

## ACTION PROPOSAL FROM THE COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

All of us are interested in developing the action component of the national campaign. However, previous attempts to mobilize a national action (i.e. to Washington, D.C.) have not come to fruition. It seems to us that although the will is there, the resources are not quite there and in the past we bit off more than we could chew. Two particular elements are missing -- 1. the financial resources and 2. a group of people in that geographical area willing and able to serve as a base for staging such a demonstration.

We would propose a somewhat different conception. It seems to us that our strength is in our local, perhaps regional areas. Several years ago the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown sent out a call to friends in various places to organize action activities in their areas, all on the same day, but all targeting control unit prisons. (Most of the activities had other demands as well but they all had opposition to control units, and Florence in particular, in common.) Activities did take place in Illinois, California, Colorado, Wisconsin, Iowa, D.C., Missouri, Alabama, Indiana, Toronto. In some places it took the form of marches. In other places, there were educational pickets. In some there were educational programs. In DC there was a delegation to the Bureau of Prisons.

CEML proposes that the National Campaign organizes something of that nature. We pick a date (of some significance, if possible, but not necessarily), and we organize local or regional activities depending on local needs and capabilities. For instance, perhaps here in the Midwest we would plan a demonstration in Indiana or Ohio. Previous to the demonstration we would have a midwest regional meeting to work out the details and build momentum, and then we would mobilize people from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, etc to go to Indiana or Ohio. This would give us a chance to work with one another at least in our different regions. Also the resources necessary would not be as enormous as those for a national mobilization. If regional work is not possible, we would hold separate activities in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan.

We also propose that we agree to do a national newsletter, perhaps two issues -- one that projects the plans in the different regions, listing contact people, and a second one that reports on the activities

after they are successfully completed which would include photographs of each of the activities as well as text.

Perhaps after such a national effort, with some experience under our belt, we could begin to plan for one unified national demonstration.

At the national meeting, we would like to see this idea discussed. If people like the idea, then we need to choose a realistic date and also spend some time brainstorming in regional groups about what is really possible and desirable. Also, perhaps there could be a couple of people designated nationally to keep on top of how things are developing in the different areas and offer technical assistance. And finally some people would have to volunteer to put together the newsletters.