

OUT the LAW

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Journal of the Prisoners Union

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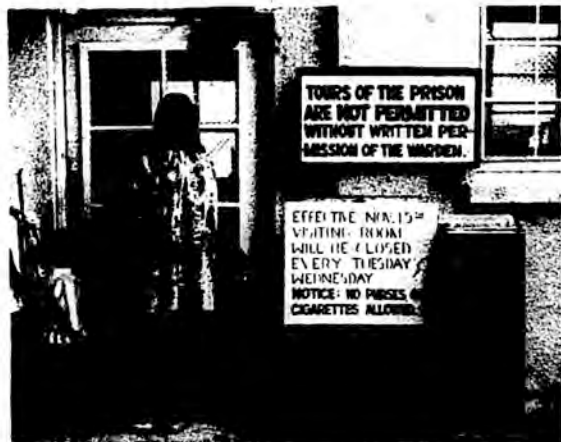


Photo by Irene Fertik

PRISONERS' UNION PICKETS
D.M.V.

LICENSE TAX 12-1495 each
CONS' EARN 2-16 cents "hr."

PRISONERS' UNION PROTESTS M.P.D.U.
&
NEUROSURGERY

THE PRISONERS' UNION ARRIVES AT 11:00 AM TO PICKET
ADULT AUTHORITY DURING OPEN MEETING AND PROTEST
COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT

ADULT AUTHORITY CLOSES MEETING AT 11:15
AND PRISONERS' UNION DOGS THEM DOWN HALLWAYS.

EX-CONS
picket
adult
authority
on
mail
restrictions

PRISONERS' UNION DEMANDS RIGHT
OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

ex-cons lets do it for our sisters & brothers inside.

Experience Is The Best Voice

WHO REPRESENTS THE CONVICT?

There seems to be a lot of controversy concerning the representation of the man or woman convict before the public eye.

The two most influential factions fighting for leadership are: (1) the radical student, up on the times and backing the latest in popular issues; namely prisoners, and; (2) the concerned lawyer, willing to donate his/her much needed talents and connections to the "movement" and its issues; namely prisoners. Both these factions are important and necessary pieces in the puzzle of successfully awakening the "people" to what is happening to the prisoner and what the prison system is all about.

Both students and lawyers have been working together to organize rallies, prison days, etc. on the subject of the convict and ex-convict. This has all been working very smoothly, like all "movement issues" except for the fact that another faction exists: organizations made up mostly of ex-convicts and convicts.



It is all very fine for these non-convicts to organize in support of the convict but who can best put forth the demands of the man or woman who has been "in" the joint and "is in" the joint.

Just like all other minorities, i.e.: black, brown, red, who had to finally say to the good doing whites "We know better than you what is good for us" so therefore we will lead ourselves." Consequently, convicts are saying, "We know better than you

what it is like in prison so we will act on that knowledge."

It is necessary that we, all factions, work together to bring about prison change. But it is more important that the voice of the convict is heard from the lips of experience and not only from the lips of concern and statistics.

The biggest strength is UNITY!!!
Penny Harris - Worker

COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT

Until a little less than a year ago, convicts could write to ten correspondents only, ten free people approved by staff, namely, immediate family and friends who had no felony convictions -- a tight restriction, especially for cons who begin in Boys Republic and end up in Folsom.

Recent prison revolts forced the pictures of prisons upon the media and the public, and citizens began demanding information about the dungeons they support with tax-dollars; milquetoast modifications on writing restrictions were made here and there. For instance, a San Quentin inter-departmental committee titled Cue 2402 of the General Mail Provisions for March of 1971 reads "You may correspond with relatives, friends, bona-fide business contacts, courts, attorneys, public officials. All mail to and from courts, public officials, and attorneys will be recorded. Other mail may be recorded as circumstances warrant." Men and women on both sides of the walls began to communicate.

Public awareness knocked more loudly on those walls, and on Sept. 28 of last year Raymond Procunier, Corrections' head con-artist, in the Chronicle said "What we need most is for the public to really know what goes

on behind walls and what happens to our men and women before they come to us, and after they leave." Less than two months later a San Quentin staff proposal to the Warden for Mail Procedures was issued and reads "There is no limit on the amount an inmate can write or receive from family, friends, bona-fide business contacts..." and so on. At this time, the Prisoners' Union was canvassing the colleges, churches, high schools in the bay area, lecturing in classes, performing an improvised drama, and PROVIDING NAMES AND NUMBERS AND JAIL ADDRESSES OF CONVICTS to anyone outside who wanted to write to anyone inside. The dim world of social isolation, akin to jailhouse isolation and the Hole, began to brighten as a bridge of letters spanned from the community to the prisons.

Early this year the Prisoners' Union learned that Corrections was planning to return to the traditional mail restrictions -- ten approved correspondents. On the 18th of Jan. we picketed the Adult Authority in Sacramento during their "open meeting" and protested this "communications blackout." On Feb. 1st Folsom returned to the old mail policy. San Quentin is slated to follow suit.

Out of sight, out of mind. Corrections cannot afford to show its true interior to the outside world and indignant public of taxpayers whose money they drain to ensure the growth of a long-failing penal system whose very passage from puberty into adolescence went unwatched by the public eye and whose maturity will only be a collection of warehouses for convicted offenders.

If you are reading this inside and having to keep one eye open for The Man who will send you to the hole for contraband reading material:

UNITY IS THE SOLUTION

Wally Burckhard - X

by the end of 1972 the Department could save the taxpayers \$4,723,500 but the Department will not close San Quentin until the end of 1974 because they need the old place to use as a bargaining card to get the two new maximum security prisons. There is no doubt that the Department does want to close San Quentin because it is too close to a big city and public attention. The two new joints will be back in the sticks where no one will ever hear anything about them. They are being built especially for men whom the Department of Corrections classifies into their new category of revolutionary psychopaths (or sociopaths).

Last year the CDC was instructed to spend any money saved by the decline in population on improving psychiatric care in the institutions. With the money the department saved they built a new maximum security adjustment center in Vacaville. This unit is a three tier cage with heavy wire mesh floors, walls and ceilings. A guard in a tower in the middle can see everything 24 hours a day. It is said that long periods spent with

CDC BUDGET

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1972 the California Department of Corrections has asked for \$112,815,914 from the General Fund. This is a increase of 9,306,213 or 9% over the amount spent in 1970-71 even though the average number of convicts is estimated to be down 4,563. Even with inflation it seems like it

shouldn't cost 9% more to lock up 20% less men, unless you intend to lock those you have left even tighter. And this is what is happening. The Department and Governor have agreed to close San Quentin by 1974. Is the red berring in the barrel that the CDC is phasing out San Quentin to get the money for two very expensive new maximum security prisons with 1400 hundred capacity apiece. This year the Department wants to close parts of the Calif. Conservation Center at Susanville. If they were to close San Quentin

CDC's MAXIMUM CONTROL PROPOSAL

RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

TITLE: CYBERONICS PROJECT-DVI

Center for the Development and Evaluation of Non-Lethal Approaches to Perimeter and Disturbance Control

PURPOSE: The control methods available in the case of disturbances in correctional institutions, in civilian disorders, in violent student protests, and in assaults upon public and private buildings usually involve force of some kind. Such methods have often led to an increase in the level of violence and sometimes injury to both participants and those attempting to establish order.

The extent to which safer means can be achieved for control of such situations, the happier will be all those concerned--those involved in control procedures, those participating in disturbances, the general public, and those concerned with the rights of individuals.

METHODOLOGY: The proposed project will provide a workshop-laboratory to explore, develop, test and evaluate a variety of non-lethal techniques for the control of group disturbances, and to protect buildings and boundaries.

The initial thrust will be to work on the application of light and sound techniques that have shown potential in experimental laboratory settings. The level of light and sound to be used will be within the normal range of the human sense organs, and preliminary tests of these techniques have indicated no lasting effects.

The aim will be to achieve working models of (1) a hand portable unit, (2) a mobile unit, and (3) a stationary installation. The models would be tested in terms of safety of application and standards of usefulness and effectiveness.

STAFFING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET: Start date is set for as soon as funding is available. The technical aspects of the project will be carried out by Cyberonics, Incorporated, under the administrative supervision of DVI and Research Division staff. Funding is being sought through CCCJ in the amount of approximately \$250,000. The match will be met by \$40,000 worth of equipment from Cyberonics and \$19,000 in kind match from CDC made up of office and work space--20% of the Associate Superintendent's time at DVI, 25% of an Associate Research Analyst's time, and 5% of the time of the Chief of Research. The latter two positions will be used to provide liaison with the Departmental Research Advisory Council.

RE-CONSIDERATION OF THE CYBERONICS DVI PROJECT AT THE SEPTEMBER 29, 1971 MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTIONS DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

This was discussed at some length with a great many emotional overtones. There were those who felt that we must at this time undertake some preliminary steps to develop non-lethal control techniques to

assist administration in handling serious disruptive behavior in a manner that would avoid the necessity of firearms. An alternate suggestion was made that we carefully research the disturbance at San Quentin to present recommendations as to how situations of this nature could be avoided in the future, thereby not requiring either firearms or non-lethal weaponry. The question came up as to why it needed to be located at DVI - the strong response was that this was the only place known that would accept this kind of a project. Again the concern about the voluntary aspect of inmate participation was raised. This was seen as being offset by the fact that both staff and inmate would be volunteering as subjects. There was a demand for a more detailed methodology statement as to exactly what was being contemplated but the position was taken that to provide detailed methodology for all projects under consideration would lead to non-stop DRAC meetings. An additional concern was raised with the suggestion that perhaps we should more carefully research the past use of other kinds of non-lethal devices (tear gas, mace) to determine public reaction and total societal benefits. After all these various considerations were taken into account, the decision was made that it should be considered among the funding priorities for the projects.

Recent publication of the volume

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF NOISE

edited by Bruce L. and Annemarie S. Welch, Based upon papers presented at an international symposium on the Extra-Auditory Physiological Effects of Audible Sound, held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 28-30, 1969 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Friends of Psychiatric Research, Inc. Maryland Psychiatric Research Center and The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland.

Plenum Press, New York, London 1970

shows that medical scientists and others have underestimated the physiological factors involved in noise, and illustrates, with papers from many countries and research institutes, that noise is one of the stress factors that can produce widespread disturbances in various biochemical and physiological activities of the human body.

In the introduction by Chauncey D. Leake, Ph.D. Senior Lecturer, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, it is stated:

Long continued loud noise itself may actually result in partial loss of hearing and in interference with understanding.

The transmission of sound impulses by nerve transmission brings the sensation to perception in the cor-

tex. But first these sensory impulses must pass through the mid-brain. Some of them are directed towards the disturbances of annoyance, irritability, quarrelsomeness, loss of attention and other conscious factors which are disturbing. Meanwhile, however, whether we are conscious of the unpleasant noise or not, there seems to be a spread into our autonomic nervous systems. This can produce complicated effects on the cardiovascular-renal system, on the endocrine system, with the complications of the chemicals put out by the glands of internal secretion, and on the reproductive system.

"The Adult Authority is under no legal obligation to set the sentence, and in practice it does not do so until it is ready to grant parole. By keeping the prisoner in perpetual suspense, never knowing from year to year what portion of his one-to-twenty or five-to-life sentences he will serve, the Adult Authority maintains maximum control over him for the entire period of his incarceration."

--Kind and Usual Punishment,
Jessica Mitford

Prisoners' Union Goals

We demand a termination of:

- I. ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION
- II. THE INDETERMINANT SENTENCE SYSTEM
- III. DENIAL OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS
 1. Employment without a reasonable wage.
 2. Employment without workers' compensation or benefits.
 3. Rerouting of sentences.
 4. Delay in Sentencing.
 5. Sentencing with irrelevant, scientifically invalid, unjust, arbitrary, or whimsical guidelines.
 6. Revocation of parole without due process.
 7. Brutal treatment on the part of guards and prison staff.
 8. Racism.
 9. Denial of basic civil rights.
 10. Inferior, incompetent, and insufficient medical treatment.
 11. Arbitrary, indefinite punitive segregation.
 12. Inadequate educational and vocational programs.
 13. Forced participation in inhumane and ineffective "treatment" programs.
 14. Restrictions on prisoners' efforts to litigate.
 15. Denial of full civil rights upon release.

Strategies:

1. Organize a unified, multi-racial union which can work efficiently toward our collective goals.
2. Retain attorneys to help gain our objectives through the courts.
3. Appear before legislative bodies to provide more complete information about prisons and prison conditions.
4. Educate the public through the media, our own newspaper, and public speaking on prisons and treatment of prisoners.
5. Collectively bargain with prison administrations.

ADULT AUTHORITY



Photo by Irene Fertik

PRISONERS' UNION DOGS A.A. MEMBERS

In front of the State Building housing the Adult Authority offices, the imitation cobblestone patio and fountain seemed clean as a hospital wing. We set up a circle of pickets at 10:50 AM, taking our time, knowing the AA was in "open" session scheduled to stop at noon for lunch and resume at one.

At 11:10 Willie Holder and I went inside, boarded an elevator, both of us wondering how the Adult Authority was going to respond to our protest against the Communications Blackout -- CDC's step backward to the old 'ten approved correspondents' restriction. Connor Nixon, PU lawyer, stepped in and told us the AA had suddenly closed the meeting and left. We were about to go back downstairs when the elevator started filling with AA members. I recognized Leland Edmond from the old days and asked "Are you going to meet with the Prisoners' Union?" Surprised and indignant,

he said "I? Not I, not hardly," and whisked down the corridor.

Willie and I trailed them. Because the others managed to duck into their pigeon holes (excepting Lynum, who listened shortly) only Gordon and Lopez gave us an ear. They told us they meet with many Civic Groups; we told them we are a group of Cons and Ex-cons, not a Civic Group, and as the Prisoners' Union we had come to protest the Communications Blackout. They were non-committal to the issue but promised to meet with us openly if we went through proper channels.

We joined our Union friends outside who were carrying signs reading LET THE CONVICTS WRITE - WRITE ON - COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT and about ten minutes later AA members followed, some nervous and evasive, some curious, some--well--embarrassed. Shortly, a policeman arrived and informed us that we could not engage in such activities on state property without a license. We left him a copy of THE OUTLAW.

Wally Burckhard - X
Willie Holder - X

LEGISLATORS SAY NO TO MAIL RESTRICTION

FROM THE OFFICE OF: ASSEMBLYMAN ALAN SIEROTY, RM. 4155,
STATE CAPITAL, PHONE: 445-7928 -- PR 72/3
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 1, 1972

Fifteen California Legislators today, in an open letter to Raymond Procunier, Director of the Dept. of Corrections, protested restrictive mail regulations planned to take effect at Folsom Prison on Feb. 1st, and later at San Quentin.

Last year the California prison system adopted an open correspondence policy whereby inmates could correspond with any person. Previously an inmate could correspond only with 10 persons, all of whom had to be approved by the Department of Corrections.

The legislators strongly urged that the CDC maintain its policy of open correspondence to allow inmates to continue to correspond with concerned persons and organizations devoted to helping prisoners.

"For too long," the legislators stated, "prisoners have remained isolated. To restrict correspondence is to build up the walls separating prisoners from the society to which they will ultimately return."

The restrictions to be imposed at Folsom limit prisoners to correspond with a maximum of ten persons whom they knew before entering prison. These persons must be approved by prison officials. Persons and organizations outside the prisons will be able to correspond with only one prisoner. "These regulations," the legislators state, "will severely restrict organizations devoted to helping prisoners."

"Men and women not in prison should be able to correspond with prisoners if they so wish; to forbid such communication abridges the freedom of those outside as well as those inside, and deprives the public of knowledge of prison life."

They cited a study published recently by the Dept. of Corrections, which showed that prisoners who receive letters and visits succeed more often on parole than prisoners who do not.

"Men in prison tend to lose hope and purpose. Mail helps restore a sense of humanity and dignity and aids inmates in establishing ties to the 'outside world' and in finding employment opportunities," the legislators stated.

The legislators pointed out that even under the open correspondence policy, the CDC continues to read and censor most incoming and outgoing mail.

The legislators include State Senators Tony Beilenson, Mervyn Dymally, Nicholas Petris and Alfred Song and State Assemblymen Willie Brown, Robert Crown, John Dunlap, Bill Greene, Walter Karabian, Ken Meade, John Miller, Leon Ralph, Alan Sieroty, John Vasconcellos and Charles Warren.

Attached are statements by two inmates relating to the open correspondence policy.

1. "I received your last letter in the isolation section of the hole. Having nothing else to read, I read it many times. People that have never experienced prison, especially isolation, could never imagine what comforts a letter, a card, or anything from the free world are, and I could not begin to convey the elated feeling, but it is beautiful."

Cont. to pg 16



PRISONERS' UNION PICKETS A.A. & D.M.V.



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik

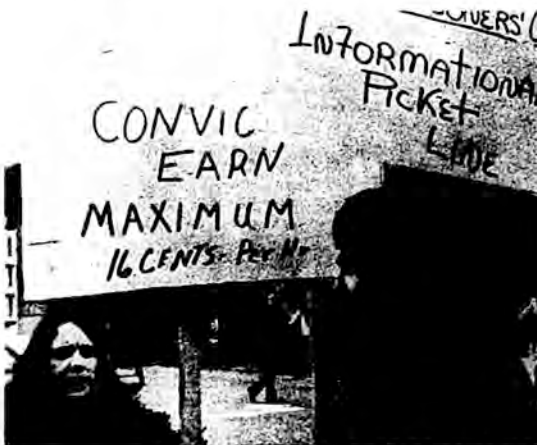


Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik

PROGRAMMED PEOPLE

What is rehabilitation? My answer: there is no such thing!! What you are brainwashed to believe by the Department of Corrections is that a man or woman is sent to prison to be rehabilitated. The first requirement of a prisoner is to obey all rules of the inside system. Any beef thrown at a prisoner by guard or matron can cause a parole denial. I myself had to pay the price of a parole denial and an extended year for my so called violent rages. A prisoner is to show a willingness to be and do what your guard or matron wants, no matter what the level of harassment may be. Judgment of behavior is based on the guard or matron and their relationship to the individual prisoner. This does not mean that good behavior alone can guarantee your parole release. Any prisoner can play off a role of being good without their "cure" even touching the individual. Therefore the whole "rehabilitation" term is ineffective.

According to the Adult Authority you must accommodate a program of rehabilitation before you can even be considered "ready for the streets." This consists of a course or trade such as: cosmetology, secretarial skills, kitchen skills, laundry, making license plates, fighting fires, and so on -- the program, depending on if your male or female. But none of these courses or trades can be related to the real job statistics on the outside. Sisters in prisons are encouraged to participate in group therapy; where a sister tends to role play when the pressure is on, or to superficially pretty herself, when all the time she's being geared toward rehabilitation; breaking the sisters into societal role: passive, brainless and obedient. For our brothers, they are encouraged in the same ways, only to be programmed to fit his predefined role as a "man in society." By doing this to our brothers and sisters the prison officials are attempting to mold them into submissive subjects of society.

The prison officials believe that if brothers & sisters cannot behave inside they will not be able to deal with or function on the outside. But here we are speaking of two different worlds. Regardless if a brother or sister is functioning right or wrong on the inside, whenever they do receive a parole date they are going to have to be ready to deal with a completely different pace on the streets and in our fallen society. Our prison administrators are offering our brothers and sisters deals such as: "If you're weak and rehabilitated we may be able to set an early parole date if you testify against your other brothers and sisters on trial, or to act as our "in-prison informers." Our brothers and sisters are living in prisons under such conditions as: rotten food, no civil rights, unsanitary conditions, inadequate medical care, fraudulent vocational training and worst of all psychological harassment.

Instead of our prison officials dealing with major topics of our brothers and sisters at hand, they

are too busy "buying and selling:" Buying our brothers and sisters into their deals and offers with no guarantee for them to benefit in any way. Just a maybe -- and selling them this farcical rehabilitation!! Is it really what you would call rehabilitation? For rehabilitation to be meaningful there cannot be a privileged class or group benefiting from the exploitation of others. State prisons are divided into societal vengeance -- such as slave labor -- and the crudest forms of racism. And then the other half who practice terms such as rehabilitation and reform. The only rehabilitation that needs to take place is that of our entire social order!! If this rehabilitation is such a good method, our brother George Jackson would not have fallen to his death the way he did. He was a human like you and I and should have been treated under human conditions, but wasn't -- which led to the murder of a man who had truly shown so many people he was strong, and able to show what it was like to live in an inhuman environment.

Rehabilitation of our brothers and sisters is nothing but the control of our own angry population!! I could say so much more because I've also lived this evil, dehumanized life which makes my body ache with pain for all my brothers and sisters. This has got to be dealt with immediately. So from me and my brothers and sisters inside: Help us fight this struggle because "UNITY IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!!"

Debbie Castro - X

punishment

=

rehabilitation

With all the decisions a man has to make, there are relatively few that will have major effects on the outcome of his life. I have discovered a decision that will definitely have an effect on the rest of my life. I now find myself in a position with little choice. The alternative to let things happen as they will could very possibly lead to a life in prison, never to see the streets again, under the habitual criminal act. I have six felony convictions now, and consider myself pretty fortunate that it didn't happen to me this time, even though the outcome of my convictions resulted in two 5-life sentences which are indeterminate.

Having approximately 15 years in these places already leaves me at quite a loss in regards to understanding rehabilitation - which is

supposedly the prime reason that the California Prison System has built their foundation of constructive purposes in relating to the public their reason for existence.

Punishment comes first, but what are they doing to change or to help any convict with whatever his reasons are for committing crime time and time again? Absolutely nothing... that's what's happening right now! If this is to go on indefinitely, how many kids in prison today are destined for the prison later on? Or maybe more important, how many adults in positions of authority really care what happens to them? Is their reason for concern just to get them out of their hair and nothing else? Is there anyone youngsters can identify themselves with respect? Who can they go to for guidance if their own parents have failed? If counselors cannot be trusted enough or seem indifferent to whatever the problem might be? What is it that drives a person to crime? How are police records built into "booklike" jackets? Is the ultimate end that of having to spend the remainder of life in a prison cell, never to be allowed in society again? What manner of rehabilitation exists within reasoning such as this?

WHAT THE HELL IS ANYONE TALKING ABOUT WHEN THEY INCLUDE THE WORD "REHABILITATION" WITHIN THE SAME CONTEXT ASSOCIATED WITH PUNISHMENT?

The closest I can come to understanding this form of reasoning is an example such as one man leaves his place of incarceration in 18 months for murdering his own wife. Another man, committed for robbery, has to spend 4, 5, or 10 years convincing the Board that he is ready for the streets again, though there was no gunfire, and there was no one hurt at any time.

What is so damn maddening is the fact that with each additional year imposed on a man by denial, his chances of not coming back to prison become less and less. The reason for this is a stinking word called "INSTITUTIONALIZED" -- for the longer a person is "inside", the more he associates his basis for thinking or reasoning upon the demands of his immediate environment. As the years pass, he remembers less and less of the "free world." This is due to memories becoming harder to recall, while the immediate surroundings cannot be as easily forgotten.

A person must adapt himself to the environment he is in if he is to survive. He must also discard ways of another environment that cannot be applicable to the demands made by his present situation in prison. By doing this, it is eventually realized why certain things must be done in a certain way. It is further understood that choices are few, but the demands are many. Those that do not care what is essential to their very own existence are dealt with accordingly, with the punishment being as severe as their ignorance of being in another world other than the "free world" they had been oriented in. These become the "protective custody" cases, as they are not capable of survival anywhere other than the "free world" from which they came.

Convict

POETRY

TIME

Grass turns
Golden,
Leaves fall
On grass,
Weather
Changes.

Concrete steel,
Gun towers.
Cyclone fences,
Barb wire,
Rolled in whorls.

½ mile
Hallway.

Wings
Three tiers high.
4' x 10' x 8'
Rectangle "Justice,"
Concrete,
Steel.

5 to life,
4' x 10' x 8'
Steel bunk,
Domino game,
White line.

Single file,
Empty pockets,
Key,
Lock,
Door,
Steel on steel.

10 PM
Lights out,
Black,
Concrete,
Steel.

Stars shine,
Moon rises,
Temperatures
Change,
Night people emerge.

Your order
Hot fudge sunday,
Cherry pie
A' la mode,
Cups
Coffee.
You,
Sir?
Nothing,
Thank you.

Grass turns
Golden,
Leaves fall
On grass,
Weather
Changes

Concrete, steel,
Gun towers,
Barb wire,
Rolled in whorls,
Rusted.

Willie Holder - X

#2

I'm sitting in jail watching television
and Peggy Lee wearing a trenchcoat
specially designed for spies
standing beneath a streetlight and singing
"If that's all there is my friend
then let's keep dancing."

and I see
the spectre in the mirror is a spectator
pushing against its walls--
though some say it's a trick wherein

reflection
magnifies the partners and their steps.
and I am wondering how to tell the vision
of bursting seams and wilting walls
and bloodhounds, hiding, silence
and flowering dreams:

"Do not lament your legendary death
or the many feet tattooing over your earth
such lengthy waka."

but they keep on dancing

out there
dancing and swirling
wearing streetlamp sorrows as cloaks
for skulking through soap-opera fogs
and daggers of sentiment for severing
spectacles of pain
all the while singing the same refrain
and tapping their feet to the same old strain
and striking a maestro pose

be ready vision of freedom, wake and climb
out of your grave, you created yourself
of need and you shall break out
to couple and complete and once again
conduct these images,
these overtures,
these steps.

Wally Burckhard - X

To Barbara

Three days ago
You came to visit me.
Your head was shaven,
You wore a wig,
Striped tee shirt,
Blue jeans held up
By a little lock.

A Medusa,
Not in disguise.
Why do you
Punish yourself so?

I had visions
Of Thunder-Bird
Bottles, coiled
In buck brush.

I felt your
Trembling fingers
On my arms.
They scratched my
Name in my flesh.

Your eyes sank
Into the lock.
God, I miss you...

Paul Gonzalez - X

A scream
a snore.
crying
coughing
laughing

Night sounds

traveling from
call
to
call
a fart -
uncouth bastard.

footsteps on the tier - - -
COUNT TIME

FLASH light
blinking
from cell
to
cell

2 PM
tin cup
banging on bars
somebody sick

HE'S HAVING A HEART ATTACK

call the bull.
what call?
409.

409
4TH. TIER
MAN WITH A BAD HEART

where's the bull?
on the first tier.
here he comes.
409

I don't have the key.
You know the rules.
The lieutenant
has the keys
after 10.

A snore,
sneeze,
cough.

senofabitch of a Lt.

is he dead?
not yet.
unlucky bastard,
he's doing life.

HERE COMES THE KEY

A cry,
laugh,
toilet flushes.

Night sounds
traveling
from cell
to

call
echoed by the steel
and granite.

Willie Holder - X

POETRY

A scream
a snore.
crying
caughing
laughing
Night sounds
traveling from
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HERE COMES THE KEY

A cry,
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toilet flushes.

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traveling
from cell
to
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echoed by the steel
and granite.

Willie Holder - I

Where, People, where has my Love gone?
He's been taken away by the state to be
institutionalized into programmed Hate.

Life removed from Life
with the sedistic realization of the Mind Fuck
created by Humans to be dealt out to Humans.

Protect Society? Bah! From what,
Their own reproduction of Their own
Sickness, Their own inability to be
Thy Brothers' Keeper? Or, is that what is
meant by Thy Brothers' Keeper--
Keeper of Thy Brothers in Confinement,
grinding them to less than Their Brothers,
forcing fear, stealing responsibility,
robbing them of the Human biological right of
companionship of the opposite sex, murdering
the emotions until only and empty, impenetrable
shell remains.

No, I won't let You achieve this, not with
My Man.
My Love is Stronger than your Hate,
My Love is more Effective than your
Dehabilitation program,
My Love can Conquer your Dehumanization
process,
My Love will Last Longer than your Indeterminate
Sentence,
My Love is Planted where a Lobotomy cannot reach.

Judy Klein

Bedpan

they're strange people--
judges. i don't mind
willie in the next cell--
he won't put me in the hole
even if he could.
but the ones in robes are real
motherfuckers but at least
conspicuous, ominous. the ones
who wear their robes
inside their skins
and prey on beings
and measure sins
against their feathers
and perch--
they frighten me.
throne and bench
are hidden while they swoop.
when they asked me
how i like it here in jail
i told them
i don't like it at all
and i told them
i'd never change much
or ever get along well
with the world at large
and they sent me to see
the doctors. questions.
they wear robes,
talk to themselves,
utter complex sentences. yes,
strange people, judges.

Wally Burckhard - I

Hello
How are you?
Fine,
Thank you.

What do you think?
How do you feel?

No answer.
Why?

The warden says I can't write.

You can't write!

The warden says no.

What do you look like?
How old are you?
I don't believe in Capital Punishment.

The warden says no.

Do you eat well?
What kind of work do you do?
I am in good health.

The warden says no.

Do you earn money?
Is someone visiting you?
I am 40 years old.

The warden says no.

Do you believe in war?
What is your religious belief?
I'm a Jew.

The warden says no.

Are you allowed to pray?
See a Priest, Rabbi, Minister.
I got a ticket for speeding.

The warden says no.

Do you get to see movies?
Get an education?
I wear my hair long.

The warden says no.

What do you think about Womens Lib?
Mini skirts?
I believe in equality

The warden says no.

What does the wall look like from
Your side?
Do you have a hobby?
I collect stamps.

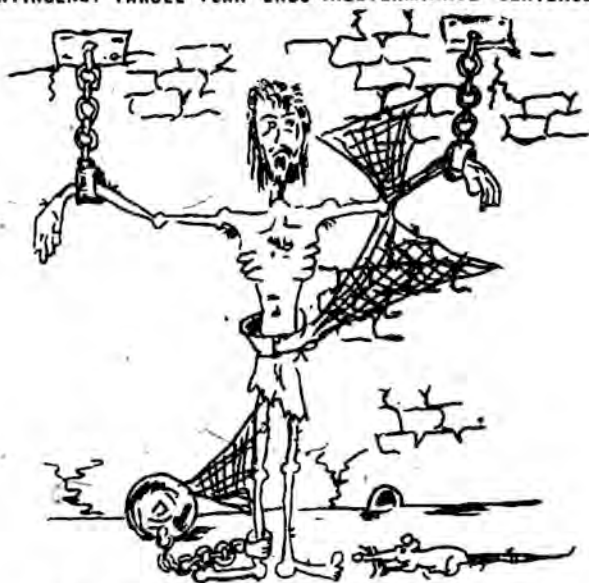
The warden says no.

I'd like to get to know you.

But.
The warden says no.

Willie Holder - I

CONTINGENCY PAROLE PLAN ENDS INDETERMINATE SENTENCE?

CON-TINGENCY
PAROLE
PLAN

On Sunday January 14th a small item in the San Francisco Chronicle reported that the Adult Authority was meeting in Sacramento to decide on the new contingency parole plan. We decided that any change in the indeterminate sentence system should be covered in the Outlaw so I was sent to cover the meeting.

The meeting was scheduled to start at 10:00 but due to the heavy fog some of the members were late in arriving. Since it was a public hearing many wives, mothers and friends of men in the California Prison System were present. The Adult Authority made it plain from the beginning of the meeting that although it was a public meeting no questions were to be allowed. When a woman asked why a man could not see his central file one of the members of the AA told her, patronizingly, that "We let the man see his record sometimes but they are our property for our use only."

The meeting started with a quote from Supreme Court Justice Burger about the two things that the human animal needs: hope and motivation. Then Curtis Lynum made the proposal for the new contingency parole plan saying that through this plan hope and motivation would be restored to the California Prison Population. One thing was made clear from the start. The new plan would not apply to the men already incarcerated only to those newly received from the courts. The newly received felon would be given his first Adult Authority appearance six months after he was received by the Dept. of Corrections. At that time the man would be given a tentative parole date and a program to earn that date. However the AA members made it quite clear that they would not be forced into giving every man received a date. The power to deter-

mine who gets a date and who doesn't was to remain in their hands.

Ray Proconier was at the meeting and strongly urged acceptance of the new plan. Pro, as he is called by the members of the AA, told the members of the rising public sentiment in favor of some change in the indeterminate sentence. Pro argued that if the AA accepted the new proposal the current public interest in the Prison System would die down and the Department of Corrections could go on with business as usual. As Pro said "Anytime you change anything it causes a lot of trouble." Pro also argued that the Department could make much more accurate long range plans if they knew how long they were to have a man once they got him. Proconier said that this plan would do away with the inmate coming back from the Adult Authority saying I wonder what they want from me. As Pro said "time doesn't change a man." His view was that the new plan would place the burden of earning parole upon the individual. After his little presentation some of the members began to ask questions. Leland Edmund asked Pro "What about the statement you made a few years ago that no man can handle a date more than a couple of years in advance?" Proconier dodged that question and left during a short break that was called.

During the break Curtis Lynum called in a waiting TV cameraman and made a statement that "hope had been restored to Californians Prisons by the action of the Adult Authority that day in changing the indeterminate sentence." With the public relations work done and Proconier gone the AA began to debate the merits of the new plan. Curtis Lynum was the main spokesman in favor of the new plan. His main argument in favor of the proposal was that it was "really no different from present policy."

The leading opponent of the new plan was Leland Edmund. His opposition to the plan is best summed up by this statement: "Don't interfere with my discretion."

Many objections to the new plan were raised by the members and representatives after Proconier left. One representative asked if "a overt act was necessary for man to lose his date?" Leland Edmund said that it was but that the staff "could get a mans date with a write-up anytime they wanted to anyway. The AA is aware that they don't have very good control over the Department of Corrections staff. As James Hutton, a representative said "You can write as many administrative proposals as you want unless the staff will implement them it doesn't mean a thing." Hutton also pointed out that of the programs the AA gives a convict, 46% are not carried out and another 36% are greatly modified. Although the AA said that failure of the convict to carry out his program because of institutional factors would not cause a man to lose his date there is no way for the convict to be sure of this.

Leland Edmund also expressed a fear that the new policy would lead to long and costly court litigation. He feared that if the AA took a date from a man, the man would try to appeal through the courts. Always putting himself off as an advocate of the tax payer, he said that the AA under present policy handled many matters that might go before the courts under a different policy. Edmund also called upon the head of Psychiatricists for the CDC to explain how much more psychiatric evaluation would be required. The head Psychiatrist told the AA that it would be necessary for the Department to hire 30 or 40 more psychiatrists and psychologists to effectively implement the plan. He told them that although 66% of the inmates came to the department with psychiatric referrals only 19% ever received treatment. Their statistics were very upsetting to the AA, a body of men dedicated to the production of good statistics. One of the members, James Hoover, said that these statistics indicate that "We have been doing a big lie all the time" believing that the inmates have been getting good psychological care. He proposed that the Department of Mental Hygiene be forced to turn some of their psychiatrists over to the Department of Corrections.

Leland Edmund brought the meeting back to a brighter note by referring to the progressive image of Calif. Department of Corrections and comparing it to a southern chain gang. Edmund predicted that the new plan would result in a man spending more time in prison. He pointed to the wording of the new plan that said a man's time should be set at the earliest possible date and said that he was doing this now. Lopez, the chicano member of the AA said that in his work at Quarryville he was giving 100% dates, while at some other institutions only 40% were giving dates. He didn't mention that Quarryville is the honor camp of the California Department of Corrections.

The AA pointed to the fact that they receive only 9.1% of those

Cont. to pg 16

women & men unite

The lack of knowledge on women in prison is "drastic." We, the Prisoners' Union, are a body of mainly ex-convicts, men and women, who are working toward prison change. When the subject of prison is brought up people tend to think of men in general. This causes a separation which is unnecessary. We fail to remember our sisters whom have always been the token underdog in this society, from birth on up. Sisters have been conditioned to play a certain type of role that has been set up for them to carry out until the time they find a good respectable young man to marry. Women in prison have followed this conditioning so long that a lot of them have ended up in our so called "Rehabilitative Prisons" because of it. The time for sisters and brothers to "Unite" has come to be a very necessary point in our lives. We have searched for years for a means of equal identity and are just now beginning to establish our independence and equality with our fellow brothers.

Our sisters inside need the strength of both sexes, of all people, to bring them up to the level that the sisters out here are gaining. We do not want to be "excluded" or go unnoticed, we only want to become a part of all the people. The depression women feel inside is all a part of the treatment we have been receiving for thousands of

years. It is time we come to a halt on ignoring the women prisoner and start recognizing us as equally victimized by the Judicial System and Department of Corrections. We ask that you do not fail to forget our sisters in prison and take a little more concern for the fact that we also need prison change. When the subject of "Unity" is brought up we ask that the brothers and sisters unity be brought into mind and that the brothers inside become acutely and sensitively aware of sisters inside and realize that sisters are also put through the same dehumanizing conditions and psychological harassment. We ask that deep thought be taken into the conditioning of sexes on both sides.

Our sisters and brothers have expressed to us that the concern of the struggles in relation to them have been appreciated and heart warming for them. It is due time to take five minutes out of your day to write a convict a letter.

Debbie Castro - X
Patty Wood - X

worth \$6,902.00 per year to the Department. It costs the Dept. \$3,092.00 to keep him in prison. The difference is \$3,810.00, yet on the average (8c/hour) he is only going to earn \$166.40 per year."

With the information sheet, we proved, in fact, that not only can the state afford, but also that it is economically sound to pay convict labor a minimum wage and that with a minimum wage a convict can provide for his or her own clothing and food and give financial aid to his or her family receiving welfare, and save money toward the time of release.

Quoting the information sheet. "Over 100 years ago a judge in Virginia said that convicts were slaves of the state. Nothing has changed. We are not "demanding" a minimum wage. We are demanding the traditional right to organize and bargain collectively for a minimum wage."

Wally Burckhard - X

JUDGE ME?

Judge me? Why?
Chastising me is nothing to you.
Even if you trample me, Oh God,
What good is it to you?

Judge me? What's in this alone?
I myself was weak,
My voice flowed so thinly,
And didn't articulate.

Judge me? What kind of devil am I?
My eyes were good,
And my red bangs drooped
Like those of a faithful dog.

So why judge me?

P.U. ACTIVITIES

Jan. 4: Guerrilla Theater women performed at Alternative House
Jan. 6: members of the Speakers Pool spoke at Mills College
Jan. 7: speakers at Balboa High
Jan. 8: actors and speakers at a Connections rally
Jan. 10: speakers at Mills; Patty Wood and Debbie Castro spoke at Stanford University
Jan. 12: speakers at San Raphael High
Jan. 15: PU multi-media art show at Artaud Theater
Jan. 17: speakers at Mills
Jan. 18: we picketed Adult Authority in Sac., questioned members
Jan. 19: speakers at Los Lomas High; Patty Wood & Judy Klein spoke to women in San Bruno jail about work furlough & Prisoners Union
Jan. 20: Patty Wood read prison poetry on KSAY
Jan. 24: actors performed and Larry Harsha on panel at EGO; speakers at Lincoln High
Jan. 25: actors at All Saints Church
Jan. 29: actors at Mills for Upward Bound
Jan. 28, 29, 30: PU attended Prison Workshops at UC Berkeley
Feb. 4: picketed Dept. of Motor Vehicles & convict labor

DMV

We began our Prisoners' Union informational picket line against the Dept. of Motor Vehicles Feb. 4th at 11:00 PM to hand out the 1,000 information sheets we'd mimeographed through the early morning hours. By noon the sheets were gone.

We took turns holding signs--one reading TAXPAYERS PLEASE READ THE LEAFLET --and passing out sheets; and they stopped their cars in the street--a few graying dames driving limousines, a motley cross-section of longhairs in old battered doddies and panel trucks, and many middle-class taxpayers--stopped to gather FREE INFORMATION and learn that

- Folsom convicts make all license plates and tags at wages of from 2 to 16 cents an hour.
- Corrections sells these plates and tags to the DMV for a maximum of 21 cents per item.
- DMV sells the tags and plates to car-owners for between \$12 and \$149 apiece.
- In 1968 alone, according to a report to Ways and Means Subcommittee: "The officer of Auditor General in 1968 estimated that based on sales a man who works in misc. manufacturing for Correctional Industries is

the OUTLAW

Journal of the Prisoners Union

STAFF BOX

THE OUTLAW

In 1967 a group of convicts in San Quentin began circulating a small sheet of paper called the OUTLAW. At first the Outlaw concentrated upon issues of local concern to convicts only; bad guards, administrative foul ups and so forth. At this time Warden Louis Nelson said to a reporter from the Chronicle - "We are trying to find out who is putting it out. But I feel it is serving a useful purpose". However, when the Outlaw began to criticize the Warden, CDC and the Adult Authority, Nelson began a frantic campaign to suppress it. Although the Outlaw finally was suppressed, in late 1968, in San Quentin it lives again now on the outside with some of the original staff.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Willie Holder
Pat Wood
Judy Klein
Russ
Lee Yeager
Penny Harris
Wally Burckhard
Debbie Castro
Stephanie Riegel
Anonymous Contributions
from Convicts Inside

PHOTOGRAPHER

Irene Fertik

DISTRIBUTION

Flint Ward
Peter Beran

GUERRILLA THEATER

presents:



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik



Photo by Irene Fertik

* Asterisks indicate which bills ACLU supported.

Signed by Governor

- AB 305 (Brathwaite, D., LA) — Permits sale of handwork by a juvenile hall ward, with profits to go into juvenile's trust account.
- AB 581 (Russell, R., LA) — Provides compensation to needy victims for damages by a criminal.
- AB 631 (Moorhead, R., LA) — Permits Director of Corrections to transfer prison inmates to community correctional centers.
- * AB 655 (Ketchum, R., Kern) — Permits barber's license to graduates of Department of Corrections course in barbering.
- AB 693 (Arnett, R., San Mateo) — Repeals authorization for commitment of wards from Youth Authority to Department of Mental Hygiene.
- * AB 723 (Sieroty, D., LA) — Grants arrested minors right to telephone calls.
- AB 1027 (Moorhead, R., LA) — Permits prisoner on work furlough to hold job outside of county and permits 72-hour releases for medical care or for family or business reasons.
- * AB 1237 (Sieroty, D., LA) — Credit for time served prior to conviction for felony.
- * AB 1238 (Sieroty) — Credit for time served prior to conviction for misdemeanor.
- AB 1653 (Ketchum, R., Kern) — Authorizes insane prisoners convicted of capital crimes to be taken to Department of Corrections medical facility.
- AB 1736 (Moorhead, R., LA) — Provides that prisoners participating in research projects may be paroled after completion of project.
- * AB 1845 (Miller, D., Alameda) — Permits trial to determine if arrested youth is physically dangerous.
- AB 2015 (McAlister, D., Santa Clara) — For a pilot program for the Santa Clara County Sup't. of Schools to maintain classes in jail.
- AB 2091 (Meade, D., Alameda) — Permits defendant to file suggestions for his own rehabilitation program.
- * AB 2118 (Brathwaite, D., LA) — Requires audit of Prisoners' Welfare Fund.
- * AB 2712 (Sieroty, D., LA) — Provides protection for defendants being surrendered by bondsmen.
- SB 27 (Grunsky, R., Santa Cruz) — Allows use of tear gas by investigators regularly employed by district attorneys and Attorney General.
- * SB 248 (Coombs, R., San Bernardino) — Permits setting aside conviction after three years on probation.
- SB 390 (Cologne, R., Riverside) — Permits narcotics addicts in state narcotics rehabilitation program to be housed and treated in local jails.
- SB 533 (Moscone, D., San Francisco) — Requires deletion from arrest records arrests made without warrants.
- * SB 607 (Deukmejian, R., LA) — Grants person receiving training for a skill in correctional institution, the right to take state examination to obtain license in that skill.
- * SB 973 (Harner, R., LA) — Allows ex-felons to be parole officers, except those convicted of capital crimes.
- SB 1068 (Nejedly, R., Contra Costa) — Requires that board of supervisors be consulted on amount to be paid counsel for indigents.
- * SB 1146 (Moscone, D., SF) — Eliminates sexualization of recidivists.
- * SB 1481 (Way, Howard, R. Mariposa) — Permits persons to examine their own records in Bureau of Criminal Identification and to request corrections.

Voted by Governor

- AB 92 (MacDonald, D., Ventura) — Provides for cost-of-living adjustments in amounts paid by the state to counties under probation subsidy program.
- * AB 1181 (Murphy, R., Santa Cruz) — To establish ombudsman for corrections.
- * AB 1419 (Warren, D., LA) — Creates Office of State Public Defender.
- * AB 1661 (Brathwaite, D., LA) — Permits physician or psychiatrist employed by prisoner or his attorney to visit prisoner.
- AB 2062 (Karsban, D., LA) — Adds two members to the Correctional Industries Commission qualified in the field of job placement.
- * AB 2155 (Knox, D., Contra Costa) — Permits ex-felons to vote, unless the crime involved violation of specific election laws.
- AB 2552 (Moretti, D., LA) — Creates Victim Compensation Commission.
- * AB 2698 (Sieroty, D., LA) — Directs the Department of Corrections to establish minimum standards for local detention facilities.
- * AB 2971 (Miller, D., Alameda) — Authorizes termination of sentence of paroled lifer after five years on parole.
- * SB 216 (Way, R., Mariposa) — Increases membership of Adult Authority and specifies qualifications for membership.
- * SB 331 (Marika, R., SF) — Provides that a person arrested and released without charge shall receive a certificate of detention.
- SB 1391 (Way, R., Mariposa) — Permits narcotics addicts to be placed under county probation instead of being sent to California Rehabilitation Center.
- * SB 1497 (Moscone, D., SF) — Permits prisoner charged with crime to be visited by an investigator or a law student undertaking practical training.

WILL YOU HIRE THIS CONVICT?

Thomas A. Buckley - P.O. Box A-59438 - Tamal, Calif. 94964
Age 32, single. Job Objective: Programmer.
Experience: Statistical Report Program written for the State Dept. of Social Welfare; Data-validation/statistical report programs; Computation/report program; List of accounts report program; ASR-33 Teletype; IBM-2741 Communications Terminal; worked with Assembler, RPG and Fortran IV; Electrical repair and cleaning; rough carpentry.

John Joseph Martin - Seirra Conservation Center - P.O. Box A-91378 - Jamestown, California. Age 29.
Vocational Training: Drafting, Public Relations, Warehousing, Cook. Job Skills: Clerk, Sales, Warehousing, Cook, Office Manager, Mattress 'D'.
Release Date: August 8, 1972

For Further Information Call 664-4315

PRISON

DIGEST



Prison Digest is a monthly review of publications, news, and issues relevant to the criminal justice system in America. Please use it as your forum. If you have news--local or national, or want to report on the activities of your group or your personal experiences, send them along addressed to this column.

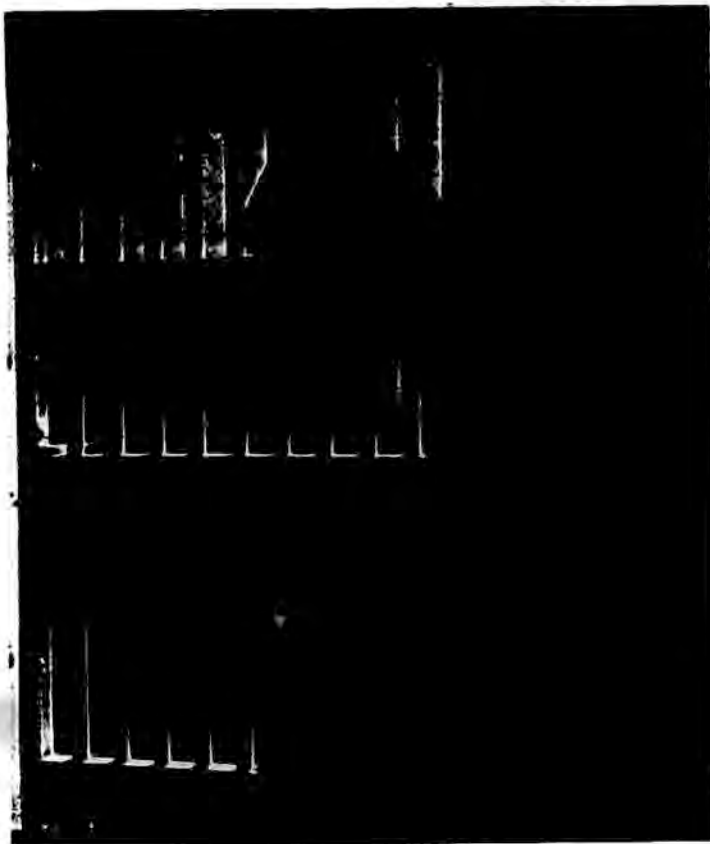
QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "THE CURE HAS BECOME THE CANCER," taken from the original, unedited version of the Kellogg Report, CO-ORDINATED CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONS, 1971 p. 37.

REHABILITATION DEPT: Making news around the nation this month is the granting of a Bachelor of Arts degree in only 25 years to William G. Heirens, 43. Heirens is not a professional student. Rather, a convict at the Stateville Prison Honor Farm in Lockport, Ill., Heirens became the first Ill. State prisoner to receive such a degree while incarcerated. Sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, Heirens received his degree through visiting professors, TV courses and extension courses from 13 colleges and universities.

PUBLICATIONS: Prisoners' Rights Newsletter, Published by the National Committee for Prisoners' Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union. Contains excellent source material on recent court decisions, legislative action and administrative rulings. Generally it reflects the professional, institutional side of the prison movement. In addition to the latest news. In each of the above areas, the newsletter also reports on community efforts and brings forward an excellent bibliography and litigation manual every quarter. The first issue stated the orientation of the committee, "Few institutions illustrate our propensity for self-defeating cruelty better than our jails and prisons." The Prisoners' Rights Newsletter is not a down home organ. In spite of its liberal, rehabilitative approach, it is a useful tool for all those interested in penal problems. Available from the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law, 77 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York. 14202. Edward Koren, Editor.

INSIDE-OUT: "A prison support newsletter," this is the organ of the Oregon Prisoners' Support Committee. Much less slick than the Prisoners' Rights Newsletter, it contains news briefs, discussions of local and state institutions in Oregon and an even balance of rhetoric and investigative reporting. Occasional relief is provided by drawings and poetry. On the whole it is a valuable contribution to the flow of information in a sadly neglected area. Available from the Committee, 610 Willamette St., Room 216, Eugene, Or.

Prison Is A Place...



Prison Is A Place...

What is prison like? It's not the same for everyone. The prison I know is different than the prison you know.

PRISON IS A PLACE where the first prisoner you see looks like an ALL-AMERICAN college boy and you're surprised. Later you're disgusted because people on the outside still have the same prejudices about prisoners that you used to have.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you write letters and can't think of anything to say; where you gradually write fewer and fewer letters, and finally stop writing all together.

PRISON IS A PLACE where hope springs eternal; where each parole board appearance means a chance to get out, even if the odds are hopelessly against you.

PRISON IS A PLACE where the flame in every man burns low. For some it goes out, but for most it flickers weakly, sometimes flashes brightly, but never seems to burn as bright as it once did.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you find grey hairs in your head, or where you find your hair starting to disappear. It's a place where you get false teeth, stronger glasses, and aches and pains you never felt before. It's a place where you grow old and worry about it.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you hate through clenched teeth, where you want to beat, kick and scratch and you wonder if the psychologists know what they're

Mr. Malcomb Christensen, P.D.I. Associate Editor

talking about when they say you actually hate yourself.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you learn that nobody needs you, that the outside world goes on without you.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you can go for years without feeling the touch of a human hand, where you can go for months without hearing a kind word. It's a place where your friendships are shallow, and you know it.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you hear about a friend's divorce, and you didn't even know he was married. It is a place where you hear about your neighbor's kids graduating from school... and you thought they hadn't started yet.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you feel sorry for yourself. Then you get disgusted with yourself for feeling sorry for yourself; then you get mad for feeling disgusted and then try to mentally change the subject.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you lose respect for the law because you see it raw and naked, twisted and bent, and ignored and blown out of proportion to suit the people who enforce it.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you're smarter than the parole board because you know which guys will go straight and which ones won't. You're wrong just as often as the board members are, but you never admit it and neither do they.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you forget the sound of a baby's cry. You forget the sound of a dog's bark or even the sound of the dial tone on the telephone.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you wait for a promised visit. When it doesn't come, you worry about a car accident. Then you find out the reason your visitors didn't come, and you're glad because it wasn't serious... and disappointed because such a little thing could keep them from coming to see you.

PRISON IS A PLACE where a letter from home or from a lawyer can be like a telegram from the War Department. When you see it lying on your bed, you're afraid to open it. But you do it anyway, and you end up disappointed or angry.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you see men you do not admire and you wonder if you are like them. It is a place where you strive to remain civilized, but where you lose ground and you know it.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you forget what put you there; where you have a vague idea that you're being punished, but you don't know for what.

PRISON IS A PLACE where, if you're married, you watch your marriage die. It is a place where you learn that absence does not make the heart grow fonder, and where you stop blaming your wife for wanting a real live man instead of a fading memory of one.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you go to bed before you're tired, where you pull the blanket over your head when you're not cold. It is a place where you escape... by reading, playing cards, dreaming, or by going mad.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you fool yourself, where you promise yourself you'll live a better life when you leave. Sometimes you do, but more often you don't.

PRISON IS A PLACE where you get out someday. When you do, you wonder how everyone else can be so calm when you're so excited. When the bus driver goes over twenty-five miles per hour you want to tell him to slow down, but you don't because you know it's foolish.

PRISON IS A PLACE. . . .

Harvey Burrows
Prison Mirror
M.S.P., Minnesota

"Prison Is A Place" originally appeared in the Prison Mirror, a publication of the Minnesota State Prison.

NEED,

NEED,

NEED ...

Office supplies, office supplies; Please donate your office supplies. Pencils, paper, pads and binders, carbon, stencils and place finders, folders, holders, string and tape, anything to keep our office straight to carry out the unending process we need more things, not less. Please send anything that you have, to Prisoner's Union, 1345-7th Ave. S.F. telephone: 664-4315

Date: November 4, 1970

File No.:

Subject: In-Service Training
Recommendations

From: NORTH COAST CONSERVATION CENTER, Garberville

I have just finished reading the pocket book Soledad Brother by George Jackson. This book provides remarkable insight into the personality makeup of a highly dangerous sociopath who sees himself not as a criminal but as a Revolutionary dedicated to the violent destruction of existing Society. This type individual is not uncommon in several of our institutions, namely Folsom, San Quentin, and Soledad. Because of his potential and the growing numbers, it is imperative that we in Corrections know as much as we can about his personality makeup and are able to correctly identify his kind.

I recommend that Soledad Brother be placed on the "must" reading list of every employee in the Department of Corrections. I plan to purchase copies and issue them with a cover letter to the staff of each conservation camp in Northern California. This is one of the most self-revealing and insightful books I have ever read concerning a criminal personality.


L. H. FUDGE
Associate Superintendent-Camps
North Coast Conservation Center

LEH:mp

The above letter from L.H. Fudge, reflects to me the Department of Corrections thinking that it is perfectly acceptable to identify oneself as a Criminal but not as a Revolutionary.

I do agree with him that everyone should read SOLEDAD BROTHER but for a different reason than what Fudge has recommended as part of the In-Service Training Program for old line Bulls and new ones receiving Institutional Indoctrination.

Soledad Brother should be read as a book by a man who has been victimized by a decadent prison system that has been and is still tolerated by non-caring non-informed society. A society that has accepted without question the information that has been fed to them by the Public Relations Department of the California Department of Corrections.

He is telling you to ask Why? and demand an answer as is your right as a tax-paying citizen.

Willie Holder - X

\$-MORE GUARDS

"Serious disruptions in state correctional facilities are occurring with increasing frequency. In order to properly cope with such disruptions and alleviate the grave consequences that attend upon such disruptions, it is vital to immediately improve upon the number of security personnel in state correctional facilities. It is therefore necessary that this act go into immediate effect."

You have just read a quote from Assembly Bill No. 126 introduced by Ketchum and Wood, Jan. 18, 1972. "This act" appropriates \$2,063,221 for more guards and is "To take effect immediately, urgency statute." There is mention of "immediate preservation of the public peace" and references to Article IV of the Constitution.

I would feel less apprehensive if we're certain that such legislative responses emanated from real fear. They do not. The convicts who enact "serious disruptions" are few; and the only connection between jail-house violence and public peace is that these serious disruptions incite public curiosity and expose aspects of the prison system. And what did it take to provoke the public into questioning themselves and their neighbors about what happens to the men and women who transgress the laws of the land and from whom they are allegedly protected by those same laws? Murder and mayhem.

So I am apprehensive because opportunist statesmen are using these disruptions not as a touchstone by which to examine their prison empire but to cleverly bleed the public for tax money to enlarge that empire. They are closing San Quentin -- and appropriating funds for new and more modern prisons -- prisons that with the wearing away and grinding down of time will become other San Quentins. With plenty of guards to go around.

In that kind of never-never land we convicts and ex-convicts call the "free world" freedom of speech is a precious liberty. Then again, the very powerful, who not only frantically labor to keep what is theirs--which is commendable--but also to take and keep what is not theirs--which is contemptible--these men keep watch over freedom of speech and

those who make use of the guarantee, and when human voices begin to pry loose their grip on what the powerful think is theirs, they respond with force: legislation and gun. They create a repressive backwash which in time disrupts into violence; they stop it with greater violence and then new legislation. And on and on.

Remember Catch 22? The catch is "They can do whatever you can't stop them from doing." In the free world they can throw you in jail for speaking your mind; in jail they can throw you in the hole to mind-fuck you, and if you get to out of hand they can burrow into your mind with incredibly delicate drill bits.

We must ask ourselves what we can keep them from doing. If there is UNITY to thread us together we can do a great deal. And we can start by keeping them from spreading the architecture of their infernal constructions and manpower.

In prison men and women do not have the freedom to speak their mind, let alone the slightest opportunity to translate speech into constructive action; in the free world, more and more men and women are speaking their minds; more and more prisons await them. Prisons built by the powerful who take the unpunished to be their personal property.

The struggle for Civil Rights will one day come to a head in the relation between the free world and prison. Why? Because convicts and ex-convicts have no Civil Rights. None. The technical term for this robbery is entitled Civil Death. And we are tearing off the tape from our mouths.

Wally Burckhard - X

LEGISLATORS' SAY NO

Cont. from pg. 5

2. "I personally know some ten men or more, who, up 'til recently, never received more than one letter a month, if that. Whose only interest was dominoes or some other meaningless aspect of the prison sub-culture; when open mailing went into effect, they took the initiative and reached out. As of this moment, each of these men have discovered a world outside of these walls.

"With no restrictions on who you can write, it becomes possible for society's acknowledged rejects to gain the ear of people normally apathetic to the cesspools known as prisons, people who in some instances possess political power in some degree or other. There is a move on to discredit the prison movement outside; hand and glove with this is a move to crush the spirit and will of those within. The first step is to control and regulate who the prisoner can exchange ideas and thoughts with -- render us once again men with little or no contact with the world outside."

CON-TINGENCY PAROLE PLAN

Cont. from pg. 10

convicted of felonies every year. They use this as a justification for California's 36 months average release time for first offense felons, the highest in the nation. They called those incarcerated the lowest scrapings of humanities barrel.

After all this discussion, the members, apparently convinced by the argument that the new Contingency Parole Plan didn't really change anything after all, voted six to two to adapt the new proposal.

Lee Yeager - Student

C.D.C. BUDGET

Cont. from pg. 2

perception. The plan is to start the man at the top of the cage and let him work his way down and out. Intended for the "Revolutionary Psychopath" that the CDC selects to be the departments human equivalent of Pavlov's dogs, the cage will be called the Maximum Psychiatric Diagnostic Unit. Of course the men will have psychiatric treatment in his cage because the department is going to hire 45.3 new psychiatrists to explain away the hangups of men who spend 23 1/2 hours a day under the eyes of the guard like a chicken in a cage. Although the CDC's final solution to the revolutionary psychopaths will not be completed until it gets the two new joints, the new unit is a testing place for the new methods being developed. The department meanwhile continues its effort to convince the public that it is each year getting men who are worse and worse.

Yet from 1945-65 the over all rate of return to prison in a two year period after parole was 45%. Of the 45% - 20% returned with new felonies and 25% were returned by the Adult Authority for violating parole rules. Since then the rate of return has declined to 34.5% with 24.8% for

parole rule violations and only 9.3% are returned with new felony convictions. The 10.5% drop is accounted for by a more than 50% decrease in the number of men returned with new felonies. Even with the supposedly more liberal parole policies only two tenths of one percent of the decline was due to fewer men being sent back on parole rule violations. It would seem that the CDC is getting less security risks now than in the past twenty years. But still the CDC continues to demand more money to lock up tighter and tighter fewer men. Write your Legislator and Senator today. Tell them that there is no reason why the CDC needs to spend more of your tax dollars every year to lock up fewer and fewer convicts.

Lee Yeager - Ex-military prisoner



Photo by Irene Partik

*Take the time to help.
Fifteen minutes out
of your week to
show we haven't
forgot the men and
women incarcerated*

I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE TO A PRISONER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

send to: Prisoners' Union
1345 7th Avenue
San Francisco, Ca.
94122

WANTED
MULTI-LITH

The Prisoner's Union is in dire need of a 1250 Multi-Lith. If you have one, or if you know someone who has one, in whatever condition, who wants to donate it to us, please write or call the Prisoner's Union. 1345-7th Ave. S.F. 664-4315.

P.U. OPEN
MEETINGS

The Prisoner's Union holds open meetings on Sundays at 5pm. They are informational and educational discussions for members and interested persons.

So, if you want to come and be a part of, or if you are just interested in finding out what the Prisoner's Union is about, come to the open meetings on Sunday at 5:00 pm. 1345-7th Ave. S.F. or for more information call 664-4315.

WE MUST UNIONIZE!

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Prisoners' Union - 664-4315
1345 7th Ave.
S.F., Ca 94122

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE(home) _____ (work) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Convict _____ X-Convict _____
Citizen _____ Honorary _____

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES:

\$8.00 - Outside Membership _____
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(Membership includes a subscription to THE OUTLAW).

\$4.00 - For Subscription
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