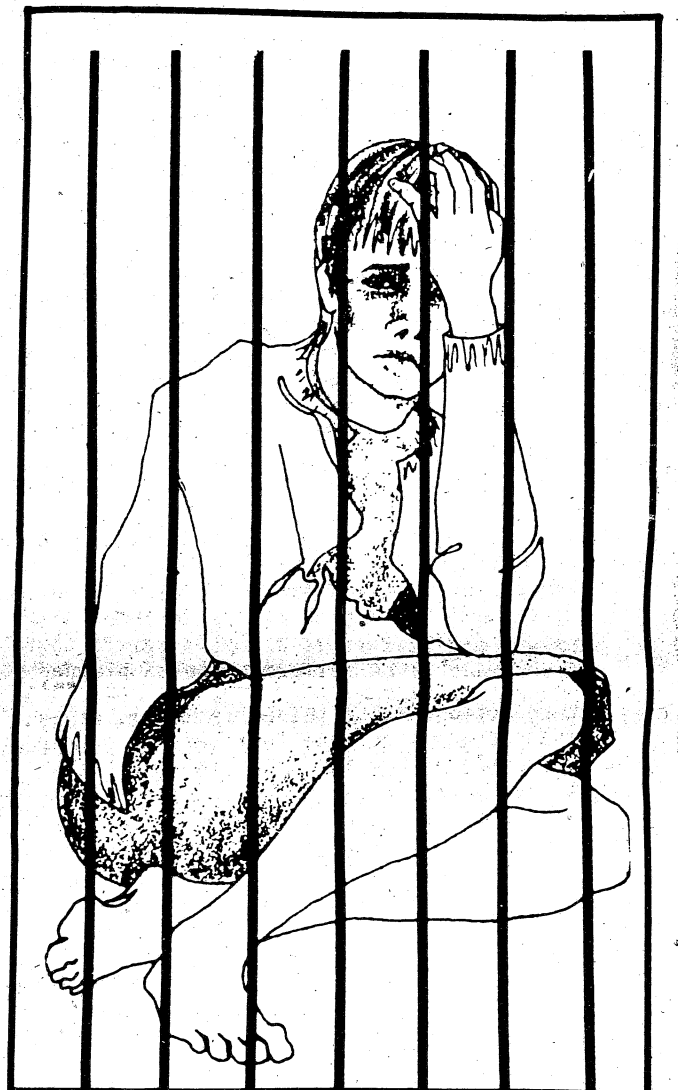
After subsidizing their development, the federal government has introduced these behavior modification programs and methods into a large amount of state prisons by inviting state penologists and prison administrators to places like the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Virginia, for various seminars on prison "problems". For example, Deputy Commissioner Joseph Higgins and Deputy Superintendent Fred A. Butterworth went to Quantico in June of 1974 for a seminar on "The American Penal System as a Revolutionary Target". (Lt. W.A. Miller, of the Mass. State Police and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office, was also invited as a "guest speaker". And, according to the Quincy Patent Ledger of June 21, 1974: "Lt. Miller was a guest speaker at the symposium and discussed prison problems in Massachusetts. He declined to divulge the contents of his remarks, stating that corrections officials exchanged intelligence information on the possibility of revolutionary groups focusing on prisons. The symposium included nightly workshops, in which the guests were divided into 10 man groups, to exchange policies, views and intelligence information." And, according to the Boston Herald American of June 21, 1974: "(Quantico) is one of a series of specialized schools which the F.B.I. sponsors to foster professionalism in law enforcement and related fields. The symposium will afford key correctional officials of federal and state penal institutions an opportunity to discuss revolutionary and extremist propaganda and its influence upon prison inmates".)

This seemed to me at the time to be a pretty blatant example of just how many things in this country the police were insinuating themselves into. That article would seem to indicate that neither the federal police (F.B.I.) nor the Mass. state police had enough law enforcement or crime-solving work to do to keep them busy, and that it was necessary for them to find other things to occupy their time (like running the prisons). Yet, they have no authority whatsoever to do this, and there doesn't seem to be any good reason that

they would particularly want to. Departments of corrections (both state and federal) are separate entities from the law enforcement agencies. Legally speaking, neither the F.B.I., the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office, nor the Mass. State Police have any more authority to influence what happens in the rehabilitation programs of the Mass. prisons than any other citizen of the Commonwealth. The citizens have to speak through their elected representatives, and those elected representatives have, by law, vested the management of the prisons in Mass. almost exclusively in the Commissioner of Corrections. Why, then, should we have a prison in Mass. influenced and/or run by a coalition of the F.B.I., Mass. State Police, and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office? It would seem that there must be much more at stake in the Walpole Prison than would appear on the surface for all these big time law enforcement officials to step so far outside of their legal authority to become involved in it. What could be so important in Walpole and the other prisons? Well, it seems to me that, ultimately, behavior modification techniques must inevitably lead to a police-state (if the majority of people are to be "controlled", then there obviously must be "controllers"). Law enforcement people already feel that they belong to a "separate" and "elite" class of people--so, it stands to reason that they would feel themselves better fit to be the "controllers" than anyone else. This would also seem to account for their enthusiasm in developing and spreading behavior modification and mind control.

Although there is no official admission, it is fairly common knowledge that the government peddles these behavior modification concepts and programs to state prison administrators by promising them that certain amounts of money will be funneled into their prisons through such government agencies as LEAA, and the like, for such things as "security improvements". And, although there's no official admission, there is definite proof that prisons which have adopted the government behavior modification concepts and programs have gotten substantial government financial assistance immediately thereafter for "security improvements" and such.

What is being done here in Mass. is that the U.S. Government is, in effect, bribing and coercing state corrections officials to disobey the Mass. state law (e.g. "Chapter 777", or the "omnibus Prison Reform Bill" of 1972) and put in government prototype and sponsored behavior modification programs. This is in no way unusual when considered in light of the recent "Watergate and C.I.A." revelations. Behind-the-scenes federal manipulators are very "flexible" when it comes to the law (which means do what they want) and our state corrections officials appear to share that same "flexibility". It looks to be the thriving kind of relationship that is profitable to everyone except the prison inmates and the citizens of the communities of Mass. And, the very real dangers of these programs and methods are small for prison inmates when considered next to the overall danger that is coming for the communities around the country as a whole. Consider this: One of the primary reasons that the multitude of "brush wars" we've been involved in--from Korea to Vietnam--have been pushed on us so



CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Norfolk:

The Real Truth

There has been a lot of controversy about the furlough program, or, as I call it, the behavior modification program. It's really surprising what you can do, when you have a hold like that over men. And the Dept. of Correction uses it to its fullest potential.

To try for furlough here at Norfolk, you start by filling out an application. It has to be for a date at least two months away from the date you apply. If you are lucky, your application then finds its way to the furlough office. Two men and one woman try to process the application, along with six hundred other applications. A note is then sent around to each house officer telling them the date when you will see the furlough board. Each house officer then fills out an evaluation report on your progress. About two weeks before you are due to go out, you see what is called the furlough board. It consists of five people from the institution. The board calls you in and asks a lot of questions. Questions like, where are you going and why, how much money are you taking with you, and so forth. Then they send you out of the room while they vote. It takes three of the five votes to pass.

Your papers then find their way to the desk of Old Larry Meachum, our Superintendent here at Norfolk. If and when Ol' Larry isn't busy, he looks over your papers. If he doesn't have too many rat reports on you, he may sign your papers. If he should sign the papers, they return to the furlough office, where they are sent to Fast Frank Ha-1 in Boston. I call him Fast Frank because he is just the opposite.

When and if your furlough papers reach the Dept. of Correction in Boston (I make that statement because some papers have been lost going from here to there), your application is again scrutinized. In the Dept. of Corrections is a security board for each institution. Their job seems to be to study your application and to check with the chief of police of your community to see if he wants you out. The security board also checks to see if you have written articles for NEPA News. We are not to speak out, if we want furloughs. I have to try and remember that.

After a thorough checking out of you and your sponsor, the security board may send your papers back here so that your social worker may write a progress report on you. After the social worker completes this additional report, your application again goes back to Boston. If the sun is out and if Fast Frank isn't too busy, you might go out for mom's birthday, or was it dad's you wanted in the first place. Better late than never is the word from the Doc.

Earl R. Kennedy II



Bridgewater..

Court Finds No Treatment

On April 11, U.S. Magistrate Willie J. Davis handed down a Master's Report confirming what prisoners and patients have been trying to tell the public for years: Bridgewater State Hospital is just a prison, not a hospital, and no treatment is given to patients except for drugs such as thiorazine and stelazine.

The Davis Report is a moral victory for Ralph Geary, Jeff Kaelin, Jim Bel and other Bridgewater men who risked their lives to take Supt. Charles Gaughan to court. But the report is also a whitewash of the reasons for conditions at Bridgewater. Here are a few excerpts from the 28-page report:

"We conclude that no course of treatment is prescribed by a psychiatrist for a committed patient."

"Drugs alone will not cure a patient; nor will they make him better.... But at Bridgewater quite often the only thing done for the committed patients is the administration of drugs."

"In sum, the majority of the committed patients at Bridgewater receive nothing more than custodial care. They are simply being maintained and controlled."

"We also conclude that mere custodial care of persons involuntarily committed to Bridgewater for mental incompetence is so shocking as to constitute a denial of due process prohibited by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

We hasten to add... that the defendants, Commissioner Hall and Superintendent Gaughan are not themselves responsible in the sense that they should be criticized for the conditions which prevail."

Why is the Davis Report a whitewash? The real answer to this question is that Davis is a former Assistant Attorney General who used to work at Bridgewater and who wants to be a Federal judge (instead of just a magistrate).

To explain further, let's look at what Davis says should be done to change conditions at Bridgewater, as well as at some of the issues he doesn't deal with in his report.

1. Davis says Bridgewater State Hospital should be run by the Dept. of Mental Health instead of by the Dept. of Correction. This is a step in the right direction, perhaps, except that drugs are also the only treatment offered in Mental Health Dept. institutions.

So as far as "treatment" is concerned, this transfer will mean no changes at Bridgewater.

2. After saying that the Mental Health Dept. should run Bridgewater, Davis goes on to say that the Dept. of Correction should continue to provide "security" there.

These two recommendations add up to leaving Bridgewater the same as ever: a "hospital" where guards make all the real decisions, while a handful of quacks push thiorazine and stelazine.

3. The most important part of the Davis Report is what it doesn't say: it doesn't say a word about solitary confinement, illegal transfers, beatings, mail censorship, denial of visits, theft of patient funds and property or an endless number of other kinds of degradation inflicted on mental patients and prisoners alike at Bridgewater State Hospital. Not a word about the use of this "hospital" as a punishment for men from Walpole, women from Framingham and even children as young as 13 sent by the Mental Health Dept.

In ignoring these issues, Davis ignores the very reason for Bridgewater's existence: it is the ultimate threat levelled at every prisoner and mental patient in the state: "Shut up or we'll send you to Bridgewater."

Unless Magistrate Davis' report is rejected by a Federal judge, the result of this suit will probably be just the transfer of Bridgewater to the Mental Health Department and a temporary increase in the number of doctors on duty. In that case Bridgewater will remain the threat that it has always been.

Just as at Walpole, it seems that there is no point in looking to the Federal courts for the only real solution to the problem of Bridgewater: It has to be closed, just as Walpole must be closed. And that can only happen when prisoners, mental patients, and their families and friends get together politically and see that it's closed forever.

Norfolk:

Putting On The Squeeze

The same folks who brought you the longest lockup in Walpole history are getting ready with the next phase of their behavior modification program--at Norfolk. As this is written, the Dept. of Corrections is implementing its full classification system at Norfolk. This is roughly how it will work: Each Norfolk prisoner will be "classified" by departmental and institutional classification committees. These committees will decide just about every part of a man's life at Norfolk: What building he lives in, what jobs he can take, what educational, vocational or recreational programs he can enter. Those who "cooperate" completely will get their choice of jobs and programs. Those who don't "cooperate" at all will go back to Walpole.

But it's not that simple. Under the new "good time" law being implemented (Chapter 528 of 1973), each prisoner can earn extra "good time" for different activities: two and a half days of good time per month for working 25 hours a week, two and half days good time for 12 hours a week of classes, and two and a half days a month maximum for taking part in programs such as A.A. or Lifers Group.

Someone with no job and no programs gets no good time. Someone who works, goes to school and takes part in programs gets seven and a half days a month of good time (in other words, a one fourth decrease in his sentence). Finally, someone who is enrolled in a job, classes, and a program will be eligible for one-third parole eligibility or for early transfer to Framingham or a pre-release center.

The benefits available sound alright. Except when you come back to the fact that the classification committees, not the men, decide who goes to work, who goes to school and who is allowed in programs. Thus the classification committee also decides who gets transferred, who gets good time and who gets paroled or sent to pre-release centers. Furloughs will be doled out by the furlough committees, but furlough eligibility will also depend on classification.

Since jobs, classes and programs are scarce at Norfolk, the classification committees are setting up a situation where only a minority of Norfolk men can possibly be classified as deserving these opportunities--while a majority will be classified as not deserving the chance to scuffle and shuffle their way to the street. A majority of Norfolk men will automatically be screwed by this system while a minority will benefit. (which, of course, is the same as at Walpole, where a minority are allowed to work while a majority are under a five-month round the clock lockup.)



Death Penalty in N. E.

by Nathaniel Harrison

Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis was recently successful in vetoing an attempt by both branches of the state legislature to revitalize the death penalty, but that is small consolation for 20-year old Stephen E. Richmond of Worcester.

Richmond was sentenced June 11 to die in the electric chair following his conviction on charges of rape and first degree murder.

His sentence, imposed by Superior Court Judge Francis W. Keating, has brought to light the fact that Mass., despite the Governor's veto, does have a death penalty statute. At present, rape-murder is the only offense punishable by death in the Commonwealth.

Judge Keating stayed execution to allow Richmond's attorney, Robert B. Shumway, to file an appeal.

Another Mass. attorney, Lawrence D. Shubow, recently submitted a brief to the state Supreme Judicial Court urging the abolition of the statute.

Rhode Island also has a death penalty and Robert Cline, 22, of Providence, is now on death row because of it.

Judge Anthony Giannini recently ordered Cline to die in a gas chamber in connection with the killing of a Providence fish peddler.

State law in Rhode Island mandates death in only one instance and for only one segment of its citizens. Men and women serving a prison sentence, but who are subsequently convicted of murder, can be executed, according to Rhode Island state law.

In its case against Cline, the state alleged that at the time of the killing he was under prison sentence, having escaped a year earlier from the Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston.

The Rhode Island General Assembly passed the law reserving the death penalty exclusively for prison inmates in 1973, one year after the United States Supreme Court struck down capital punishment laws on the grounds they were too often arbitrarily imposed at the discretion of judges or juries.

Rhode Island is one of more than 20 states that have written new death penalty laws in an effort to overcome the objections of the Supreme Court. Across the country, more than 130 individuals have been sentenced to death under these modified statutes.

Currently in New England, only the state of Maine recognizes no offense for which the death sentence can be imposed.

Like Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut have re-written death penalty statutes in light of the 1972 ruling by the Supreme Court.

State law in Connecticut, passed in October of 1973, permits execution for murder convictions in a number of categories, such as the killing of a law enforcement officer, conviction for a second murder unrelated to a previous murder conviction, killing for hire, and the sale of drugs to which a death can be directly attributed.

New Hampshire state law, enacted in April, 1974, prescribes death in three categories: murder committed in the act of kidnapping, killing for hire, and the killing of a law enforcement officer.

Three New England governors, James Longley of Maine, Thomas Salmon of Vermont, and Dukakis of Massachusetts, oppose the death penalty, while Ella Grasso of Connecticut, Meldrim Thompson, Jr. of New Hampshire, and Philip W. Noel of Rhode Island support it.



Coretta King-Willie Hamilton-
Greenhaven Prison

Study Social Struggle Prisoner Education Project

Franconia College has developed a program for prisoners interested in earning a B.A. degree, while in prison, in the field of Social Struggles (economics, political science, history).

The project is planned as a two-year program, though this is variable. People interested need two years of college, or its equivalent. Equivalency is granted for a variety of things, such as life experiences (prison, military, travel, etc.), work, independent study, and creative work (art, writing, etc.). For this reason, you do not need to have been to college, or even to have a high school Diploma.

The rough plan of study--again, variable--is for the student to get a background in social struggles and theory in the first year, and then to concentrate in a particular area the second year (for example, Afro-American struggles, U.S. labor history, women, China, Latin America, etc.).

We still have openings in the project. The project director is Monty Neill, the managing editor of NEPA NEWS since its beginning.

For more information and application forms, write: Prisoner Education Project
Box A42,
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580
(603)823-8501

Franconia College is fully accredited and students are eligible for Veterans Administration benefits. Note: Veterans remain eligible for V.A. benefits even if they are in prison.

men who have chosen to maintain their dignity through the arts. Our society is quick to make heroes of men such as John Wayne who express their masculinity through their fists and the use of guns. We are less admiring of men who choose the paintbrush or the pen as ways of achieving recognition, and it is high time that we begin thinking about the value of guns versus life-giving art.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone in the New England prisons on art programs in prison and should particularly like to know what assistance they want from outside groups, and what criticism they have of current programs or the lack of them.

Please write to: Shelly Killen
A-1 Faculty Apts.
Kingston, R.I. 02881



Fall in the Mountains-Ranofer-
Greenhaven Prison

Art and Resistance

by Shelly Killen

"As of 1971, in New York City jails, 22 of our 35 suicides over the past four years were drug addicts."--*Jails* by Ronald Goldfarb, Anchor Press.

Suicide is common in all American prisons, and is particularly acute among men from 16 to 24 years of age. There is no simple solution to the problem of bearing the frustration and rage caused by the conditions of life within the prison, but there are ways to counter misery that are potentially available to all. The sense of being helpless and isolated heightens human suffering, intensifies anxiety, and lowers self-confidence. Through drawing and painting individuals can achieve a sense of self-esteem, pleasure in action, and release from overwhelming tensions. It is particularly important for people who have become dependent upon drugs to find ways that are not self-destructive to cope with their fears and need for gratification. Art can serve many needs and function on different levels for each individual. Communicating insights and creating pleasing forms are valuable modes of artistic expression for both the creator and the viewer. Relating of tensions and giving form to the inner world is a third mode of artistic activity that has not been fully employed in the prisons, but is most crucial as a means of rejecting pas-

sivity and futile dependencies as habitual ways of lessening pain.

Art, poetry, and journalism are tools for resisting the octopus system that was devised to kill life and break an individual's heart, mind and body. The simplest form of image-making, be it a scribble, a doodle, or a scrawl, is preferable to dependency upon a drug which invariably means dependency upon a drug-dealer. A doodle can grow into a handsome abstract painting or a decorative and expressive form. Dependency upon drugs can only grow into great dependency upon the drug-dealer and flight from one's capacity to master difficulties. I doubt that we can even measure the amount of misery that comes from the use of drugs in prisons, and even those who believe they are profiting from the sale of drugs are themselves the victims of highly organized criminals who do not account to society for their deeds.

Drugs give instant relief from suffering and offer horrible after-effects to the user. Artistic activity gives gradual relief from suffering and offers pleasant after-effects to both the user and others.

The paintings by Ranofer and Willie Hamilton from Greenhaven prison are examples of the fine, expressive, individual forms that have been created in a tough New York prison by-

Rhode Island A.C.I. Women Protest

It doesn't appear to be enough that the prisoners of the Adult Correctional Institution are made to live like animals, are not rehabilitated and treated as if they did not exist except when they have taken all of the abuse that can be tolerated. The inmates then retaliate by rioting and are held up to the world as uncontrollable, violent, savages. The women of ACI are always punished when their brother inmates riot. This time the state of Rhode Island has gone too far. This time there may be reprisals by the women for a change. We have put up with the postponing of the Parole Board because of the men's actions. We again tolerated the postponing of the Work Release Board. When the administration takes it into their hands to bar our Catholic Chaplain, they have gone entirely too far.

Father Ron Marstin has helped many of the women in this tiny cinder block building with his advice. He has been a guiding spirit to almost every one of the women incarcerated at the ACI. The administration does not seem to care that the spiritual guidance of Father Ron has helped to maintain peace and quiet in this section of the prison. Warden Mullens seems to find Father Ron a troublemaker; as did Caesar find Christ.

The women will not tolerate this third slap in the face in less than a week. We are ignored in all areas and this cannot be allowed to continue. Everything else has been taken away from us and now even our right to worship as we choose (which is a right granted every American under our Constitution) as well as the Church's guidance is refused to us. What else is left for the administration to take away? Our lives? That is all that is left, for we no longer have spirits and souls as far as the Warden is concerned. This time, the question, "What next?" may well be coming from the administration instead of the women inmates of the ACI

Stop Suicides !!

from NPRA News

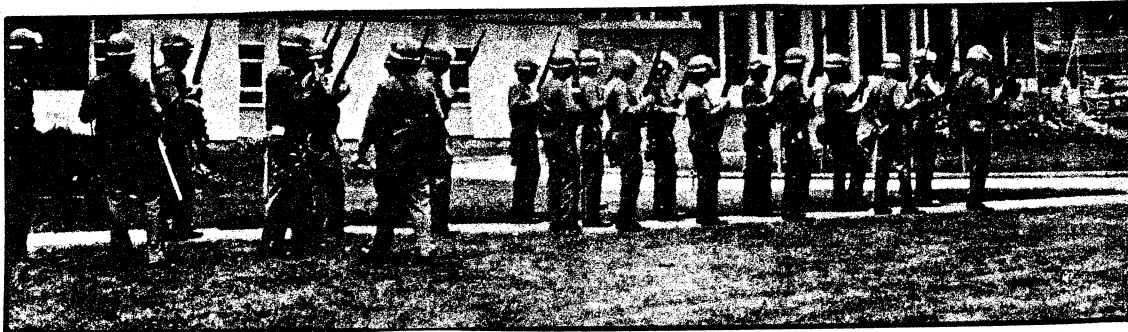
Suicides in prisons are commonplace and expected in an environment so depressing, but the majority of correctional institutions have preventive measures to combat suicides. ACI has none, none we consider to be effective, as the last three suicides will testify to, and we feel there is a need for some safety programs to be instituted throughout the ACI.

Three potential suicides were successful only because they failed to receive proper psychiatric treatment. Each one was admitted to the hospital, discharged, and thereafter succeeded in committing suicide. Two hanged themselves and the third jumped off the third tier of the cellblock. Each one had an emotional problem and was considered at the time to be a suicide risk. The question we raise is, WHY were they discharged from the hospital where they at least were under observation and where there was at least some resemblance of preventive suicide measures?

We are disturbed over the lack of proper preventive programs throughout the ACI. What about a fire? There has never been a fire-drill at the ACI in the memory of prisoners who have been here as far back as the early 1940's. What first-aid training do officers have? We are disturbed over the news that officers on night duty have no "pocket-knives" to cut a man down that may be hanging. This one small example may just save a "life". If a man is ill and unable to cry out for help, who will be there to render assistance? How many officers have training of the kind we mention? SECURITY, is not the only function of personnel throughout the ACI; there are many more areas that need someone's prompt attention to see these programs are put into operation. The Institute of Mental Health requires "all" personnel to participate in emergency training programs, fire drills, etc. Why not the ACI?

It is bad enough to be confined without the added mental anguish at the prospect of being trapped in an emergency due to negligence.

Chaplains Bounced By Bishop



from NPRA NEWS

The Catholic Chaplains Team of ACI, Father Ronald Marstin, Brother Reis and Sister Bernadette were dismissed because of their advocacy of "prisoners rights" by Most Rev. Louis Gelineau, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese. The Bishop announced that he would select a new team and they would report to him.

Upon hearing of his dismissal, former ACI Prison Chaplain Father Marstin stated he would not contest the dismissal, but let the people decide the issue. From our news source the public and the clergy continue to support "prisoners advocacy" as an integral part of a chaplain's role. The issue is far from being discarded and repercussions are anticipated, outside in the community, as well as throughout the ACI. The fact in that the Bishop's directive to appoint a new team only aroused the indignation of both the public and the clergy. "Freedom of religion", and especially a chaplain's role, according to Father Marstin's concept, is the issue in debate.

Many in and outside the clergy question the wisdom of Bishop Gelineau's decision to replace the chaplain's team at the ACI. That it contained political overtones was obvious and if a compromise between Governor Noel and the Bishop was indeed reached, the credibility, respect, and prestige held by the Catholic Diocese is rapidly deteriorating. Dissension prevails among the clergy.

One ponders a remark made by the Bishop that "practitioners" are becoming too involved in worldly events rather than the practice of their religion. He further stated that probably one of the causes can be traced directly to church policy and directives, like this one, when public support was in favor of Father Marstin's advocacy at the ACI. Has the Bishop forgotten the Church was founded on the principles of service to the masses of poor-lost-souls that God promised to comfort, protect, and save? Remember also the good thief "Dismas" who was crucified beside Jesus and that Jesus died to save people from persecution and oppression, the same persecution and oppression being used, intentionally or unintentionally, in this controversial Chaplain's issue.

What will be the new role and duty of the Bishop's Chaplains' team assigned to the ACI? Will it be the role we visualize that is symbolic of the famous "three-monkeys" (see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil)? Only time will tell, but the question of whether

or not the Catholic Diocese is turning its back upon the oppressed and even its own clergy is of prime importance to us all. Can it be the diocese is going to discontinue its practice (age old) of contribution in times of famine, epidemics and emergencies, and "only" teach religion and not practice it? Is this the beginning to curtail other humanitarian services?

The role of a priest, any priest, today goes beyond that of hearing confessions, saying Mass, baptism, marriage ceremonies, or the last sacrament. He must be able to communicate, have skills in counseling in every area imaginable in order to truly be a "modern" priest and to meet current demands of his parish, to participate in "all" community action programs. The new role of the PRIEST is: To be a priest first and a man second and harmoniously serving God in a dual role as priest.

Governor Noel stated the state pays for a Chaplain's services, therefore they are under obligation to the state and to abide by state directives and its policy on corrections. A employee has his/her moral, personal obligations that no amount of money can buy or pay for. Father Marstin is one of those individuals and there are millions more, who feel the same way. Loyalty depends upon the cause and if it meets approval of the individuals, otherwise any disloyalty can be construed to be right and in the opinion of the individual is not considered disloyal.

A lot may depend upon the final disposition of Father Ronald Marstin's case. We suggest this team be reinstated immediately in the best interest and welfare of inmates throughout the ACI and also for the benefit of society. Someone is needed at the ACI to protect the constitutional rights of inmates and to see these rights are not violated like they are in the Medium Security Section of the ACI.

The Catholic Diocese of Providence ought to give this issue careful consideration or it may not only lose more than its share of faithful followers of the Catholic religion, but the new team may find there will be no one available to them to serve. There may be a good possibility many faithful Catholics may perform their own services and tend to their own flocks without guidance of the church.

A happy congregation is one that works together, feels safe and protected, and above all feels it is wanted. Does the Catholic Diocese advocate these principles? According to current events, the opposite holds true!



Lumps & Bumps vs. Prison Reform

from the NPRA

In spite of the growing prison reform movement that has been developing in this country since the Attica Prison Rebellion of September 1971, too many prison systems are still operating under conditions more reminiscent of the 18th century than the "enlightened" 20th. One such prison system is the Adult Correctional Institution of Providence, R.I.

To the dismay of corrections officials and local politicians, the ACI has recently attracted national attention due to a precedent-setting court case in which inmates successfully sued prison guards and correction officials on charges of brutality. Fines of up to \$5,000 were leveled against the warden, deputy warden, and several other prison guards who were held responsible for the unlawful beatings and macing of inmates.

Unfortunately, neither the October 1974 court ruling nor the national attention it has drawn has lessened the brutal conditions and periodic outburst of violence at the ACI. Most critics think the disturbances at the prison can be attributed to the perverted practices of a handful of prison guards. Others seem to think that the inmates are "running amok" because they have too much freedom, and are living in a "country-club" fashion; these critics commonly feel that inmates should be locked in their cells twenty-four hours a day. Included among the latter critics is R.I.'s Governor Philip Noel.

The Governor's position was brought into sharp focus at a press conference he recently held following a week of disturbances at the prison complex. Noel attributed riotous disturbances at the ACI to reformers, and added that "prisoners better expect their lumps and bumps, because they're going to get them." Needless to say, Governor Noel's remarks did little to ease the tensions at the prison, and clearly revealed the workings of a penal philosophy that has turned the ACI into one of the most outmoded and brutal prison systems in the country. The local press now refers to Noel as the "lumps and bumps philosopher." It seems that Mr. Noel has more in common with Attila-the-Hun than the Quakers, who were pioneers in the prison reform movement.

The ACI has gained national significance as a highly visible symbol of mismanagement and abuse of power, and has attracted the attention of critics across the country. For this reason, the final resolution of the debates concerning the problems at the ACI may well set the example for the model that will be applied to other prison systems.

On a philosophical level, the struggle at the ACI centers around the issue of rehabilitation vs. containment/punishment. On the level of individual needs and constructive action, the struggle centers around the rights of inmates to secure a vestige of human dignity through the resurrection and protection of their basic civil rights. Their struggle has been a long and difficult one, and only recently have their attempts at dramatizing the need for meaningful change inside the prison been successful.

As a follow up to the successful federal court suit in which inmates were awarded damages for guard brutality, the ACI inmates have recently filed a \$25,000,000 law suit in U.S. District Court charging that Governor Noel and the corrections dept. have violated state law by failing to provide inmates with adequate medical treatment, education and vocational training, and proper classification programs. The facts bear out the inmates' charges.

Out of the 380 inmates in the Maximum Security Section at the ACI, only 53 have either full or part time jobs. Roman Gabriele, president of NPRA, commented on the problem in a recent interview: "We used to be self-sustaining here. We had farms and grew most of our own food. We made our own clothes in the tailor shop. We did everything. People were learning a trade. All that is gone now because of politics. We have nothing here."

What was meant by politics was explained by Roman Gabriele: "We're trying to set up a print shop to employ twenty people, and through different programs we're hoping to make connections for jobs for some of the guys who'll be getting out of here. But the problem is that we're the ones who are doing

all the rehabilitating, not the state. They spend 80% of the prison budget on personnel and they cry to us later that they have no money for programs."

The state may be indifferent to the needs of the inmates at the ACI, but they are far from insensitive to the interests of local business. Especially businesses that seem intent on making a profit at the expense of prison reform programs. The elimination of most prison jobs has opened a number of profitable markets for such businesses. The garment factory to which the editor of the prison newspaper referred was a highly successful operation that employed 40 inmates and provided clothing for the entire prison population. Because of pressure from local clothing interests, it is now closed, and inmates have no choice but to buy their clothes from local dealers.

Inmates developed and used a detergent that worked so well that all the other state institutions started using it too. The process was halted when it was construed as "competing with private interests", and now inmates must also buy detergent from local dealers.

With no prospects of meaningful work, training or education, many of the inmates have turned to drugs and violence to ease the tension generated by the desolate boredom of prison routine. While being interviewed on a local radio program, an ex-guard from the ACI claimed he saw more drugs inside the prison than he ever saw in the streets. He maintained that all kinds of illicit drugs and alcohol are brought into the prison by guards, who exchange them with inmates for money or sexual favors from the inmates' wives or girlfriends. This outrageous problem is compounded by the fact that 60% of the inmates at the ACI are serving time on drug-related charges, yet there are no drug rehabilitation programs whatever at the prison.

Another serious problem centers around the inmate classification system. Most of the prison population is mixed together regardless of criminal distinctions. While short-term, young offenders are housed with experienced inmates and hardened criminals, awaiting trial inmates mingle with convicted murderers, and only the most incorrigible prisoners are separated from the general population. Warden James Mullen has admitted publicly that "Our

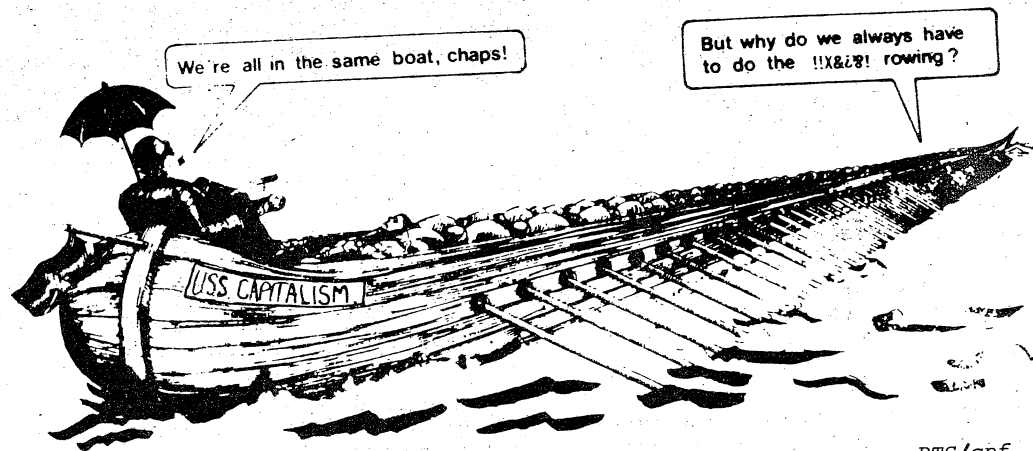
of fundamental changes in administration and overall reform. In response, Donald Taylor, the presently acting director of the Dept. of Corrections called the president of the Brotherhood of Correctional Officers "the biggest sissy in the crowd... a big, scared baby."

Governor Noel chimed in with the comment "... that if he (the guard involved) would stop blubbering over the television, and start doing his job, we don't need any investigation at the prison."

Noel's callous indifference towards grievances filed by both inmates and prison guards has been instrumental in the forging of an unusual alliance between prisoners and the guards. Both groups have joined together in demanding an independent investigation of conditions at the prison, including administrative practices and personnel.

One obvious message can be gleaned from the ACI experience. "Responsible eladers" like Governor Noel and his underlings, with their degrading conception of justice and prison management, have got to be made accountable to all citizens, not only prison guards and inmates. The American public must learn to challenge such administrative policies with a radically new conception of the importance of reforming this nation's prisons. If the existing cruelty and waste in prison systems are going to be eliminated, it has to be made clear that the way this nation runs its prisons is directly related to the general welfare of the society. Reformers have got to debunk the existing crippling official myths about inmates and prison reform that have enabled the public to turn its back on such important issues. The old "out of sight, out of mind" approach is far too costly and unjust to continue unchallenged.

But an emotional appeal to the public is not enough. People must be organized around issues that touch their day-to-day lives in a noticeable way. Prison reform will have to be viewed and discussed in a context that relates to the concerns that touch people every day. The public should be made aware that their tax money is being wasted on prisons that fail miserably. In R.I., it costs about \$13,000 a year to maintain one inmate; a cost slightly above the national average. People should be made to realize that since the existing prison system helps



greatest single problem is the lack of separate facilities and the inability to segregate inmates."

The warden's point was brought home forcefully with the February 28th murder of an inmate who was awaiting transfer from the ACI. He had been there less than one week.

Growing tension at the ACI has been a double-edged sword, affecting guards as well as inmates. Working in an atmosphere of anger and resentment, guards have repeatedly attempted to control the situation by "enforcing the rules" with black-jacks and mace. Inmates have responded with anger, physical protest, aggressive violence and ultimately legal action. Guards as well as prisoners are afraid for their lives. This is a matter of public record.

The day following Governor Noel's "lumps and bumps" speech fifty inmates rebelled, and overpowered four guards in an effort to dramatize the seriousness of their complaints and demands for corrective action in the prison. The head of the prison guards came forward and publicly called the prison chaotic, out of control, and in desperate need

to create crime, it represents a direct threat to the welfare of everyone in this country. The point to be made here is that our prisons are more of a burden and a public disgrace than they are a prohibition or a solution to the problem of crime. Viewing prison reform as an isolated problem, rather than being inextricably related to many other vital public concerns is a dead end strategy. The prison reform movement will become meaningful only to the degree that the American public realizes the need to judge the prison system just as they would judge their local school system, or any other vital public institution.

If the American public is serious about maximizing the democratic values of self-determination and justice for all, then we should begin where those values are most noticeably lacking, in our nations prisons. We must push urgently for the day when the American people will no longer be responsible for the kind of prison system that prompted Charles Dickens to say after visiting a New York prison in 1842: "What! Do you thrust your common offenders of the police discipline of the town into such holes as these?"

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Cut'em Loose, Bruce

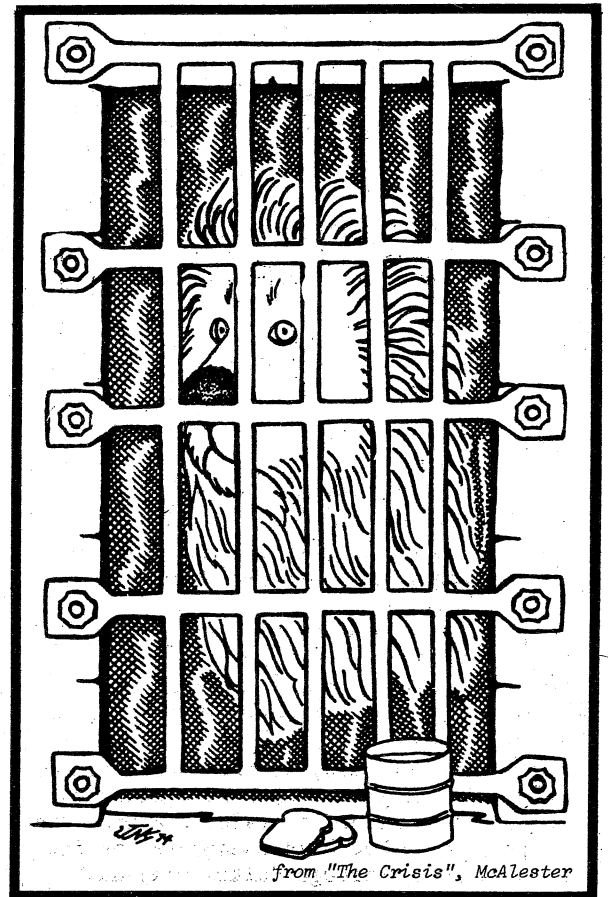
Bruce Wright, a Black judge in New York City, gained the respectful name of "Cut 'em Loose, Bruce" because he refused to use bail as preventative detention, because he let poor and third world persons loose on personal recognizance, and because he refused to levy excessive bail. For these same reasons he was attacked by cops and right-wingers, and finally transferred from criminal court to civil court.

Wright has filed a federal suit as part of his fight to return to the criminal bench. Fund-raising benefits have been held in New York to aid his fight, and the New York City Bar Association has come out in support of Wright. Wright also has continuously criticized the racist attitudes and actions of New York's cops and prosecutors.

Jobs Now

300 unemployed and low-income workers from around the state of Maine demonstrated in the state capitol of Augusta on May 16 to demand that the legislature create 5000 jobs by taxing the corporations and the rich. Unemployment in Maine is officially at 12% (and much higher in reality) and the state's unemployment compensation fund is expected to go bankrupt in a few months. Fight, Don't Starve!

(from the Guardian)



from "The Crisis", McAlester

R.I. Voting

Congressman Edward Beard (D.R.I.) will introduce legislation this week that would restore voting rights to ex-felons in federal elections. The bill, if enacted, would authorize states to make provisions for all ex-offenders to participate in the direct vote of federal officials during general, runoff or primary elections.

Under the Beard bill, the enfranchisement would be granted only if the offender had completed his period of imprisonment and only after the person has paid all fines and satisfied all other penalties imposed upon him. According to this bill, a man or woman on parole would be eligible to vote.

Beard strongly suggested that this legislation is needed to ensure the most fundamental of all rights in a democratic society. The Congressman further stressed that "once a person has paid his debt to society, there is no justification for shutting him out from full citizenship".

For further information call (401)528-4861.

Million \$ Suit

Norfolk, Mass. prisoner Samuel Gravina has filed a million dollar lawsuit against Frank Hall, Commissioner of Correction, and Norfolk warden Larry Meachum, charging violation of his civil rights.

Gravina charges that he suffers "cruel and unusual punishment", in violation of the eighth Amendment. He claims he suffers mental stress because he is separated from his family and from women. The state has denied him natural human mental and physical needs of "procreation and cohabitation".

If the case is accepted in Federal court on constitutional grounds, Gravina's case will bring up clearly the issue of conjugal visits.

Gravina also alleges he has been discriminated against because he has been denied furlough, which was a factor in causing his wife to divorce him. Gravina alleges that Meachum told him he would never sign furlough--or parole--papers for Gravina.

NEPA NEWS feels it would be great if the court did decide that separation from persons of the opposite sex--particular prohibition of conjugal visits--was "cruel and unusual punishment". For many prisoners it is.

Typewriters

All typewriters belonging to prisoners at McAlester Prison in Oklahoma have been seized by the administration. Said the warden, "they have been turned into a dangerous mechanical device" because letters have been typed on them and sent to "communistic and other subversive groups". NEPA NEWS has been among the groups which have received letters from the struggling brothers at McAlester.



Daniel Rogers, Resurrection 1972

Stop the Ku Klux Klan

As the crisis rises in the U.S., the people's resistance and struggle also rises, as is shown by thousands of strikes, demonstrations, and riots by workers, unemployed, welfare recipients, third world communities and prisoners. At the same time, repression increases from the government and big corporations.

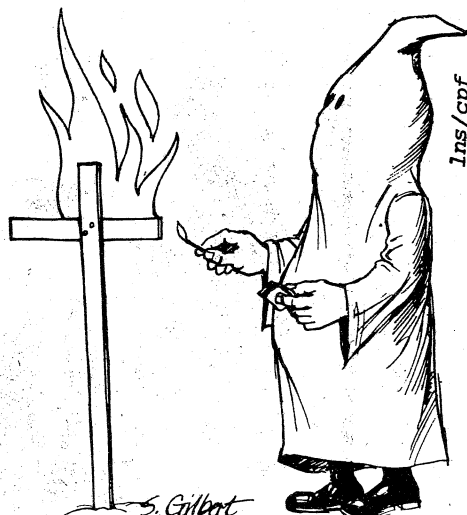
One tool used or condoned by the state is fascist-like groups, such as ROAR in Boston. An indication of this is the increased activity of the Ku Klux Klan. KKK'ers were seen publicly with ROAR leaders in South Boston, but their shooting attacks on the Columbia Point Housing Project were stopped by the armed self-defense of the people. Most folks in Southie also hate the KKK.

The KKK is not only anti-Black and Third World, but has historically been anti-Catholic, anti-foreign-born and anti-socialist. Perfect tools of right wing attempts at repression.

KKK members have recently been exposed in a number of prisons. Two guards at the Menard Correctional Center near St. Louis, Miss., were fired recently for distributing KKK material. In Wapoch, N.Y., the Klan was implicated in a firebombing of four cells in an effort to keep out the NAACP. Prisoners charge that some prison officials are members, and a local paper claimed that 15-25 guards are Klan members. A teacher there, Earl Schoonmaker, was suspended after admitting he is the

State Dragon of the Klan. Prisoners claim the Klan is attempting to provoke a riot to justify killing political prisoners. Unfortunately, some white prisoners are also Klan members.

Because the KKK is opposed to the freedom, dignity and struggles of all prisoners and poor people, we believe that they must be exposed, isolated and eliminated in all prisons and communities of the U.S. Failure to combat the KKK only allows the oppressors to step up their attacks on the people.



Ins/cpf

East and Around



Southeast Asia

75,000 people jammed New York City's Central Park to celebrate the victory of the Cambodian and Vietnamese people against their U.S. created puppet "governments". Meanwhile, after years of war, life is returning to normal for the people of South East Asia. All the cries about a possible "bloodbath" have been proven false, though a few well-known mass murderers and the like, who somehow failed to make it to the U.S., have been executed. The biggest murderers and thieves, such as Thieu and Ky, are now living fat on their blood money.

The U.S. government has continued to try to subvert the people's victories in S.E. Asia. Spy ships, sabotage and the like demand continued vigilance from the people. This was the reason for the capture of the Mayaguez.

The U.S. response to the capture--supported by most of the so-called "doves" in congress--cost the lives of over 40 servicemen to "free" 39 crewmen, who had already been released by the Cambodians.

A Mayaguez crewman, Alberto Minichiello, has filed a class action suit against the Mayaguez' owners and captain, charging that the whole crew had been endangered by the ship's sailing through "ultrahazardous" waters when they knew better and had been previously warned.

Good Jurors

A Justice Dept. study to investigate the reasons why the government has lost so many political trials has revealed that the jurors are a key factor. Said the report, "they were tried before jurors at least partially composed of people willing to be convinced of government misconduct, or willing to believe the exculpatory motives alleged by the defense."

If true--and righteous, intelligent people are everywhere--the government should have more and more trouble convicting political prisoners, given the exposures around Watergate, the FBI, the CIA, and the evidence of in any earlier political trials.

Hunger Riots

LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) plans to distribute \$95.5 million to local police for "riots and civil disorders." This is the largest portion of LEAA's planned \$887 million budget (14 times what it was in 1968).

LEAA has a history of mostly providing military hardware to cops and prisons, for "Big Brother" type surveillance and information gathering systems, and for research on such things as police use of tanks, helicopters, gas, "dum-dum" bullets, and high powered guns. They also distribute a very small amount of money to groups such as the Boston Bail Fund/Project and the Roxbury Defenders Committee.

Killer Cops

Cops claim they need guns for protection, but being a cop is, according to statistics, safer than cab driving, mining, farming or construction work. Cops in New York City are safer than the average citizen by a margin of two to one. From 1963-1968, according to Paul Tagaki of the U. of California, 362 policemen were killed by civilians. Yet the cops own statistics say that cops killed 1,826 civilians, about half of them black, most all of them men. Of course, the cops probably underestimate the number of killings they commit.

In Houston, Texas, a grand jury has investigated 36 killings by cops over the past two years. They are focusing on two white cops who have killed at least four black men. In Oakland, Ca., the survivors of a black man gunned down by cops have filed a four million dollar lawsuit. Over 10,000 Chinese-Americans demonstrated May 19 in New York City against police brutality.

Guardian photo by George Cohen



New York City's Central Park, May 10.

3 Free in N.C.

Jess Walston, Bobby Hines and Vernon Brown, sentenced in December, 1973, to death in North Carolina's gas chamber, will go free this August 18. The three Black men had been convicted of the rape of a white woman near Tarboro, N.C. (see NEPA NEWS, December, 1974, page 15). The men had argued that they had sexual intercourse with the woman, but that she had been a willing participant. They were judged guilty by a nearly all-white jury.

The men entered an appeal and in January, 1975, won a reversal in the N.C. Supreme Court. Re-trial was set for May 19. On the eve of the trial the prosecution offered a deal: If the three would plead guilty to the charge of "assault with intent to commit rape," their sentences would be suspended. The men, claiming innocence, refused to plead guilty, but agreed to plead *nolo contendere* (no contest) with the understanding that their sentences would be suspended as of August 18.

Pre-Trial Sevice

The National Pretrial Intervention Center has published a short directory of diversion and intervention programs across the U.S. The directory is updated annually--so if a group is not listed, send the name, address, and notes on your program to them. Their address is 1705 DeSales St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (203)659-9697, 98. As far as we know, the directory is free.

Notice

Billy Royce would like to thank his many friends who sent numerous cards while he was sick. He is just about recovered.

N.C. Union Suit

North Carolina prisoners have filed a suit in federal court charging the Dept. of Corrections with violating their first amendment rights by interfering with their efforts to unionize.

Said Correction Secretary David L. Jones, "There is no union, there has been no union, and there will not be, so long as I am secretary." We hope his reign ends soon.

There is no clear legal precedent for the suit. In 1972, Rhode Island prisoners in the NPRA (National Prison Reform Association) won a federal consent decree which prevented prison officials from banning and interfering with meetings and from banning outside members "where no important governmental interest is shown to justify the restrictions."

But this year in Connecticut a federal judge ruled against a union suit brought by the Somers Prisoners Union.

Popeye

Early in the morning on June 8, "Popeye" Jackson of the United Prisoners Union, and his assistant, Sally Voyer, were gunned down as they sat in Ms. Voyer's car. It is reported that the shots were fired by a "youth" about 18 years old.

Popeye Jackson, an ex-convict, has been active in the prisoner movement for several years, and is noted for being keenly aware of the problems faced by female and gay prisoners. He was most recently involved in helping to organize a large rally to show support for the Underground in California.

Ms. Voyer, a teacher, was investigating the "treatment" and use of medications at Vaca-ville Medical Facility.

Lining up as the march against police brutality began in N. Y.'s Chinatown.



Guardianphotos by Martha Bunim

STRUGGLES



AIM

In what has become the most massive campaign of repression launched by the FBI since its war on the Black Panther Party, the federal government is using all its power to smash the American Indian Movement.

In the most recent act of brutality, AIM leader Russell Means was shot in the back, on June 7, with a .357 magnum by the son of a Bureau of Indian Affairs agent. Means was then arrested on charges of resisting arrest. He spent two hours in jail before being taken to the hospital. The assailant and his father, who is trying to cover for his son, have already changed their story several times. This attempted murder is but the latest event in a campaign of terror.

Hundreds of AIM members were arrested across the country following the occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973. Most of the charges were dropped, or trials led to acquittals. Only nine have been convicted. But the FBI continues its aggression.

AIM leader Russell Means has been charged with murder in an earlier event. 17 AIM supporters were arrested in a five-day period. The FBI held 50 John Doe warrants which allowed the stop and search of any Native American.

The FBI's major ally in South Dakota is Pine Ridge Reservation tribal president and chief goon Richard Wilson. Wilson "won" his position in an election so full of fraud that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has called it illegal. After "defeating" Russell Means in the election, Wilson's goons distributed flyers telling Means voters that they had three days to leave the reservation.

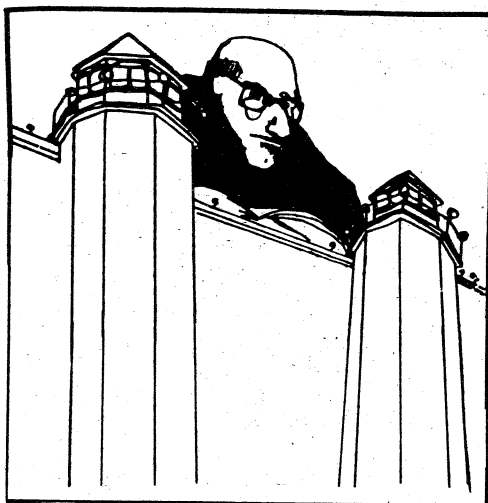
Recently, Wilson and his thugs have unleashed a wave of terror. Several AIM members and supporters, including a four year old child, have been killed. AIM legal workers have been beaten up and shot. Wilson has allegedly been selling reservation land to non-Indians. The FBI and S.D. police have totally failed to move against their ally, Wilson.

A similar goon squad has been set up by Menominee tribal leader Ada Deer, who had opposed the takeover of Alexian Brothers Monastery last winter. (Incidentally, the Alexians, a supposedly "small" Catholic order, are listed in Moody's Bank and Financial Manual as having assets worth \$50 million in 1972.)

But AIM is not standing still. Across the country, they and their supporters have held demonstrations and have occupied FBI offices. They continue to lead the struggle of Native Americans for self-determination, through such things as the armed occupation of the Shiprock, New Mexico Fairchild Corp. plant; Wounded Knee; the Menominee seizure of the Alexian Monastery; and the seizing of the Mohawk's new nation, Ganienkah. They have also called for a tourist boycott of South Dakota this summer.

The legal work of AIM, greatly supported by the National Lawyer's Guild, has not only led to many acquittals, but has exposed the racist and political nature of the government's actions.

Five members and supporters of AIM recently had charges dismissed in Sioux Falls, S.D. They had been charged following a riot at the Sioux Falls Courthouse. The prosecution cops and media launched a statewide campaign to totally prejudice every possible juror in



S.D. Extensive voir dire interviews with prospective jurors convinced the judge that a fair trial was impossible in S.D., so he directed that all charges be dropped. But the state is now moving to prosecute still more people involved in the courthouse riot.

AIM needs the support of all of us, in money, in solidarity and in spirit. NEPA NEWS supports the struggles of AIM and all Native Americans for self-determination and liberation. We demand that the FBI stop its war against AIM and prosecute the real criminals, goons such as Richard Wilson. We urge our readership to take what action they can to support AIM, including letters of support.

Letters supporting the tourist boycott can be sent to AIM Custer Campaign, Box 3677, St. Paul, Minn. 55101. Money--checks made out to the American Indian Movement--can be sent to NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H., and will be forwarded.

SAN QUENTIN



"I object to all this madness here. I object to the whole proceeding. I think I am being railroaded... I will not stand for this bullshit." So stated San Quentin 6 defendant Fleeta Drumgo to the court on May 6. Fleeta was then thrown in a holding cell.

After recess, defendants David Johnson stated, "I wish to be removed from this courtroom.... How can you sit and judge us fairly when you don't even understand our culture and the conditions we have always been subjected to since we have been born in this society." David was removed to the holding cell.

When the court reconvened minutes later, defendant Hugo Pinell expressed the brother's protest. Judge Broderick recessed the court until the next day.

The trial of the San Quentin 6, a complete and total mockery of justice, continues. The six Third World men are facing charges of murder, conspiracy and attempted escape for events surrounding the August 1971 murder of George Jackson by prison guards. At that time, three guards and two prisoner-trustees also died.

The six men are dragged into court in chains each day, sit shackled in front of prospective jurors, and are not allowed to talk to each other in court. People who wish to attend the trials are forced to go through two metal detectors, to empty their pockets, and to be frisked. After this, the visitors

CONTINUE

must produce identification, and their names and addresses are recorded by the police. Until stopped by court order, visitors also were fingerprinted. The cops admitted the identification was used to check out the political background of every court visitor.

The jury selection process has been totally racist. At one point a judge threw the trial out because of the racism, but a California appellate court overturned that decision.

Only three of 800 prospective jurors empanelled thus far have been Black (.375%). The Black population of Marin County, one of the richest in the U.S., is 2 1/2%. All three Black prospective jurors have been dismissed. The selection of the all-white jury could last until the end of June. An appeal for a change of venue was denied by Broderick.

The voir dire process, by which defense attorneys may question jurors, has been subverted by Broderick, who allows prospective jurors to watch other voir dire on closed circuit TV, who instructs the prospective jurors to disregard the defendants' chains, and who gives each prospective juror a detailed "indoctrination", recounting the death of George Jackson and the Marin County Courthouse shootout of 1970 in which Jonathan Jackson and others, including a Judge, were shot by cops.

Finally, one prosecution witness, Alan Mancino, a con, has recanted his 44 page testimony. He claimed he had testified under duress.

The case of the San Quentin 6, like many others, demonstrate the lengths to which the state is going to strip away the people's democratic rights to a fair trial. Just a few of countless other examples include: Attica, the campaign against the American Indian Movement, the removal of N.Y. Judge Bruce Wright, and countless more. In New York, the FBI went to court to ask that a lawyer be compelled to give information about his client--a request that was denied. The constant use of grand juries as investigatory "fishing expeditions" has become completely blatant, including not only lesbians in Ky. and Ct., as the FBI tries to find Kathy Power, but even basketball superstar Bill Walton and internationally known film maker Emile de Antonio and Haskell Wexler.

The reasons for the government's attempted subversion of our Constitutional rights is clear to us. As the economy falls apart, and as the bosses and their government take the crisis out on the backs of the workers, the poor, the third-world people, resistance to the bosses stiffens. Fearing massive social unrest, the government is using the trials of today as part of a process of removing what little real protection the constitution gives us.

The courts have become a major battle ground. We cannot expect to win social change in the courts, but we must fight to keep our democratic rights. This is part of the fight to give us needed protection in the struggles ahead.



Big Brother

regularly and enthusiastically by the "military minds" of this country was to test out new weaponry and war concepts so that our army would be "prepared" for the "real thing" when it came. They needed some sort of "limited" war going regularly to test weapons and war concepts under actual battlefield conditions to determine how well they worked. Not, of course, that the United States ever stated that any war was planned--all the speeches have steadfastly maintained how committed to peace we are. But, the actuality of the situation is that there isn't a hell of a lot else to do with a well trained army and sophisticated weaponry but fight wars.

At the present time, that same process is being started with these psychological "mind control" weapons. A lot of time and money is being spent by the U.S. Government to develop and test them in a "limited" way (on captive prison populations behind high walls). The bugs will eventually be worked out, and the mind control weapons being developed and tested are extremely potent. Once they have been completely developed and tested these weapons--in the hands of some future madman of the Nixon philosophy--could make this entire country one large concentration Kamp (the research and development of these programs was actually organized during the Nixon Gang era, and, of course, LEAA is also a product of that administration.) The government, of course, would categorically deny the possibility of something like that ever occurring. But, who could possibly expect them to say anything else. Remember those famous words: "I'm no crook!"

Unfortunately, not even people seem to be able to see this--even less that are actually willing to fight it. A real apathy appears to surround the whole situation. This apathy is certainly not restricted to the outside communities. Here in Walpole, for example, the "divide and conquer" plan appears to be rolling along well for them. The administration has, in fact, literally divided the prison into two sections. The maximum section has been purposely made so miserable and dehumanizing for both inmates and their visitors that, ideally (in the eyes of the prison administration), any inmate ought to be willing to do any amount of debasing boot-licking, ratting, or anything else to get moved out of it. The continuous 23 hour lock-up and the prohibition on any form of communication between inmates in different blocks and different sections are meant simply to disorient and break down any close ties between inmates (the apparent theory behind this being that if prison inmates aren't told by a few "agitators" that they are being royally shafted, they don't have the brains to figure it out for themselves). The prohibition on any work, educational, vocational or other programs (if there were any) to the people in the maximum section is simply to create inertia and dull the mind.

At the other end of the prison they have restored some of the practices and privileges of the minimum section. This was a necessary step for the prison administration whether they cared to do it or not. Even with additional government financing and madmen at the controls, they still only have the facilities and capabilities to concentrate on and suppress about half of the prison population for any extended period of time. So, in order to be able to concentrate on the maximum end, they had to assume that they could control the minimum end (keep them from resisting and get them to go to work) by restoring, temporarily, some of their privileges, and threatening them with transfer to the maximum end if they didn't "co-operate". Had that failed to work out for them, their whole plan was doomed to failure. However, it appears that they had guessed approximately right and have been able to concentrate on the maximum end without interruption for several months now. At this time, the last of the steel plating, and the screens in the max end "visiting area" are almost finished, and that will leave the max end sewed up tight enough for them to go to work on the minimum end without any interruption. Unless our people on the outside are able to press the Governor and/or legislature to

put a stop to all this, it's a pretty safe bet that, by the time this is over, Fred Butterworth will have steel all over the prison, screens in all the visiting areas, and privileges and/or rights available to no one but out and weasels who are willing to kiss his ass in public. This has always been their estimation of an ideal situation and now they are fulfilling that ideal. To Butterworth and his gang of correctional ass kissers, this is the ultimate ego trip. Ideally now, they can freely commit their favorite atrocities in any part of the prison without even the rest of the prison population finding out about it--much less the general public or news media.

This situation has not altered the basic premises of our federal lawsuit to close down Walpole (i.e., that the totality of conditions at Walpole constitute cruel and unusual punishment) and force the move to community-based corrections as required by the state law. And, it has actually added other legal questions, such as: 1) can the federal government legally use coercion and bribery on state officials to undermine implementation of state laws? 2) how much, if any, can state and federal law enforcement officials actually interfere in the running of a state prison? and, 3) can prison administrators legally spend money for and consciously do reconstruction work in a prison for the sole purpose of reducing the quality of life

members that they could work on to volunteer a little time to help out in this same manner. The members of the "Families and Friends" are a really solid group of people, but they need more numbers with them to seriously show the Governor and legislators that there are enough people aware of the Walpole situation to possibly make a few differences at future elections. This is the thing that politicians truly understand best. I distinctly recall having been somewhat disappointed around the time of the sit-in at the Governor's house, that more than ten times as many people showed up a few days later for the "Save the Whales" demonstration than had showed up at the Governor's house. I, too, do not like to think that whales are being systematically slaughtered to the point of extinction, but I believe that the lives and sanity of people (prison inmates) in this Commonwealth should rate at least as high a priority. I believe that if we all seriously went to work on convincing a few of our friends or family members of this, we would have the necessary numbers of people out there to push our cause to a successful conclusion. And this is something that all Walpole inmates can do--even those that don't want the prison administration to know that they're resisting. So, let's all of us do what we can do on this.

2) Since we intend to challenge the federal government as to their practice of using

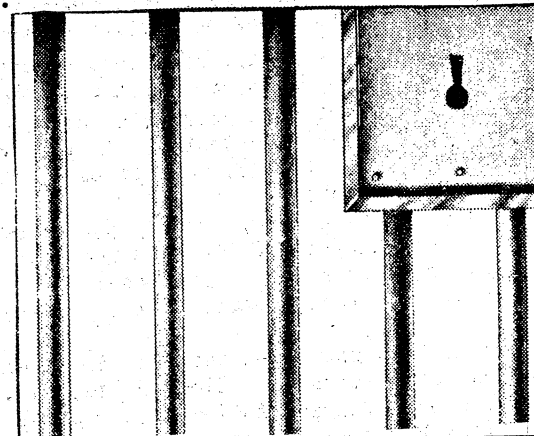


for a large percentage of the prison inmates within it? (And this last contention seems particularly strong to me inasmuch as many old and dilapidated prisons and county jails around the country have defended themselves in court on the ground that they would like to improve the conditions and quality of life for the inmates if they could, but that they simply did not have the money with which to do it. There would not seem to be much of a defense for a prison administrator going into court to explain why he used what money was made available to him to purposely make the conditions in an already bad prison worse.)

In any event, it will be a while before we can get decisions in the federal district court on these matters and, hopefully, close Walpole down for good. In the meantime, we're subject to go through an awful lot of extra misery and deprivation. I simply hope that we all keep up the struggle and carry ourselves like men through it all.

There are, however, a number of practical and immediate things that can also be done: 1) the inmates here at Walpole who have not yet recommended to their relatives and friends that they contact the "Friends and Relatives of Prisoners" at 1417 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, to lend their voice to that forum of protest, should do so immediately. Those people are doing a really excellent job of bringing our fight to the Governor, the legislators, and the public and press. But they need a lot more help and support. My friends were down there on the Governor's front doorstep and have been involved in as much of the rest of the struggle by the "families and Friends" as possible, and I believe almost everybody in Walpole must have at least one or two close friends or family

coercion and federal money to undermine the implementation of state law, anyone having any information, or knowing the whereabouts of any information pertaining to this matter should let me know about it as soon as possible. If we can present a substantial enough case on this, we may not only be able to undo some of what's been done here at Walpole, but also stop this practice before it gets to our brothers in some other prisons that it hasn't reached yet. Any information pertaining to this can be gotten to me by mailing it to me in care of Donna Parker at the NEPA NEWS, Franconia, New Hampshire, or Donna Finn at the "Families and Friends of Prisoners", 1417 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester. And remember, it's by no means too late to beat them in the battle right here within the prison. No matter how bad it gets, or how much steel they put up, a prison just can't function without the consent of a majority of the inmates within it. Our simplest strategy is to make it as expensive as possible for them to continue maintaining this garbage heap.



LETTERS TO NEPA NEWS

Whalley Ave.



McAlester

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades,

We the oppressed Political Prisoners of this modern day fascist concentration camp would like to bring to the attention of the peoples in Amerika and abroad information about Col. Richard Crisp, Warden of this P.O.W. Camp and his Conspiracy to commit murder and his brutal barbaric assault that was inflicted upon six of our Comrades that at the present time are housed in the dungeons in maximum security.

I would also like to point out that ever since Col. Crisp and his military regime took over as caretakers of this human warehouse, we have been subjected to nothing but brutality and torment tactics by his fascist gestapo called the E squad, which was especially selected and designed to engender fear in the Prisoners by beating them with "Stun Guns", billy clubs and heavy riot sticks, etc.

Comrades, I will give you the report just like it was sent to me by one of my brothers that was a victim of this man's brutality. The assault of April 18th was a culmination of petty nitshit harassment that had been steadily mounting since the March 21st rebellion, as you know they destroyed a lot of personal property, stole recently purchased canteen supplies and refused to make compensation. They also took all smoking tobacco, including RJR, refused to provide medical and dental care except for a few emergency cases (these exceptions were made only after we threatened with rise ups), inconsistent legal and notary assistance (at one point the legal man hadn't come up for three weeks) refused to provide toilet articles, e.g. showers had become increasingly less frequent, mail was delayed nine and ten days. Postmark indicated approximate arrival, magazines etc. confiscated and destroyed. After the prisoners refused to shower, Capt. Ogeila came to Jomo's cell and said that he wanted to shake it down for a fucking tray, he told him that he had already been shaken down once and that he hadn't eaten all day so it was impossible to have a tray, the pig then opened his door, stepped inside and began to usher him toward the door. Noting his reluctance the pig ordered three more pigs (Pierce, Rick Bowling, K. Kendall) to take him out

Thomaston

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am writing this with the deepest of feelings and admiration. I find your paper a very well put together and deeply concerned one. It covers a great deal of the various problems that different minorities face. I know that when the shit comes down it will not involve just one group, but all, for it pertains to all of us. And Unity is where it's at! Even a blind man can visualize this. With the help of SCAR, and the fantastic job that you people do, I don't see how we could lose!

In the Sacred Manner Always!
Stone Goeman
The American Indian Movement

Box A
Thomaston, Maine

anyway they could, they rushed in with their 12 gauge gas guns upraised and began to strike Jomo across the head and face after they finally dragged him out, bleeding from head wound, they renewed their assault, this time kicking, stomping as well as beating, by this time everyone was up in the door yelling, trying to divert their attention away from the brother, he was laying on the floor semi-conscious, Ogeila finally ordered him hand cuffed and carried out.

Immediately after that the pigs attacked brother DeJungle and shot him in the face with a 12 gauge gas gun four (4) times, and then went down the run and started beating Brothers N'Kenga, Yoruba, Adofa, and one white comrade named Yankee Frank.

Medical Report on:

Joma Simba, One gash in the frontal top area of his head required seven (7) stitches, cut under the eye required four (4) stitches, X-rays showed no fractures: he was committed to the hospital.

DeJungle: Several bruises, gashes and lacerations, which took 23 stitches altogether, gas burns, raw throat and lung passages, and he is going to have his head operated on, also committed to the hospital.

Yankee Frank, Hand previously smashed may require another operation. On one hand he received two broken fingers, dislocated knuckle, loss of a nail on middle finger, and gas burns on both hands, chance of deformity after healing. Gas burns and blisters on the upper arm, he was also committed to the hospital.

N'Kenga, Yoruba and Adofa were treated for minor bruises and gas burns and then released from the hospital.

Comrades how long are the people in this country going to let these pigs murder and kill their brothers and sisters in these fascist concentration camps. We sit by and watch them murder Comrade George Jackson! How much longer is this going to continue before the people put a stop to it?

For further information about the McAlester Brothers you can contact me at this address here.

#82391
P.O. Box 97
McAlester, Okla. 74501

Liberation
In Solidarity,
Chairman: Ahmed Asim
Hashim

On June 6th a fight broke out between two inmates here in the Hospital Section. of the Whalley Ave. Jail. One inmate named "Pirate", who is a member of the Hell's Angels, and another inmate by the name of Eugene Copeland, who has been trading information with the man, in return for more privileges.

Pirate, who was not particularly liked by the Pigs, was being restrained by a pig so as inmate Copeland could beat him with a telephone.

Upon seeing this, I jumped into the fight, only with the intentions of having the pig release Pirate so as he could protect himself. When this happened, the pig smashed me in the head with an object that was not identified.

At the end of this fight, both Pirate and myself were thrown into Maximum Punitive Segregation, where as the snitch was released back out into population with no charges what so ever.

Pirate and myself were forced to eat, shit, and piss on the floors of these cells. No toilet or any other sanitary articles were in these stripped cells. On top of this, the same snitch was the one who prepared and delivered the meals to our cells!

Now, after going to Kangaroo Court, Pirate was given 1-20 days, and myself, 1-30 days in punitive segregation, and 10 days loss of good time. We are still waiting to be served a warrant for Assault on a correctional officer who is supposedly in the hospital with an injured neck.

I hope that when all the Brothers and Sisters read this article, a little bit more attention will be given to the prisoners of Connecticut.

We are now on a hunger strike in hopes of getting better living conditions for the people of segregation.

We would appreciate your support by sending your letters to: Richie Larke #28448, Dave Pagano #39557, John Miller-aka Pirate #64356.

These letters will let us know you are behind us, and we'll appreciate any ideas you can give us to help try and get better living conditions here in Connecticut.

In Struggle,
Brother Richie Larke
#28448

Walpole

NEPA,

As a man that has served the past five years in Walpole, I've read lots of prison newsletters. I found NEPA News to be most informative and presently receive a regular subscription.

I'm sure you're well-informed as to what has been going down here at Walpole since Dec. of last year, divide and conquer, drug the food, withholding of mail, breaking our social and family ties--a man even got beaten just this afternoon, two stitches over his eye. That's just to name a few of their repressive terror-tactics.

We need all the support we can get. If there's any way your organization can get together with Family and Friends, Dorchester, Mass. and offer whatever you can it will be most appreciated by all. All prison movement groups must combine and fight as a whole. It would be most effective and desperately needed.

Thankyou ever so much
for everything,

Paul Harding
Block 8 Walpole



Negotiations at Wounded Knee. Left to right: Carter Camp (Okla. AIM), Russell Means (AIM), Wallace Black Elk (Brule Sioux Medicine Man), Ramon Roubideaux (AIM attorney)
photo by Erdoes

Walpole NPRA

From: Walpole prisoners/NPRA
 To: Inside/Outside NPRA, Families and Friends of Prisoners, NEPA, MCCC, SDG
 Re: Organization/Policy/Program of Walpole prisoners

Organization

1. The inside NPRA shall continue to function as the parent political body of the prisoners, supporting, coordinating and encouraging other prisoner groups, functions, and legal actions.
2. In any and all discussions the NPRA shall act, in full or executive capacity, as moderator.
3. In any and all discussions an Action Committee is designated as advocate.
4. The Action Committee shall be composed of the following prisoners: Chairman, John Kerrigan; Co-Chairman, George Nassar; Legal Advocate, Robert Layne; Advisory Members: Frank Soffen, Ralph Hamm, Paul Harding, Frank Grace, Anthony Carlo.
5. The inside NPRA has the responsibility to coordinate prisoner organization, policy

Sue the State

Dear Sir:

One of the long standing abuses within the American system of justice is the calculated attack upon the psyche of the individual exercised throughout by the prison system.

These methods include beatings by guards, the rape, rape by gangs, official vulgarity in manner and language, a damaging noise level, lack of privacy, denial of political rights, denial of constructive organized input, and monitoring of system, etc.

The result is the payment of sentences far greater than the original surrender of freedom that the courts demanded.

Many times the physical body sustains such as knifings, broken bones and loss of sight that mark the individual the rest of their lives.

It is our belief that since the state striped the individual of all defenses and the ability to function for themselves, the safety and security of the person, as well as food, clothing and shelter, become the legal responsibility of the state, and restitution for any damages should be born by the state and such adjudged guilty officials and/or guards as per the findings of a peer jury.

We hope and urge that test cases will be made to protect prisoners and place responsibility where it rightfully belongs, to the extent that an individual so harmed may sue for and collect damages from the state.

Very Truly Yours,
 Laurence E. Turner
 3041998L, Membership
 Number, Imprisoned
 Citizens Assoc.

and programs with the outside NPRA, Families and Friends, MCCC, NEPA, SDG, etc.

6. The Action Committee has the responsibility to propose organization, policy and programs, and with the approval of the prisoners to function as the executive director of such.

POLICY

There are two principal and irrevocable policies of the Action Committee:

1. The total and permanent elimination of caging of prisoners--the deinstitutionalization of corrections.
2. The support and encouragement of court suits to implement Chapter 777 fully and to establish community corrections.

PROGRAM

To effect deinstitutionalization, Chapter



Dick Tracy

Did you know that "paroles" and ex-cons" are your prime source of worry if you are carrying large amounts of money? In the May 25, 1975 Dick Tracy comic strip his "crime-stopper" says "A fool and his money are soon parted. Don't flash your money in public". This is good advice and I agree with him all the way. The real snag comes with the illustration. A man is pictured in the foreground talking to a bartender. In the background are two people labeled "parolee" and "ex-con".

This is derogatory and degrading to a group of people that have made a mistake and paid for it. The ex-offender has enough problems without Chester Gould, who for years has brainwashed the public about criminals and police control, planting even more distrust in the public's mind. The inference is that an ex-offender will see your money and rob you. This is an incorrect inference. Statistics show that the bartender would be more likely to rob you.

Letters of protest, demanding a public apology in his comic strip should be sent to: Chester Gould, c/o The Chicago Tribune, 435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Note: Persons interested in change in the prison systems are invited to contact: Ronald Rose, c/o Rev. W. R. Denton, 352 Annapolis Dr., Claremont, Ca. 91711.

777 and "Community Corrections", the Action Committee adopts the following program:

1. The official inclusion and support by the Dept. of Correction and other state agencies of the Families and Friends of Prisoners, MCCC, NEPA, SDG, and other such prison reform groups and individuals into the community corrections process.

2. The official inclusion and support of correctional-minded guards and personnel (presently employed or not) in the community corrections process.

3. The official inclusion and support by the Dept. of Correction and state agencies of church, law-enforcement, political and lay groups of the several communities in the "community corrections program".

s/ Anthony Carlo Ralph Hamm Frank Soffen
 Alan Delverde Frank Grace Robert Layne
 Paul Harding John Kerrigan Ronald Peltier



News Shorts

Tennessee

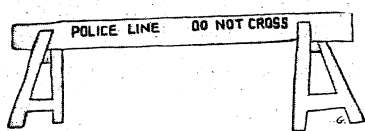
On April 11, Black prisoners at the Tenn. State Prison took 12 prison employees hostage and demanded that their grievances be made public. Prisoner Gabe Smith said, "We just wanted to be treated like men. There is so much harassment going on, we felt we had to do something."

The prisoners cited increased guard brutality, particularly against Blacks and politically active cons; overcrowding; and "lousy medical care, food and recreational facilities. After 8 hours the grievances were made public, and committee of inquiry was agreed to, amnesty was granted to the 11 cons, and the hostages were released

(News from the Guardian)

Write

A young brother by the name of Ben Jones needs friends to write and help him pass his time on death row, in the Oklahoma State Prison. Persons that are interested in trying to be a friend in this time of great need are asked to write: Ben Jones, P.O. Box 97, Deathrow, McAlester, Oklahoma, 74501.



epf

Soledad

California prisoners and, in effect, prisoners throughout the country, won a major victory April 9 when a civil jury found 8 Soledad Prison guards and administrators responsible for the intentional slaying of three Black prisoners in January 1970.

The all-White six-person jury found that the prisoners had been "set up" for the killing. The families of the three dead men were awarded \$270,000 to be given by the state of California.

The prisoners deaths had originally been ruled "justifiable homicide" by the Salinas County grand jury. That very day a white guard was found dead in "O" wing. George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Cluchette were charged with the murder. Jackson was killed by guards, Drumgo and Cluchette were acquitted.

While the Federal civil jury decision does not alter the grand jury "justifiable homicide" ruling, it does demonstrate that a guard may have difficulty getting away with killing a prisoner. Six white jurors backed prisoners and Blacks instead of White guards and administrators--and agreed that the administration was "liable for the slaying.

The prison authorities are very up-tight about this decision. Being a Federal civil rights suit, it has important implications, beyond California.

Veterans

Some 20% of Vietnam Vets have been busted within six months of their military discharge, according to a study of 1000 vets in 1971. 15% were unemployed, and more than half had drug or alcohol problems. Nearly 1/3 of all prisoners in state, local and federal prisons are veterans. Also, over 55,000 vets have died since they came home. The leading causes were suicide, drug OD, and car accidents. The fruits of imperialist aggression continue to grow at home.

A NEPA READER RESPONDED

Dear Mr. Mason,

I received your letter of June 5, 1975, and the inclosed back issues of NEPA News. First let me thank you for your rapid response to my request, and secondly, express my appreciation for the newspapers.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, continue my name on your list as a subscriber. I found the issues enlightening, progressive and just great. My only regret is that due to my obvious state of incarceration, I was unable to attend your last conference. Rest assured that upon release, and upon assuming full time duties with the National Council on Penal Reform and Offender Welfare in Washington, D.C., that I will be attending all of your future conferences that I can and hopefully contributing a decisive influence.

I was particularly interested in your articles on exploitation of inmate labor, a subject with which I am practically and literally familiar. According to LEAA and the Census Bureau, in 1971; the cost of operating state adult institutions was about \$626 million. Adding in the 20,000 odd inmates of the Federal system (of which I was a part prior to coming to Virginia), the operating cost of adult correctional institutions today is probably around \$700-725 million. Jails in 1971 cost about \$387 million; thus, the total operating cost of adult institutions today is probably about \$1.1-1.2 billion.

These costs are as low as they are only because of the extensive use that institutions make of inmates' labor. Conservatively, 50 percent of all inmates work exclusively on institutional maintenance rather than work release, prison industries, or vocational or remedial education. Critics and defenders of correctional systems agree that there is

extensive make-work, although they disagree on its therapeutic value. For illustration, let us assume that half of all maintenance work is disguised unemployment, so that half of the maintenance labor force could perform all institutional maintenance with no sacrifice of quality or quantity. Under the further assumption that inmates are just qualified for the jobs they perform, the value of maintenance labor then would be \$350 million for federal and state institutions or about half of their budgetary operating cost.

The estimates of wasted adult inmate labor has been conservatively set at \$1 billion, and probably nearer \$1.5 billion per year. Everyone loses from this waste of manpower. Society loses because it is denied the \$1 billion or more worth of goods and services that inmates could have produced. Inmates lose directly because their incomes are lowered or eliminated. But even if they could not spend their earnings due to prison rules, inmates lose because they cannot support their families, or accumulate savings against their release dates, or even feel the simple self-respect that comes from performing a useful job. The enormous magnitude of unrealized inmate labor power makes it imperative to overcome all barriers.

I would welcome the opportunity to write a lengthy article on the Virginia Penal system if you feel so disposed as to print it. Watch the "Outlook" publication in the near future for an article on Virginia. I feel only through interchanging of ideas and information can we successfully become a force to amend the brutalities of corrections.

Respectfully yours,
Bob Levy



new slogan or identity. One of the means the prisoners offer is the stark exploitation of their lives in the prison setting--and secondarily exposing the complicity of the criminal justice system in perpetuating and covering up this exploitation. Hence their signal contribution to the mass cause. And this is why it is vitally important to make it clear to prisoners and their supporters that the issue is not prisoners' reformed living conditions or treatment. Rather it is how they exemplify the needs of others, who are as cruelly exploited by essentially the same means, bureaucracy, criminal justice system, social-economic structures, etc.

Now if the prisoners attempt by all reasonable means to right this wrong and the system suppresses them, and they revert to armed struggle in a way that makes all this public, then armed struggle is a necessary part of the struggle of those who--like the elderly--cannot rebel for themselves. In other words, the notoriety of the armed action compensates for the inability of others to speak their oppression. Thus armed struggle can exist side by side in a mutually supportive role with legal or political or professional struggle to right wrongs.

Of course all prisoners must be supported, for in the essential sense they are all political prisoners. But the reality of an armed struggle, and even a struggle that requires diversity of method, demands that certain prisoners are more valuable at a particular time or situation than others. Political prisoners are valuable for many reasons, not the least of which is that the authorities consider them valuable and will go to great lengths to capture them. The mass media will be forced to give them coverage and therefore cite the cause of their political movement. It is unrealistic to equalize all prisoners when considering practical, day-to-day applications of political, armed, legal techniques.

A united front comes with the catalyst of a vibrant, universal cause. That cause must be exemplified in an individual or collective that is definable like a slogan. And the cause must be grounded in a common need, desire, frustration that is overwhelming, that is unavoidably noticeable and demands an answer. In economics that comes as we have seen with unemployment (as the inverse of the consumer unification of high employment). In the criminal justice system of prisoners and their cause it comes with a breakdown of the system in rising crime, prison riots, stark injustice. Now unemployment and crime (breakdown in the criminal justice system) are related. It is a matter of knowing how to unite them in a mutually supporting and incrementing synthesis. Knowing how that's done and getting the situation and the people to do it is the problem. That is what we are doing at Walpole and what NEPA and its supporters are doing, whether any one of them knows it or not. And it is coming to a new synthesis--did, in fact, so come together in a new way at the 1975 conference. The forces at work here are working well. Everyone is having her or his say; opinions are divergent. But there is obvious to everyone, even to those who left the conference fearfully or angrily or in disgust. For the reality is that the intensity of commitment, the intellectual and emotional engagement, the mutually sharpening diversity of views is precisely what a germinating organization is all about, what a core for a mass movement is. A close reading of the articles on the political questions presented in the past few issues of NEPA show an increasingly refined awareness of the revolutionary realities and potentialities and urgencies. There is an historical dialectic or flow to these things which makes us and the forces co-workers in the transformation of the world. In sum, there is a deeper meaning and truth and unity to the cause and our existence than we now know.

NEPA CONFERENCE

The Women Imprisoned Workshop: For us at Walpole, men, this workshop sensitizes us to the greater struggle, the political challenge. For women's problems universalize the problem for us, free many of us to know another world, lived by someone called female. The descriptions of Framingham were real and they give an unforgettable and unbreakable link to she who lived through them. The challenges of Caritas House seemed to be those of all "institutional solutions", and the question of what the goals of the House were--e.g., to make "ladies"--and the awareness that such institutions seem to prepare ground for a woman's political prison, impressed us. Likewise the summing up themes.

The Wawangi Shaka article, it follows, showed the depth and political commitment of women to the struggle, their range and daring. There is no question that the liberation of men rests equally on the liberation of women.

11. The Stanley Bond interview, on the third anniversary of his death, was very reminiscent for us. The graphic overlay was appropriate and beautiful. As we read this article we realize again how difficult it is to understand and reach someone who was as sensitive and as kind as Stan across the indifferent print of a page. Some of those most close to Stan argued with him that his armed conduct was premature, that he had not established his political base, as perhaps Che would have it. In a way Stan agreed, but said each person someday reaches the time of his or her life when the decision must be made.

12. Mass Struggle: May Day Proposal--New Basis for NEPA: This article repeats the obviously central issue of the NEPA Conference--the appropriateness of armed struggle now. The article proposes a three-part new structure for NEPA: mass struggle, equal support of prisoners, a united front to end oppression. We have already said that racism is a tool, not a philosophy. Marxism is a philosophy; capitalism is a philosophy. Racism is one of a multitude of negative effects of an unworkable system, no more vital than, say, unemployment, criminality or sexism. There is a diversionary danger in revolutionary conception to focus on race as a unifying force. Race is used to further a special interest, positive or negative, like equal rights for Indians or prejudice against Jews. We are aware as anyone of the need to end racism. But we have seen how preoccupying it is, detracting from the common, human issues of unemployment, sickness, etc. Hitler certainly used Jewish racism as a ploy, and many in America of like mind use Blacks and Spanish-



speaking as such a ploy. But to defend a Black because he or she "is really human" is defensive and meaningless politically and economically. Rather, to defend a Black unemployed because he or she is without a job is a vital political and economic strategy and method because it joins forces with others (whites, browns, etc.) on a common ground that is based solidly on a concrete living situation that demands a concrete specific answer.

Therefore we suggest that Fascism stand alone as a definition of what we want to fight against in a mass way. That will de-race the issue, not play into the hands of those who divert us with racism.

Mass struggle requires a mass cause. Only unemployment concerns Americans enough at any time to force them to mass struggle. Any mass movement must therefore find links with and organize the unemployed and underemployed (likewise the starkly exploited, like prisoners, bed-ridden, elderly, young, women). Figure out a way to do that and you've got yourself about thirty or fifty million very angry people with political grouping. So a means must be found to unite them under a

NEPA Films & Speakers

The North East Prisoners Association has the following films to rent and/or sell:
3000 YEARS AND LIFE--A film by Randall Conrad and Steve Ujlaki.

3000 Years and Life was made in Massachusetts' Walpole Prison when the guards and prisoners were on strike. The film details the prisoners' struggle and shows how the prisoners ran Walpole better than do the guards. 40 minutes, 16mm color, rental--\$50, sale--\$400.

WITH INTENT TO HARM--A film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

Shot inside several Massachusetts prisons, this film explains the conditions of life inside, the struggles of the prisoners in Massachusetts after Attica, and a few reforms made at the time. 28 minutes, 16mm color, rental--\$35, sale--\$350

VERMONT STATE PRISON--A film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

Made from stills and moving footage, the film explores the conditions inside America's oldest maximum security prison (built in 1809). It helps to explain why Vermont has decided to close the place down. 20 minutes, 16mm Black and White, rental--\$20, sale--\$125.

Speakers

NEPA will send speakers, with or without a film, to your organization. Our normal fee for a speaking engagement is \$50, but reduced rates may be negotiated, for low income organizations.

Films and Speakers Contacts

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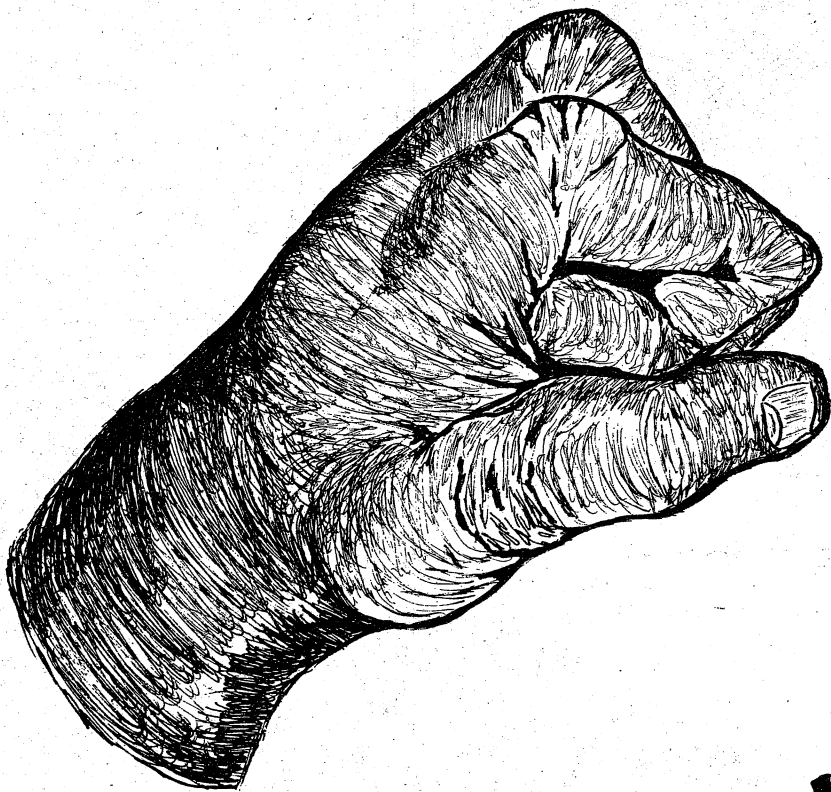
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Copy Deadline

All copy for the August issue of NEPA NEWS must reach us by Tuesday, June 15.

Covers

Our front cover features a drawing of Jesse Rowler, who waits on North Carolina's Death Row, by George Knowlton of R.I., a regular contributor to NEPA NEWS.

The rear cover is a photo from the 1975 NEPA Conference, taken by Debbie Marlowe. The man in the photo is keynote speaker Bill Nagle.

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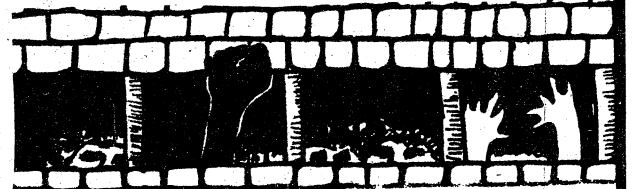
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