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THE UNITED PRISONERS UNION — SERVING THE CONVICTED CLASS AND FRIENDS

HISTORY OF U.P.U.

PREAMBLE TO THE UNITED PRISONERS UNION CONSTITUTION

We the convicts and our people imprisoned or at large throughout the State of California are being subjected to continuous cycle of poverty, prison, parole and more poverty; the same cycle that prisoners the world over have endured since the first man was enslaved. It is more than a game of Crime and Punishment; it is a social condition of inequality and degradation that denies us the opportunity to rise up and pursue a dignified way of life as guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution. Once convicted, forever doomed has been the practice of society. We are the first to be accused and the last to be reconized. We are deemed the lowest of all people: We the CONVICTED CLASS.

The right to organize for protection and survival is an inalienable right: which is guaranteed to all people regardless of their social, racial, religious, economic, or political condition. Therefore, we the CONVICTED CLASS have joined together to form a cooperative union to be hereafter called the California Prisoners Union. We believe the creation of this Union will enable us to put an end to injustice, protect the lives and interests of our people, gain our constitutional rights and free us of our bondage.

HISTORY OF THE UNION

The first complete work strike in the California prison system history was in 1963 when the entire Folsom Prison went on strike. The strike lasted seven days and it caused complete chaos within the Department of Corrections for the entire prison industry which totally depended upon the convict slave labor being paid slave wages, was at a complete standstill. The

state of California lost thousands of dollars. The strike failed, even though it was completely multi-racially organized; it failed because there was no outside support; the prison pig administration cut off all media, newspaper, radio and T.V.; there were no visitors and no mail in or out; no communications: the same reason we are at a standstill now, the entire movement has no communications base - until we set up a base of communications within the movement, we will forever be doomed to failure.

It was at this time that some convicts inside began to talk of a union of convicts and for convicts. The talk died down, then in Nov., 1970 another strike was organized and the communications were a little better; this one lasted nineteen days; the talk of a union began again. The pigs did the same thing as in the early strike - they cut off all media, including visitors and mail, but this time convicts had their shit together and a comrade inside sent out the 35 demands of the strike; these same demands are still the manifesto of the United Prisoners Union. The same demands presented to Oswald by the Attica brothers two months before they were murdered by mad dog Rockefeller, are also used in prisons throughout the country today.

It was right after this strike that ex-convicts and other interested people met and began to lay out plans for the California Prisoners Union in December of 1970. They set up a conference to form the Union for the month of Feb. 1971 to be held in Sacramento, Calif. At that time about 50 ex-convicts and 200 other interested people met.

Ernie Harris chaired the Sacramento conference.

The first order of business was to nominate and elect a seven member board of directors. It was to be made up of all ex-convicts. The board members were then elected to the following offices. Martin Souza was elected

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as the first chairman of the California Prisoners Union, Ernie Harris as vice chairman, Jay Douglas Halford as minister of communications, George Devine as minister of legal affairs, Artie Blake as secretary, John Irwin as treasurer and Popeye Jackson as minister of prisoners affairs.

The second order of business was to set up the committees: a committee to write the constitution, to write the by-laws and to write the aims and goals. The chairman then called for proposals from the floor, many of which are still adhered to. It was proposed that dues be \$8.00 a year for outside membership and \$4.00 a year for inside membership. No C.P.U. board member or staff member should ever receive a salary. That top priority be abolishment of the indeterminate sentence. That C.P.U. never accept any grant; be it federal, state, county or city. That development and strategy for state wide organizing be done. That we should establish union locals throughout the state.

There were many more proposals, most calling for reform programs. It must be noted that the union started as a reform organization. The conference was adjourned and the organizing began.

All the board members served on all the committees. The articles of incorporation were drawn up with the aide of attorney Jim Smith, the constitution and the by-laws were then written. On April 15, 1971 the C.P.U. became an incorporated organization. The first office opened up in Sacramento, California. The aims and goals of the C.P.U. were established:

To secure our constitutional guarantees and establish an economic base in order to advance the cause of the convicted class.

To provide information and to educate the public on the conditions in the California prison system.

To appear before legislative bodies to provide information about prisons and parole conditions. In March of 1971 a board of directors meeting was held. It was decided that John Irwin and Popeye Jackson, both from San Francisco, would set up local #9 in that city. Upon their return, local #9 was opened at Glide Church.

In April that board met again. It was noted that chairman Souza had not been present at the past two meetings due to other commitments. It was decided that he could not function as C.P.U. chairman and he was subsequently impeached. Ernie Harris was elected the new chairman.

The next meeting was held in May of 1971 in Sacramento at the local #300 office. This was the planning meeting for the National Convention of the California P.U. Ernie Harris was selected to chair the convention. It was decided that the new board would consist of ten ex-convicts and five non-convicts. It was felt at the time that 90% of the work would be related to the inside, therefore, convicts should always be in the majority and have the majority vote. At the convention the by-laws and constitution were to be ratified. The date was set for June at the First Unitarian Church, in Los Angeles.

FIRST C.P.U. CONVENTION

On June 11 and 12, about 500 people came to the C.P.U. Convention. Almost all of them joined the California Prisoners Union. At the Convention the following ten man-woman board of directors was elected. Ernie Harris, Sacramento, Calif.; Marie Watters, San Francisco, Ca.; Betty L. Burns, East Los Angeles, Ca.; J. Douglas Halford, Davis, Ca.; Edward O.M. Souza, Sacramento, Ca.; John Irwin, San Francisco; Jeronimo Ortega, Los Angeles; Henry Collins, National City, Ca.; Donald Williams, Los Angeles; and Popeye Jackson, San Francisco. The Convention was a big success, for we came out of it with a good, sound, working board and we raised about sixteen hundred dollars. We did a lot of good work with this money. The first issue of The Anvil, newspaper of the California Prisoners Union, came out in June. The constitution and by-laws were ratified at the June convention. The new board set the next board meeting for July, to be held in San Diego.

Real good things came out of the San Diego meeting. Committees were set up to deal with such things as training and organizing, inside and outside locals, Union local numbers, legal support, benefits and fund raising, the development of an economic base, political exposure and involvement, legal advice and employment opportunities. The next meeting was set for August 8, 1971, in Sacramento, Ca.

At this meeting, we discussed the importance of discipline, the importance of the board being together, and the importance of small victories. We discussed the possibility of sending some board members to be trained in organizing with Cesar Chavez. Later we did receive his endorsement, and some of us went down to La Paz for training in organization.

At this meeting Popeye Jackson made a motion that the name be changed from California Prisoners Union to United Prisoners Union. This was seconded by John Irwin and passed with one objection.

We then formed a committee to work out a list of demands based on the following ideals:

- 1) Abolishment of the Indeterminate Sentence System, which would include re-fixing sentences, revocation of parole.
- 2) Employee Rights, which would include minimum wage, Due Process in all judicial proceedings, working conditions, compensation when injured on the job.

3) Human and Civil Rights, which would include brutality, voting immediately when released from prison, the right to organize, adequate medical treatment, women's right to choose what will happen to their children while they are doing time in prison.

The next meeting was held in Beverly Hills on August 18, 1971, to nominate C.P.U. officers in San Diego. Earl Hunter and Bob Smith from Los Angeles, and Maxine Norried from San Diego, were nominated and elected. They were asked to find office space for these two cities. A date for the fund raising convention in San Francisco was chosen for Sept. 15 and 16. At this meeting there were representatives from the United Auto Workers. They accepted a proposal from the C.P.U. board to send Popeye Jackson to their organizing and security schools.

We then discussed the writing of the California Prisoners Union Bill of Rights. It took us three days and nights to complete them. On the same day, the 21st of August, 1971, Comrade George Jackson was murdered by the fascist dogs at San Quentin. This brought an end to the meeting, for it was a blue day and everyone was trying to find out all the details of George's death. We held a press conference that day in Los Angeles denouncing the lies that the fascist racist dogs were putting forth around Comrade George's death.

In September of 1971, we officially opened Local #9 in San Francisco. Officers of Local #9 were elected. Popeye Jackson was elected president, Willie Holder first vice-president, Tony Newland second vice-president, Pat Woods secretary, and John Irwin treasurer. Note this was when Willie Holder, Pat Woods, and Tony Newland came into the Union.

The members of Local #9 began to organize for the fund-raising convention. We planned a San Quentin dinner to be held at the California Street Cooking School, and the convention to be held at Glide Church. On Sept. 15, 1971, dinner was held, it was what convicts called dog food, fascist prison officials call it a restricted diet. It consisted of all the leftover vegetables for as long as two weeks, such as beans of all kinds, potatoes, carrots, cabbages, and peas. You name it, and they put it in; all this is cooked and held together by a thin coating of meat, then served with two slices of bread. We made \$800 selling this dinner.

We then held the convention at Glide Church where we made about \$800 more. After we sent some of the funds to Los Angeles Local #100, we then opened up Local #9's account, with Willie Holder, John Irwin, and Popeye Jackson being able to sign checks. Two of the three could always sign checks.

OCTOBER 1971

This proved to be one hell of a month, for we lost Ernie Harris, Sacramento Local #300 folded, Local #32 in San Diego opened, being named after the 32 comrades murdered by Rockefeller at the Attica massacre. The name change from California Prisoners Union to United Prisoners Union was also this month, for on Oct. 10 we officially became the U.P.U. Also this month came the split in the San Francisco local. The split was based on a personal power struggle.

Popeye Jackson was informed upon returning to the U.P.U. office one morning from a speaking engagement in Monterey that an unannounced meeting had been held the night before and that Willie Holder had been elected president of Local #9, and that Popeye was no longer a member. Popeye called for a National Board meeting that was held October 10.

Board members present at this meeting were Earl Hunter, then chairman, Bob Smith, John Irwin, and Maxine Norried. Bill James came along with John Irwin. The board, after hearing all that had been done, voted in Popeye Jackson's favor. The following is direct from the minutes of that board meeting, held October 10, 1971: "This meeting was held to determine whether or not the San Francisco Local #9 is illegal, and should or should not be dissolved.

After much discussion it was decided that since Oct. 3, 1971, Local #9 (in its present state) had been operating illegally, without the consent of the board. It was resolved by this board that San Francisco Local #9 would be of this date dissolved.

This board thereby authorized Wilbert Popeye Jackson to return to San Francisco, withdraw all Union funds, and find and rent a new office.

John Irwin submitted his resignation from the U.P.U. and it was accepted.

Submitted by Bob Z. Smith, Financial Secretary."

Upon Popeye's return to S.F., he went to the bank to withdraw the funds as the board authorized him to do. At the bank he was told there was no money in the account: after showing his I.D., he was told the John Irwin & Willie Holder, who along with Popeye could sign U.P.U. checks, had withdrawn all the U.P.U. funds, and opened a new account under the name of the Prisoners Union, thus the birth of the Prisoners Union. The only legal thing the U.P.U. could do was to go to court; and being convicts, and not wanting to go to the pigs on anyone, we took the loss, which was about \$1200.

When the U.P.U. office opened on 24th Street in San Francisco, we built a new staff of dedicated people to work in the office and help build the Union. At the November board meeting, Ed Souza was assigned to the San Francisco office to work with Popeye, and the two began to build Local #9. Also at this meeting Maxine announced that Local #32 in San Diego was opened. It was announced that people in San Jose wanted to open a local. Popeye was assigned to go to San Jose to meet with them and lay out the Union, and help them set it up.

DECEMBER 1971

There was no meeting in December, but a lot of things were done in San Francisco by this time. We had 15 people working in the 24th St. office. We set up 14 committees: a sponsorship committee, membership, transportation, propaganda, family, convict, ex-convict, employment, recruiting, legal, defense, and housing. We began to really organize Local #9; we set up a speaker bureau and began to travel around the country letting people know about the Union, and getting people involved. Today we have members in almost every state in the Union.

It was at this meeting that chairman Earl Hunter requested a 30-day leave of absence, which was granted. Popeye was appointed by the board to take his place for 30 days.

1972

In 1972 we lost Local #21 in San Jose and Local #100 in Los Angeles. The board did not meet until February. Our chairman, Earl Hunter, sent a letter stating that he was resigning. The first order of business was to elect a new chairman. Popeye Jackson was nominated and elected to the position, a position he has held ever since. It was decided at this meeting to have board meetings every three months. The board then set the next meeting for May, 1972.

MAY 1972

This was to be a bad month for Popeye, for he was arrested in San Luis Obispo on a charge of auto theft, for being an ex-convict with a gun. He was to spend the next eight months in jail, even though found innocent of the charges. During this period some real organizing inside was done, and this made the Union well-known in California prisons. Today we have hundreds of convict members in California prisons. While Popeye was in prison, the Union was directed by the rest of the staff. These comrades really worked hard keeping the Union functioning, getting comrades inside sponsored, and getting support from the Sisters and Brothers on the outside. This is still going on today; we have 15 people on the staff working to change the social structure of this country.

AUGUST 1972

The board met in August to discuss the situation of the Union and to decide if a new chairman should be elected. It was decided that the organization was doing quite well, and they decided to leave Popeye as chairman for the present time.

1973

A good year for the U.P.U. We began to put forth Marxist, Leninist, and Maoist theory, we had weekly study groups. By learning this theory, we learned that the basic reason for the continuous failure of the movement is that there has never been an economic or communications base established. We learned that if we didn't put forth these theories in day-to-day practice, we would always be doomed to failure.

This was the year we got a lot of help from members of Venceremos. They did a lot of real concrete organizing; they helped get all the committees together. A lot of the hard work was done by Venceremos cadre.

The pig prison administration really tried to take advantage of this by putting forth such pig shit that the United Prisoners Union was only a front organization for Venceremos.

1973 was one of the best years for U.P.U., for a lot of good people became members of the organization, really making it the year that the U.P.U. became a threat to the Department of Corrections.

1973 was the year that the U.P.U. was infiltrated by a pig agent named Jessica Volquin, who was working for the San Francisco Intelligence Division; she also made statements to the F.B.I. and to the Department of Corrections.

This was also the year that the San Francisco pigs and the Dept. of Corrections, along with Jessica Volquin tried to frame Popeye Jackson on drug charges. Popeye was in jail for three months, and during that time the strength of the Union was really felt and known by the pigs. The Union became widely known by the hard work of the people in the United Prisoners Union. This hard work drew hundreds of good people into the U.P.U. It was because of this heavy political work that Popeye was freed in November 1973.

1974

This was the year we really began to update the political re-educational process of the dehumanizing condition of prison life for women and men. This was the year we began to expose the heavy psychological trip that women in prison are subjected to. We went into the California Institution for Women and laid out the guidelines for

the boycott of the canteen for C.I.W. The result is that no one from the U.P.U. staff can go into C.I.W. or write the women who are locked down there. This was also the year we did a lot of political offensive work around Popeye's revocation. It was the concrete political work done by the U.P.U. that drew hundreds of political people in support of Popeye.

This was the year of the S.L.A., and because of the stand that the U.P.U. took, the results were both good and bad. Our vice-chairman, Douglas Sleepy Bailey was framed and arrested, the U.P.U. was investigated, and re-investigated by all the pig agencies. The F.B.I pigs questioned all the U.P.U. staff and former staff members. The harassment was intensified daily. The head pig Attorney General Younger stated that the United Prisoners Union was the number one terrorist organization in the entire state, over such revolutionary organizations as B.L.A., S.L.A., Weather Underground, etc. We know that none of the organizations are terrorist, for we know that they are revolutionary people who would rather fight and die than continue to live under the racist, fascist oppression that poor people are subjected to in these United States of North America.

The United Prisoners Union was investigated by the Senate, the Congress, and the Assembly. Why? Because we will continue to re-educate the people about the conditions that poor people in this country are subjected to. We understand fascist America, and we know that it is our job to educate the people.

We learned in 1974 that it is not only the prisons, the Koncentration Kamps, that we have to deal with, for we understand politically that poor people all over the world are in prison. We learned that the real criminals are still to be dealt with. Criminals like Reagan, a real terrorist. He made the statement that if poor people accept the food demanded by the S.L.A., they should come down with a rash of food poisoning; that is a terrorist act that the majority of the people completely ignored. Rockefeller, who murdered 43 people and who is now Vice-President. Agnew, who stole millions, and was given three months unsupervised probation; he is the only ex-felon in North America who had a law passed so that he could carry a gun. Nixon was the only president who when elected was not a millionaire, but now is. Those are the criminals, yet they continue to commit crimes against the poor. The Watergate criminals: these are the real criminals who have to be dealt with. We learned that the over 200 thousand Sisters and Brothers who are locked down in more than 500 State and Federal Koncentration Kamps are not criminals, but victims.

THE U.P.U. TODAY, 1975

Today the United Prisoners Union is a multi-racial collective of dedicated and committed people, which is dedicated to re-educating the poor.

We still adhere to the original constitution, that no one on the collective board or staff gets no salary, that we accept no federal, state county, or city grants, for we refuse to accept their money and be forced to work under their guidelines.

We are four years old, and in the past four years we have gotten two one thousand dollar grants. We are a peoples organization supported by the people. Today we are trying to overcome the obstacle of "divide and conquer." The U.P.U. was multi-national when founded and remains so today. One of the most important things for our white comrades who are members is to struggle, white convicts to recognize how their own racism is used against them, and to support the struggles of their Black, Brown, Red, and Yellow Sisters and Brothers.

Also on the outside the job of U.P.U. members is to expose the ruling class tactics of divide and conquer and to expose how that same tactic is used outside. We must continue to strive for unity and solidarity at all cost.

Another obstacle that we continue to overcome is the controlled isolation that prisoners experience from the outside world. It was and is necessary to build support on the outside, because without that, convicts who fight back are completely cut off from the outside. We need to have people visiting and writing convicts so that what is going on inside will not go unnoticed. For this purpose, U.P.U. has undertaken a massive campaign to recruit sponsors who will regularly write and visit convicts in all California prisons, and who can become that needed support force outside the prison gates when a strike takes place or when any incident occurs. This is the only way that those of us on the outside can prevent our Sisters and Brothers inside from being brutalized and murdered. It should be noted that never has the Union called for any type of violent strike, for we know that convicts cannot compete with the guns and the brutality that the pigs continually rain down upon convicts. We call for a peaceful work strike, for without the convict slave labor for slave wages, no prison can function. It costs \$4.00 a year to sponsor a convict through U.P.U., they don't have it and we don't ask them for it, but we do ask you to pay their dues.

What else can you do? We need financial support; so you can join the U.P.U. It costs \$8.00 a year for all who are on the outside to join. Join the U.P.U. You can send a financial contribution. All contributions are tax-deductible, and they help to keep the Union functioning.

You can help our transportation committee. If you are a regular visitor to any of the state or federal prisons and you are going alone, you can call us and let us know. We have a lot of Sisters and Brothers who need rides. They will help with expenses. Call us at 441-0228, or 441-0229.

If you would like to hear about the prisons, you can set up a speaking engagement for someone on our staff. We go all over the country to speak, and we ask for no fee. If you can contribute to the Union when someone speaks, fine. If you can't, that's fine, too.

Convict women and men need jobs and sometimes housing upon being released from prison. If you have any information on any of the above, call and let us know.

Newspaper: The ANVIL, the Union newspaper, is published periodically. It's an 8-page paper with articles and poems written by convicts and the newspaper staff. A subscription to The ANVIL is \$4.00 for people on the outside, and free to convicts.

In addition to the aforementioned purposes there is another highly important reason for the formation and existence of the U.P.U. It can be said in one word: labor; but that alone does not fully clarify the necessity for unionization. Whether in prison or on parole, we are compelled to work for a living. Work is the major provision for a people. If we cannot find work in a system that does not provide jobs for everybody, we are sometimes returned to prison with a parole violation. We, as members of the convicted working class, are twisted and mangled in the vice of a cruel system that cares little for human life. We are the last to be hired, the first to be fired. In the widening class struggle in Amerika we are the lowest of the low. We are the wage slaves inside (the salary ranges from 2¢ to 35¢ per hour) and outside. But the labor movement on the outside has gotten it somewhat together in contrast to the labor movement on the inside.

Both inside and outside, labor movements started out with nothing but illegal enslavement. But labor on the outside has largely dealt with the issues of sweatshops, unsafe working conditions and gross exploitation. We, of the convicted class, haven't; we are still daily being psychologically tortured by the nebulous but spirit-crushing reality of the indeterminate sentence laws, we are still political pawns in the game of power, profit, and political debts incurred by the Governor and the Director of Corrections, we are still being taught trades which are not saleable on the outside labor market, we are still being paroled back to the identical poverty, prison, parole, and more poverty; and we are still returning to prison at the same recidivism rate as before.

If we unionize we can put an end to the oppression of the prison systems. (There are over 500 prisons in these United States of North America.) We can deal with the indeterminate sentence, the criminal lack of medical attention, the adjustment centers, the brutal custody clique, and the slave wages we receive, the unsafe and illegal conditions we are forced to work under, the cruel and illegal conditions of visiting. We can become independent and financially free. We can abolish the unjust and degrading conditions of parole. Behind this dream of a union the twisted and broken bodies of literally thousands of our Sisters and Brothers who have been killed trying to deal with the system lie.

Like everything else, U.P.U.'s development has not been without setbacks and mistakes. We have learned that it is impossible to struggle for an end to slave labor in prisons without also fighting for an end to the dehumanizing, the brutalizing, the drug therapy, and all the total reducing of men and women to mere shells of their former selves. We are fighting to end the indeterminate sentence, the medical experimentation on prisoners, and ultimately the system which thrives on all these practices.

It is a gross political mistake to struggle for minimal reforms, because even when these reforms are granted, the Koncentration Kamps are still there for those who threaten the position of the ruling class.

Building a union to protect the rights of the poor on a multi-national level is the only way we will overcome and gain total freedom. We must unionize. Help us achieve these aims and goals. Send your donations to the United Prisoners Union, 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, Ca., 94102.

Power To Those Who Dare To Struggle.
Dare To Struggle, Dare To Win.
Popeye Jackson: ★ ★

OVERTURN THE ECONOMIC SET-UP

by Sleepy Bailey

The economy is messed up from all quarters. The energy crisis is a crisis of imperialism - declining Western control of the Third World and countries around the world resisting. U.S. oil companies can no longer dictate terms with oil and natural gas, so the ruling class devised the phony energy crisis to recapture control and rake in profits. It is a capitalist crisis of profit and power. With the competition between capitalist countries, markets for U.S. corporate expansion abroad are closing. And there is little market room for expansion here due to contradictions within capitalism. People don't have enough money to buy what they produce in factories, so the factories shut down. When one plant closes down others must do the same. When the auto industry is cut, steel plants must also

lay off. And unemployed workers don't buy. They eat less. That's the vicious circle most of us are caught up in. The giant is crippled - how badly nobody knows yet. As for the tales "officials" give us, placing blame away from themselves, if one of their stories were correct, then someone would come up with a simple answer and the problem would disappear.

The present situation is causing a lot of uncertainty about what the future holds. Most predictions are gloomy for the near future, with differences only about how bad things will get. "Official" commentators are attempting to give the illusion that the last year of Watergate, unemployment, and the bankrupt foreign policy, is just something passing by, or if people merely sacrifice more "we" will once again reach "greatness." With crocodile tears over the corruption they try to cover a world system of aggression and exploitation. And those against inflation won't call for a complete revision of the tax laws or a drastic cut in military spending. What is the root of inflation? Inflation itself is merely symptom, so what is the disease? To put it simply, behind inflation lies greed and private profit is what the capitalist class feeds on.

Ford's bad news was that unemployment is at its highest peak in a decade, and that the economic situation is expected to get worse - a projected millions of workers will be affected. Though we are officially headed for a recession the news didn't come as a surprise to millions. Unemployment among whites is just beginning to approach what it's been in Third World communities. Millions have been unemployed, working part-time, or after looking high and low for jobs, aren't looking anymore, and can't even collect welfare.

How is the government handling this emergency that confronts the working majority? As things get worse various states including California are pushing the construction of more prisons for the extra prisoners expected because of crimes of poverty. Figures show a marked increase in property crimes already, and that inflation hits hardest on the unemployed and those in oppressed communities.

Therefore as oppression becomes greater on the outside, many will have no choice but to commit "crimes" which will lead them to the even greater oppression in the prisons of the ruling class. For the survival of their class, Ford and Company must push policies that increase unemployment. Already oppressed by economic system, workers become the first and greatest victims when the economic set-up begins to fail. Why should workers pay for the "recession"? They are not responsible for it. Why hasn't the system helped? Indeed in order to exist, the system must push the crisis off on poor and working people. (Examples are the price hikes, the unemployment, and while the military consumes most of the energy, U.S. people are freezing in their thermostats).

The movement must lead our class in the demand that the jobless be hired. As quick as the government acts and uses its machinery to put down rebellions around the world, this machine that's geared for war can be converted by the people, for peace and full employment.

But it's up to us to begin the new era, an era of alliance and struggle. Complete equality cannot be separated from the fight for jobs because the boss's tactic is to divide and conquer workers' solidarity. It's this solidarity that the ruling class most fears. Behind the cry for law and order we see their blatant fear. They separate us by filling the prisons with the oppressed. Their control of the media makes it difficult for us to know the news and truth about our comrades and what is actually happening in the struggle.

The needs of the most oppressed must be fought for. What is in the interest of the poor is in the interest of the majority. What is in the interest of the rich is in the interest of the few, who with their wealth rule over us. The final goal should be the destruction of imperialism and to create socialism. Socialism is a system based on public needs, the opposite of capitalism's system of private greed. Labor produces wealth, wealth must go to labor. The socialist alternative.

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actual preliminary hearing could be used instead of a Morrissey "probable cause" hearing because all the rights (notice of charges, right to confront witnesses, etc.) all exist at the preliminary hearing. The Board is still permitted to hold its own hearing, but it doesn't have to.

In the case of a misdemeanor charge, the court said that the first Morrissey hearing would be held because of the delay in the misdemeanor proceedings of up to 45 days and because there isn't always a transcript readily available.

Jail Time Credits

In re Young (32 Cal. App. 2d 68) held that all presentence jail time must be credited against the minimum date. P.C. Sec. 2900.5 requires that the credits be applied automatically, however that only applies after March 4, 1972.

In re Kafferman

This is a case presently on appeal to the Supreme Court. It began as a pro per petition challenging the failure of the Dept. of Corr. to credit jail time, retrospectively prior to March 4, 72.

The case also challenges the requirement that the Sup. Ct. where the prisoner was sentenced has to be petitioned before the time will be credited. The state argued that the courts would be flooded with requests if the credits were applied retroactively. However it is being argued that forms could be sent to all prisoners to fill out and that since the records do exist it would be possible to credit everyone with jail time.

EXPOSE THE PRISON COVER-UP



THE CALIFORNIA PRISON INDUSTRY

The California Prison Industry is one of the greatest money making industries in the state, based entirely upon forced convict labor. These wages range from 2¢ an hour minimum to 32¢ an hour maximum. Only 6,000 out of 25,000 convicts get paid at all. The bulk of the slave labor is done to maintain the prison, thus people are forced to work under the guise of vocational training (convicts working under these so-called vocational programs receive no pay at all). This includes kitchen help and cooking for guards, their families, servants and cooks to the wardens and superintendents; construction crews, landscape crews, Dept. of Public Works crews maintain the houses of the prison personnel; the prison personnel get their cars repaired and maintained by convict slave labor under the guise of vocational rehabilitation and training; whenever there's an electric failure or plumbing failure within the prison it's repaired by convict slave labor; most of the printing for the Dept. of Corrections is done in the San Quentin print shops. The few jobs people get paid for are the same major industries as on the outside: tailor shops, furniture factories, tobacco factories, the canery, laundries, dry cleaning plants, detergent plants shoe factories, mattress factories, clothing factories, farms, dairies; and the largest one of all, the multi-million dollar license plate factory at Folsom prison. A slave labor force produces license plates for every car in the state, a big-time booming business. Convicts do the same thing as people on the outside --they produce for the ruling class. One of the main differences is that on the outside the minimum wage is \$2.00 an hour compared to inside where it's 2¢ an hour. Not only is the prison system used by the ruling class to protect its economic interests, but that same ruling class profits by the production of the convict labor force which both maintains the prison and produces for the state (therefore the ruling class) thus the prison labor force forms a major part of the working class in the united states.

THE BIG RIP-OFF

As a taxpayer it costs you \$4,000 a year to maintain a convict in prison. Where does it go? Who gets it? How is it spent? That same convict is producing for the state \$7,000 a year. What happens to that \$7,000? It is a clear profit for the state. No one, not even members of the legislature, can look at the books of the C.D.C. These books contain secret data on the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) and on the banking account of the C.D.C. The IWF is a multi-million dollar a year revolving fund supposedly set up for the "welfare" of the convicts. All 15 prisons and the 22 camps contribute to this revolving fund. This money is distributed to the various prisons through a central business manager in Sacramento, thus, for example, Chino, a minimum security institution receives more funds from the IWF than a maximum institution such as Folsom. Convicts are forced to contribute to the fund through commissary purchases, through outside purchases, and through hobby shop work. Thus if a convict spends \$30.00 at the commissary up to 10% (or \$3.00) goes into the IWF (and up to 20% at the camps). Out of the IWF comes the salaries of free personnel such as the hobby shop manager, the commissary manager, etc. The IWF pays the salary of the snack bar manager. The snack bar is a place where only prison personnel and their families and friends are allowed to eat. All the work in the snack bar is done by convict labor. Monies from the IWF also go to improvements on the warden's home, to the training of prison guards, etc. The convicts have no say what-so-ever as to where their money goes. What actually happens is the convicts end up paying the salaries of their keepers. The IWF money is placed in a bank account of the C.D.C., allowing the C.D.C. to draw interest off of it. Money orders sent to convicts must be made out to the C.D.C. and not the individual convict. The C.D.C. banks this money thus again drawing interest off of other peoples' money. Thus the C.D.C. continues to make a profit off poor peoples' money.

CONDITIONS OF A LOCK-DOWN

The men are locked down 24 hours a day. All meals which includes one sack lunch and one hot meal, are served inside the cells. The men are not allowed to go to the mess hall. As the prisonrats have been telling the public through the pig media these hot meals are served on paper plates, after having been carried from the mess hall to the unit, a distance of over 600 feet, and the men are not fed hot meals on the two visiting days so its not even a daily hot meal, as they tell the public. Men are forced to eat under the cover of guards carrying shotguns, revolvers, rifles, and gas-guns. Canteen purchases are restricted to only 7 items of little quality. (No toilet articles, get in toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc). Men are being handcuffed in restraining belts and forced to visit behind the segregation screen; normally used for the Adjustment Center prisoners. The housing unit has become infested with flies and rats, because of the unsanitary feeding procedures, which has food waste and garbage all over the unit. Men in the unit are forced into double celling; also, the different "bars" (each tier is split into two sections, that is "bars") are being segregated according to race, another division meant to cause further tension by emphasizing the already present racial "conflicts" of their own doing. It goes without saying that this pig-shit is the prisonrats usual manner in dealing with the violence caused by the very conditions they have created.



WHY THE LOCK-DOWN?

The lock-down is a means of control, which permits the pigs to cause disunity among convicts. While the men are locked down racist guards constantly continue to instigate and agitate racial strife among the convicts. Because the men are separated from one another there is a complete lack of communication. The lock down is also a way for the pigs to impose more repressive tactics on visitors (and at times deny visits altogether), such as fingerprinting, complete skin searches, pigs standing over the visitor and the convict during the entire visit, making it a degrading and intimidating situation for the convicts as well as their families and loved ones. The pigs perpetuate a constant form of agitation and instigation which causes those locked down to become angry and under so much tension and frustration, they take it out on each other. In this way the administration can keep convicts at each others' throats.

Prison administrators put forth the line that the lock down comes from the excessive amount of narcotics which they say causes all the violence. But the pigs don't talk about how the narcotics get inside the prison in the first place. They don't tell you that the guards smuggle in the narcotics to supplement their incomes. They don't tell you that a prison guard comes outside and purchases a \$35 spoon of heroin, takes it inside and sells it to a convict for \$100. They don't tell you that on numerous occasions guards have been caught bringing in drugs and nothing has been done about it. The straight media puts forth only the information officer at San Quentin, William Nyberg, which is carefully studied by the C.D.C. Information staff.

THE SISTERS AND BROTHERS LOCKED DOWN NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The ruling class tactic of divide and conquer, the very foundation of this country, is another means of control to constantly keep the convicts at each others' throats. The pigs pit black against white, white against brown, brown against red and vice versa. They start rumors; this convict is a rat, that convict is going to attack this convict, thus marking a man for death. The pig press, more interested in selling newspapers than reporting the truth, puts out the line that convicts are vicious mad-dogs to have an excuse for the pigs to buy more guns, have tighter security, and more repression. The convicts are the victims, as are all poor oppressed people. The C.D.C. is the vicious mad-dog. They perpetuate racism by creating situations that lead to racial violence. They single out politically aware comrades and intensify harrassment of them. The anger is so intense that the convicts attack one another out of this anger, frustration and lack of communication, with each other and with comrades on the outside. Therefore they make themselves pawns to be used by the C.D.C. to work against themselves. Often times it is hard for a convict to see the situation in the correct perspective and see the trap they are in. It's up to us to communicate with the comrades inside, give them a politically correct perspective on what's happening and help them relate to multi-racial unity and solidarity through constant struggle.

Poor people fill our jails and prisons. They are forced to steal to survive, they have no money for an attorney and get railroaded right through the courts, run for and by the ruling class, to spend many long years in prison. Poor people, inside and out, are all pawns of the ruling class to be used and exploited. The scene inside San Quentin, and all amerika's concentration camps is the same as "on the streets" only it is magnified and concentrated.

OUR DEMANDS

1. We demand an investigation of the entire prison system by the people, inside and out.
2. We demand an end to all forms of lock-ups, lock-downs, isolation cells, segregations, wings, o wings, B sections, psychiatric wards.
3. We demand an end to all forms of racial agitation and intimidation that continues to pit brother against brother and sister against sister.
4. We demand that the sisters and brothers who are locked down in the concentration camps form a united front on a multi-racial level and strive for unity.
5. We demand an immediate investigation by the people, inside and out, of all the books of the C.D.C. including the IWF, the bank account of the C.D.C., the multi-million dollar industries and the taxation of the people.
6. We demand that all forms of media have complete access to all parts of every prison and jail in the state.
7. We demand convicts have adequate legal representation before all disciplinary hearings.
8. We demand community groups have access to visit the prisons and jails.
9. We demand that a charge of murder be brought against all pigs who have murdered convicts.
10. We demand an end to censorship, which amounts to pilfering of u.s. mail.

WRITE LETTERS TO: Jerry Enomoto, Director of Corrections, 714 P Street, Sacramento, CA. 95814 DEMANDING:

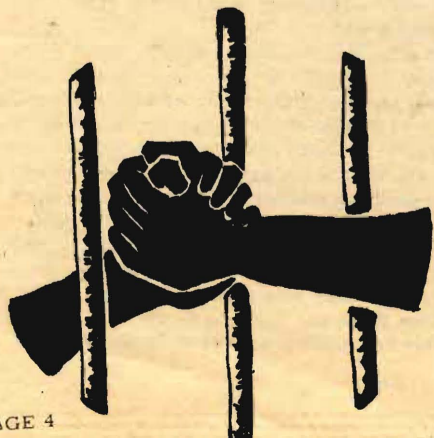
- an investigation of the entire prison system
- all hearings of the C.D.C. be open to the public
- an end to all behavior modification programs: psychosurgery, shock therapy
- all supreme court decisions be adhered to by the C.D.C.
- an end to harrassment of visitors
- an investigation of all murders, beatings, stabbings, gassings
- family and friends be notified immediately when a convict has been transferred or when any change of status has occurred.

WRITE A CONVICT - For the name of a convict to write call 441-0228

SUPPORT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LOCKED DOWN IN CALIFORNIA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

DARE TO STRUGGLE-DARE TO WIN

Popeye Jackson, Pat Singer, Anne Jankovic, Cindy Downes, Sleepy Bailey, Chui, Jean Crossman



SENTENCING

1) Indeterminate Sentence - In California a felony conviction results in an indeterminate sentence. Penal Code #168 states that the trial judge shall not fix the term of imprisonment. Therefore unless the judge grants probation or suspends the sentence, he must sentence a defendant to a term "proscribed by a law", which usually contains both a minimum and a maximum.

The actual length of a sentence is then fixed by the parole board (Penal Code #3020).

2) Probation Report (Penal Code #1203)-
a. Conviction of a misdemeanor - a probation report is optional.
b. Conviction of a felony - a probation report is required before sentence is pronounced. The probation report includes "circumstances surrounding the crime and concerning the defendant and his/her prior record, and the probation officer's recommendation for punishment (i.e. probation or state prison). If the defendant is not eligible for probation (i.e. convicted of robbery and armed with a deadly weapon) then the judge has the discretion whether

to order a probation report.

The report must be made available to the attorney at least two days before sentencing; or, upon request, it can be made available 5 days prior to sentencing.

This report is sent to prison with the defendant and becomes part of the cumulative case summary.

The defendant can see the report and should try to get a copy of it made. It should be noted that the law says that it will be made available. However, the defense attorney must pick it up. At sentencing the content of the probation report can be challenged. In order to do this most effectively, the defense attorney should make sure that he has the maximum amount of time to check out the report, see witnesses, etc.

c. Penal Code #1203.01 - The judge and the D.A. may file statements about the defendant. These statements are sent to prison with the defendant file and remain in his/her cumulative case summary.

d. Penal Code #1202 - A defendant who appears without counsel must be informed of his right to counsel at sentencing. In re Roberts, 40 Cal2d 745.

There is usually a 21 day period after conviction before a sentencing hearing is held. Under Penal Code #1202 the defendant is entitled to a new trial if sentence is not pronounced in time; but actual prejudice as a result of the delay must be demonstrated.

3) 90 day observation period - Under Penal Code #1203.03 a judge can order that before sentencing the defendant be committed for a 90 day diagnostic study. During this time the defendant will be evaluated for probation. Then the defendant returns to court for sentencing or probation depending on the recommendation.

INDETERMINATE SENTENCING

RESOLUTION 74/5
REVISED: OCTOBER 1, 1974
WOMEN'S BOARD OF TERMS AND PAROLE

Whereas, the Women's Board of Terms and Parole deems it in the best interest of the state of California to implement penal code section 1168, the indeterminate sentence law, as closely as possible to its intent and implication, and

Whereas, the board, per penal code section 6043 has such powers to fix and refix terms, as well as to grant parole, and

Whereas, we feel a more timely and meaningful sentencing of the offender would benefit all concerned, and

Whereas, parole is considered a privilege to be earned by the inmate through her demonstration of readiness for release,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Women's Board hereby adopts the following policy in regards to term setting and refixing and the granting of parole:

1. In accordance with current Women's Board of Terms and Parole policy, resolution 72/5, every inmate received at the California Institution for Women is seen by the Board within one year of her arrival for the purpose of fixing the inmate's term.

It is the Board's intention that this term given at the initial hearing will be the maximum time to be spent under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections. This period includes incarceration and any parole time served. At the end of this term, the inmate/parolee will be discharged from said jurisdiction.

2. After being given a term, the inmate will be placed on an appearance review calendar to note the progress of regression of the individual case.

3. In accordance with current statutes, parole will be considered at every hearing past the minimum eligible parole date.

4. If little, or no progress is noted, and numerous examples of recalcitrance and disciplinary infractions characterize an inmate's record, parole may not be granted, and the inmate's term may be extended.

5. Punitive time, which will be commensurate with the crime as well as the individual criminal, will be served by all inmates incarcerated at the California Institution for Women. If steady and ongoing progress is noted throughout this initial period, the inmate, having thus earned her opportunity for a parole, may be placed on a parole consideration calendar, subsequently to serve the remainder of her term in the community.

6. If after release, the parolee is successful in completing the remainder of her term in the community, she will be discharged from the jurisdiction of the Director of Corrections.

If, however, the parole privilege is abused by the parolee, her term may be extended, or if serious violations of parole conditions are incurred, parole revocation procedures may be initiated.

Be it further resolved, that the above policy on term-setting will apply to all cases except those so recently received at the California Institution for Women that a term-set decision is not possible due to lack of information or in those psychiatric cases where the reports are indefinite or uncertain as to prognosis. These cases will be placed on subsequent indeterminate calendars until the information is sufficient to make the term-set decision.

Be it further resolved, that the above resolution is effective October 1, 1974, and may be progressively retroactive as the individual cases appear before the board on the various calendars.

Adopted by the affirmative votes of:

M. Joanne Lees, Chairman
John L. Dales, Vice Chairman
Eleanor W. Hiller, Member
Lucille C. Hosmer, Member

Attest: Robert L. Tirvett, Executive Officer
Adopts: October 1, 1974

PAROLE

Parole is a release from prison before you have finished serving your sentence. Parole is generally considered a privilege and not a right. And if the Board grants parole you are considered a prisoner in custody who is doing time on the street rather than inside.

In California, general rules governing the administration of parole are set out in the Penal Code Section 3040-3065, however the Women's Board of Terms and Parole has almost unlimited discretion in setting a woman's term or in deciding to revoke her parole. Section 2940 gives the Board the power to "fix and refix" the term which means that it can increase the original term that it sets. Also, if the Board fails to set a term the term is presumed to be the maximum.

The Board must consider a prisoner's term before she has served her minimum sentence. With certain exceptions, a prisoner becomes eligible for parole after she has served 1/3 of her minimum sentence, as long as she has a minimum of over one year. (Penal Code Section 3049). Persons sentenced to life imprisonment must serve 7 years before becoming eligible for parole.

The state of the law regarding rights of prisoners during parole proceedings is changing rapidly. However these rights have not been applied to parole release date hearings. The Board relies on the cumulative case summary of the prisoner to make its decision. Although the punishment is supposed to be geared toward the individual, the Board generally evaluates the cases of crime partners together.



PRE-REVOCAION HEARINGS

Under Section 3060 of the Penal Code the Board has the authority to revoke parole at any time. Until Morrissey the Board had the right to revoke or suspend parole without notice.

In *Morrissey v. Brewer* (408 U.S. 471, 33 L. Ed. 2d 484) held that parole revocation inflicted a "grievous loss" on the parolee and therefore due process requirements had to be applied. It set out a two-stage process:

1) a hearing in the nature of a preliminary hearing conducted near the place of the alleged violation. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether there is probable cause or reasonable ground to believe that the arrested parolee did violate these conditions.

2) the second is a more formal hearing at which time a decision concerning the facts is made. The following rights are to be applied:

- written notice of the alleged violation
- right to present witnesses
- right to confront witnesses against you
- hearing before a "neutral" body (i.e. parole board)

e) written statement as the evidence relied on and reasons for revoking parole.

Although *Morrissey* provides certain protections, it does permit evidence to be considered that would be inadmissible at a criminal trial. So even if a person is acquitted of a new criminal charge, evidence can still be used to revoke parole. (In re *Martinez* 1 Cal. 3d 641 and In re *Anderson* 107 Cal. App. 2d 670) the courts have continually held that a different standard of proof is used in parole revocation proceedings than in criminal trials and therefore they uphold the revocations.

The real problem arises here in search and seizure situations. Since a parolee can be searched without the normal restrictions which are usually required to make a search legal (*People v. Quinlon* 245 Cal. App. 2d 624) this evidence can be used against the parolee during the revocation proceeding and courts will not grant relief. Courts have also continually held that it is okay for parole to be revoked or suspended for non-criminal violation of the parole conditions. (In re *Gomez* 64 Cal. 2d 591)

Gagnon v. Scarpelli 41 Law Week 4647

In *Morrissey*, the court left the question open as to whether the parolee has the right to counsel at the hearing. In *Gagnon*, a parole revocation situation, the court said that the states are not under a constitutional duty to provide counsel in each case, but that the decision should be made according to the individual circumstances of the case. The cases where the court seems to think counsel should be provided are where after the parolee has been informed of his right to counsel she makes the request based on:

- a claim that she did not commit the alleged violation
- a claim that even if she did commit the violation there were reasons which justified it.

In deciding whether to grant counsel the Board will consider whether the parolee can effectively represent herself. And if a request for counsel is denied the grounds for refusal have to be included in the record.

The guidelines established in *Gagnon* seem to leave the door open for the appointment of counsel at parole release hearings although the courts have refused to extend them. In *In re Sturm*, a case presently on appeal to the Supreme Court, the argument to extend *Gagnon* to parole release hearings is being made. In *Sturm*, the defendant served 21 years and went to the parole board with a program. Parole was denied and no reason was given. The case is arguing that a statement of reasons and the evidence relied on should be provided to all prisoners who are denied parole. In *Prewitt*, the Cal. Supreme Court said that although they were not holding *Morrissey* applicable to the granting of parole they noted that "certain proceedings in connection with the fixing of terms and granting of paroles may not now conform to due process requirements."

Parole Date Rescission Hearings

In *In re Prewitt* (8 Cal. 3d 470, 105 Cal. Reporter 318) the court did adopt the same due process requirements provided in *Morrissey* in parole date rescission cases. *Prewitt* was made retroactive to June 29, 1972, the date of *Morrissey*.

In *Prewitt* the date had been rescinded on the basis of a report from a local law enforcement agency and the Board refused to show a copy to the defendant. The court held that such information must be disclosed to the prisoner prior to the hearing date. However, the court also said that Board would not have to disclose the identity of an informer if "such disclosure would subject the informant to undue risk of harm."

Parole Holds

When a woman's parole officer is notified that a parole has been arrested, she automatically places a parole hold on her. The parole agent is also required to report all such arrests to the Board. This is not so for men. In the case of male parolees, an arrest only has to be reported to the Board if the person faces a sentence of over 30 days.

In *re Law*, a very recent Supreme Court case (Sept. 5, 1973) held that there is no right to release on bail from a parole hold. It also said that in the case of a felony charge, the

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

Joanne Little

tried for murder

WOMAN CHARGED AFTER RAPE TRY BY PRISON GUARD

by Kathie Stroom --reprinted from the Berkeley Barb Dec. 13-19, 1974.

Support grows in North Carolina for Joanne Little, a 20-year old black woman scheduled to stand trial for murdering a white prison guard who was trying to rape her.

According to the Joanne Little Defense Committee, Joanne was convicted for breaking and entering and larceny earlier this year. She was sent to the Beaufort County Jail to await appeal, instead of the North Carolina Womens Detention Center, because of lack of space in the women's prison. She spent three months in county jail as the only female prisoner, and there were no woman matrons on the premises.

On August 27, a 62 year old white guard, Charles Alligood, approached Joanne's cell at around 3 o'clock in the morning. He left his shoes in the corridor; the TV monitor to her cell was turned off. The only inmate that usually had free access to the entire jail was locked in his cell that night. Alligood had an ice pick in his hands when he entered Joanne's cell. Once inside, he tried to rape her.

Joanne wrestled the ice pick from the guard and ran away, leaving Alligood standing in the doorway of her cell with his pants down. He was still alive, though his body suffered from multiple stab wounds. Eight days later, Joanne turned herself into local police, for fear of her life if the Beaufort County officials ever found her.

The Sheriff's Department of Beaufort County claims that Joanne seduced Alligood into her cell so that she could escape. The state's treatment of her case has been extremely harsh so far. With other prisoners awaiting trial, she was held, until very recently, in the solitary confinement section of the Woman's Prison in Raleigh.

During her bond hearing on October 1, Joanne was kept tightly shackled in the courtroom so that she could not even rise to greet her supporters when they came in. Bond was set for \$100,000.

Since Joanne turned herself in to the authorities, her case has attracted considerable support, especially among women and in black communities. It raises important questions about racism in the courts and jails, about the treatment of women in prison and about the right of women to defend themselves against rape.

But despite the growing support she is receiving, Joanne Little's lawyers feel they face a difficult trial ahead. The first problem, according to defense attorney Karen Galloway, is ensuring a fair trial.

The racial balance in eastern North Carolina, where Beaufort County is located, would probably make a fair trial impossible. Local publicity has already labeled Alligood as an outstanding member of the white community, a good family man.

Superior Court Judge James has denied the defense motion for a change of venue because of a technicality in North Carolina law. Defense lawyers are appealing this denial and testing the constitutionality of the state law.

Judge James also denied the use of state funds for Joanne's defense, even though she has no money. Attorney Galloway says the judge has turned down a defense request for funds to hire a legal investigator and a criminologist, both of which are essential to the defense.

They also claim that Judge James has denied defense attorneys access to evidence, including Alligood's pants and underwear from the night of the murder. Sperm found on Alligood's clothes support Joanne's account of the attempted rape.

Joanne Little's supporters demonstrated in front of the women's prison in Raleigh on November 16, to pledge support for her and all women in prison. Under special attack was the prison laundry, where the several hundred women prisoners, most of them black, must work. The demonstrators said that the women prisoners work in 120 degree heat and must carry laundry bags weighing up to 175 pounds.

"Joanne Little is black, a woman and a prisoner," said a woman from the defense committee. "In America, let alone in the small rural area of Beaufort County, she has no rights. It is in this context that she must give her defense."

Joanne's trial was scheduled to begin on November 18, but has been postponed because of the various defense motions, waiting in the Appellate Court. A date has not yet been set for the trial, though lawyers speculate it could begin near the end of Jan. or early Feb.

Anyone who wishes to write to Joanne Little can send letters to 1034 Bragg St., Raleigh, N.C., 2760. She has the names of other women in prison who would like to be corresponding with people on the outside.

Defense attorneys in this case, who are not even charging fees, estimate that an adequate legal defense will cost at least \$20,000. You can help (buttons cost 50¢) by contributing to the Joanne Little Defense Fund. P.O. Box 1003, Durham, N.C. 27702.

Recent Development: Joanne has been released on bail and is still awaiting trial.



POEM FROM INSIDE

THE HOLE

by Greta Gordon
Women's Prison
North Carolina.

As I look around this green room
I see holes in the wall
Square holes
Round holes
Long holes
And small holes

As I look around this green room
I see a cement wall, through the holes
I see above that cement wall more holes
Holes just like the ones I look through

As I look around this green room
I see a bunk
A bunk with lots of green
A bunk with lots of round holes

As I look around this green room
I see a square cement block with a large hole
A button you push in, is placed above it made
onto the green wall
A cement block with a hole to dispose piss and
draft in
With a button you push to make it go down

As I look around this green room
I look again at the long holes
The long holes made by iron-steel bars
Lined up and drilled through holes

As I look around this green room
I see something with a round hole that looks
like a large bowl
A bowl which water runs in and goes out
by a hole

As I look around this green room
I see a lot of gray cement
Gray cement floors
A very hard floor

As I look around this green room
I see people
People wondering why they are here
Where is their God
What would become of them
Then I finally awake to where I'm at
Why I see so many holes
I'm in a hole
Raleigh's North Carolina hole
I'm in the hole of prison

INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AT CIW

INSIDE PERSPECTIVE ON CIW
(tapes made by Circle's Edge)
ON THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

"If ever there was a natural catastrophe out here and they had to get these things done (lab work, i.e. EKG, Blood testing, cross matching) a lot of people would die out here because there aren't enough people out here trained... the whole purpose of training these people (inmates) is so that they can take over and step in when the people that are titled to do the work are not there. What is the sense of training a person half way. They lose their initiative, they don't want to be bothered and you really can't blame them".

"I work in the CIW Clinic. This is my second time... I've worked there before. Some of the things going on out there... the nurses give prescriptions which is illegal. A nurse has no right to do the diagnosing and medication for the patient. She has no right to refuse any woman to see the Doctor. We have one doctor here for 800 women. The one doctor that we have doesn't believe in doing surgery that much... he's good at at telling dirty jokes. He more frequently than not will write out prescriptions without ever

examining a woman. The only good medical facilities are from outside doctors coming in. Outside doctors are scheduled for different clinics. Ob-Gyn comes in on Wednesday afternoon. He is only allowed to see so many. By me working there my girlfriends will be able to see him before anybody."

"They don't follow up on their blood diseases here. I worked in the dental department we always got the medical reports (charts) and the first thing we would look at would be to see how the blood was to see if they had any gonorrhea, syphilis, or any other diseases and it would be just amazing how many people would have positives especially drug users... the institution does nothing... they just slap a positive on their jacket and don't follow up."

"when people come into RGC (Reception and Guidance Center) they pull what we call a false positive... these are then sent out to the state lab. They come back from the lab and are sent down to the medical department but nothing ever happens to them... the other thing that is so killing is those that come back with definite positives - about ten people a month at least, the people are notified that they have syphilis... they have to ask for treatment."

"I worked in the dental office for a year, and finally had to quit because it was so mind-blowing. You cannot get your teeth cleaned. They will pull teeth and not replace them and they will pull teeth and not give medication. They will pull full uppers and lowers, slap in the plates and give you a Darvoset if you are lucky. If you are Black you have a helluva hard time in the dentists office. They will not hire any Black women to work in there and when you have sick call in the morning and he (the dentist) pulls the cards... if they are black women they wait till last. This is a fact."

"The only way you get in the dental office is if your friend works there."

"When I worked there, yeah, I ducketed (institutional pass) my friends... at times people offered to pay me to see the dentist. There were dental assistants when I first went there that were charging a carton of cigarettes for a dental appointment."

"I had two pap smears in the institution and they both came out positive. I was given a curvical biopsy and I got out of the hospital and everything supposedly was OK. Every month when I was suppose to have my period I wouldn't get it and I would double up in pain. The staff would take me to the hospital, they would examine me and nothing was wrong... they would give me a couple of aspirin and send me home. This went on for thirteen months. When I got out I went to a doctor on the streets to get an IUD put in. He got me up on the table to put it in and he couldn't put it in. There was no hole there. The doctor in the institution had cut too close to my cervix and it had plugged me up and I had been bleeding every month with my period and it wasn't coming out."

"I've studied medical technology for 2 years in the US Army, and have had advanced training in Blood Banking, Processing, and Grouping. Some observations I've made during my brief periods in the lab here are: the condition of the blood storage unit - mold and fungi growing around the fan area. This unit should be of the utmost cleanliness due to the fact that this blood is on hand for transfusions."

"If you get sick on Friday afternoon you must stay sick until Monday morning to make an appointment for Monday afternoon."

"Babies clothes are not properly cleaned and sterilized."

"No cultures are taken from anywhere in the hospital - staph infections are prevalent."

"Sterile techniques are not used by most of the aides. Some of the RNs are filthy.

Medications are not issued at proper times. Flies are outrageous in patients' rooms."

"The door woman lets no one in without a pass."

"Even if I think I'm going to die, I would not go to that hospital."



Marilyn Buck:

2 years later

Two years after her arrest and a year and a half after her San Francisco conviction on federal firearms act violations, Marilyn Buck is being held in Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas. Pronounced "bear" by the local residents, Bexar County Jail is 90 miles from Austin, Texas. Marilyn is awaiting trial in Austin on another federal gun violation.

Marilyn was convicted in San Francisco in 1973 of two counts of exhibiting false identification for the purchase of 60 rounds of ammunition. She was tried and sentenced by Judge Samuel Conti, widely known for his utter lack of compassion and unyielding law and order attitude. The trial was a mere charade of justice, stage for the sole purpose, it seemed, of reaching the sentencing stage so that Marilyn would receive the maximum penalty on the two charges, ten years.

Marilyn was convicted of gun violations but she is doing heavy time because the government believes her to be a member of the Black Liberation Army (BLA). The Justice Department continues a nationwide prosecution of her because of the political association they allege.

In the two years since her arrest on gun charges, Marilyn has been treated in a manner reserved for political prisoners in this country. To begin, she was admittedly illegally wire-tapped in the late sixties and early seventies. The FBI maintains a file on her said to be over 1,000 pages long, which they persistently refuse to make available to her or to her counsel.

Since her arrest (she was never able to make bail), the conditions of Marilyn's confinement have been calculated to break her unusually strong spirit. After being sentenced, she was housed at Terminal Island, California, one of the two federal institutions for women in the country. After a brief stay there, the warden "refused" to have her there any longer. A government agent who had spoken with the warden told me that they were refusing to have her there because she was a "troublemaker," and she was labeled such because a lot of the "girls there came to the window of her (isolation) cell to talk with her."

After leaving Terminal Island, she spent a period in Maricopa County Jail, Phoenix, awaiting sentencing on a guilty plea she entered to another gun charge. While she was there the entire women's facility was kept on lockdown. The other inmates were told that the lockdown was in effect because Marilyn was there, and that she was dangerous. The lockdown was eased after a while, but the animosity against Marilyn continued.

After Phoenix she was designated by the Bureau of Prisons to commence the service of her ten year federal sentence in Cook County Jail, Chicago, Ill. The federal prison system often contracts with county jails to hold prisoners awaiting trial in cities where there are no federal detention facilities. Occasionally a federal prisoner will do federal and state time running concurrently, in a state penitentiary. Very occasionally the federal prison system will designate a state penitentiary as the place where a federal prisoner will do time. But never have I or anyone else I have spoken with heard of assigning a federal prisoner to do time in a county jail. The only conclusion to draw is that it was done to increase the punishment.

On the eve of the filing of a lawsuit to terminate her assignment to Cook County Jail, Marilyn was transferred to Alderson Penitentiary for Women, Alderson, West Virginia. Compared to some institutions, Alderson, for most inmates is a fairly loose place. The women wear street clothes, they have access to the grounds of the institution, there is dormitory housing, and visiting occurs without screens or bars, for the occasional visitor who will make the long trip into the Virginia Hills where Alderson is situated.

Few of these privileges were allowed Marilyn. She was initially placed in isolation, which was later relaxed to semi-isolation. During this time she was required to attend therapy sessions to "improve her attitude." People who wrote her there had their letters returned, marked "not on approved correspondence list." There is no such list. The two women who tried to visit her there had their applications for permission to visit held up beyond the date when they intended to visit. Ultimately they were admitted to the prison but their visit with Marilyn was specially supervised.

I spoke to the warden, Mrs. McLaughlin about the special treatment Marilyn was receiving, despite her clear behavior behind the bars. "She's a troublemaker," Mrs. McLaughlin told me. "She gets the other girls all riled up with her ideas. I know what that girl reads. It's not just Marxism, it's a lot of violent stuff. She just gets the other girls all riled up and they don't even know what they're getting into. She's a ringleader."

This winter when the government started to proceed again on the two remaining charges still pending against Marilyn, she was moved to Bexar County Jail. When a prisoner is transferred the U.S. Marshal apparently gets a card on the prisoner. Marilyn's card is marked "escape risk," despite the fact that she has never tried to escape. Marilyn was driven by car from West Virginia to San Antonio, a four day journey, handcuffed while riding in the car all day, followed into the women's johns by a female marshal (or more often, the wife of the male marshal, who gets paid to ride a long), and housed in county jails at night. Airline regulations forbid flying a prisoner in chains, or handcuffed. So, because of her marshal's card, Marilyn is driven back and forth across the country.

When she got to Texas, it was contemplated that she would enter a guilty plea in exchange for light concurrent time. However the already slim hopes of fair treatment were dashed when one of Marilyn's lawyers there was told by the Judge's secretary that she had heard that Marilyn was one of the "founders of the SLA." Maybe they've got the initials of the two groups mixed up (BLA & SLA), or maybe they are serious. In any case, trying to enter a guilty plea in hopes the judge will be fair in sentencing seems out of the question.

So two years later, Marilyn is awaiting trial again. Originally she had five outstanding gun charges: S.F. (conviction after trial, ten yrs), Arizona (guilty plea, five yrs. concurrent time) New Mexico (dismissed), Oregon (pending). Two charges remain now. In most cases the government will dismiss outstanding prosecutions when they have gotten one conviction; almost without exception they will dismiss when they have two. Not so with Marilyn. Despite the demise of Nixon and Mardian, the Justice Department continues to prosecute this 27-year old woman for her alleged political associations.

No one---judges, prosecutors, marshals, wardens, guards, social workers---will say what is really going on, that Marilyn is being subtly tortured by the criminal justice system because of its belief that she is a white revolutionary in association with a Black revolutionary group. I have begun a correspondence with the Attorney General and the criminal division of the Justice Department trying to document their treatment of her. It is interesting to note that in the upper left hand corner of the responses to my letters appear the initials "GLG" which can only stand for Guy L. Goodwin, once head of the Internal Security Division (ISD) of the Justice Department. Having been responsible for all political prosecutions, intelligence gathering and grand juries, ISD was allegedly disbanded during the Watergate revelations. The public line may be that ISD has been disbanded, but my letters to the Justice Dept. about Marilyn Jean Buck still go to Guy Goodwin.

Marilyn has endured two years of government harassment. There is more in store, but to see Marilyn in court or in jail is an inspiring experience. In Court, she enters the room calmly, and with absolute dignity. Quite often she will enter into discussion with the judge. Even an occasional judge is impressed. One is said to have remarked "Well, that charming young lady doesn't seem so dangerous to me."

Her spirits are high, despite ill health resulting from her confinement. She had become a dangerous myth among her captors, and they treat her severely. Even though her mail is severely censored and much of it never gets through, Marilyn remains in touch with people throughout the country. She gets the news and continues to grow. Despite the efforts of the prison system, Marilyn has made many friends behind bars.

She is a beautiful, strong and inspiring sister.

Marilyn's S.F. conviction is on appeal and its outcome will be known shortly. We are optimistic. Support and funds are urgently needed. Marilyn Buck Defense Committee, c/o Cummings and Jordan, 96 Jessie St., S.F. 94105.



sponsoring a prisoner

Sponsor a convict inside the walls who does not have the \$4.00 it costs to sponsor himself or herself. Convicts are doing slave labor for slave wages. Their pay scale ranges from 2¢ an hour to 24¢ an hour, thus they don't have the money to join the United Prisoners Union. We ask none of the convicted class inside to pay the \$4.00 it costs to become a member of U.P.U., but we do ask those of us of the convicted class who are outside to pay the \$4.00 to sponsor a sister or brother who is locked down in maximum security.

One of the most important areas of the U.P.U. work is the sponsorship committee, as it deals with opening direct lines of communication, by finding a person outside the prison walls to write and/or visit a brother or sister inside. Continuous open correspondence is vitally important in our efforts to expose the stereotype image of convicts put forth by the California Department of Corrections. When you sponsor a convict you contribute not only to his or her membership, but you are helping stop the exploitation of the convicted class. You also help defend him/her from intimidation and brutality by prison guards. It has been found that convicts who receive communication and support from the outside are less likely to be harassed and dehumanized. The violent oriented prison guards, of which 90% have a military background, seem to hold back from coming down unjustly and illegally when there is support from the outside.

With the rising of the political consciousness of many comrades inside there is a need to relate to someone on this level. And with the growing interest in the prison movement on the outside, there is a need to become educated about what really happens inside. You can be taught more in a few letters than all the reading material that talks about doing something. Censorship of mail varies from prison to prison, but you better believe, your letters will be censored in one way or another.

The only way we can effectively fight the oppressor that has all of us convicted to some kind of a prison is to unionize. Sponsor a convict.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

UNITED PRISONERS UNION
330 Ellis St. #412
San Francisco, Ca. 94102
441-0228 or 441-0229

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES:
\$8.00 - outside membership
\$4.00 - inside membership
(Membership includes a subscription to the Anvil)
\$4.00 - for subscription only

SPONSORSHIP FORM

UNITED PRISONERS UNION
330 Ellis St. #412
San Francisco, Ca. 94102
441-0228 or 441-0229

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZIP _____

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YEARLY SPONSORSHIP FEE:
\$4.00 - for sponsorship of convict on the inside

Return this form to UPU and we will send you the name of a convict who wishes to be sponsored in the union.



FROM THE INSIDE

. . . . I have been in the Department of Corrections since April 1972 and before entering the C.D.C. I had been living a common law relationship for seven (7) years, from which I have two (2) children. The oldest is six (6) and the other is four (4) both are in care of my common law wife.

On October 6, 1974 my common law wife brought my son to visit me, and was told that since we were not legally married this institution prohibited the visiting of minor children if the inmate and visitor were not married. Up until October 6, 1974 I have had the privilege of visiting with my common law wife and children.

I earnestly and most sincerely hope that you can be of some assistance. . . .

Crespin Ramirez
Soledad Prison

. . . . I gather you have been keeping up with some of the issues that have been taking place here lately. Since the recent lock down they are in the process of racially segregating the entire population giving the fake excuse that too much drugs have been coming into the prison. Blacks on one hand they claim want to control the drugs and Mexicans on the other hand want to control the drugs causing immediate conflict, however this is what the prison officials claim none of this is true what so ever. As a matter of fact the officials are the ones who are the source of the drugs coming into the pen, but they are quick to place the blame on visitors and convicts and as a result of this we are only allowed visiting three days a week; Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. In the mean time the pen continues on a tight lock down, showers once a month, exchange of underwear once a month, everything is done once a month. No exercise at all and they plan to keep it this way for another two or three months. Each and every day the situation gets worse, but now is the time for all people to display their ability to remain strong under the enemy pressure. . . .

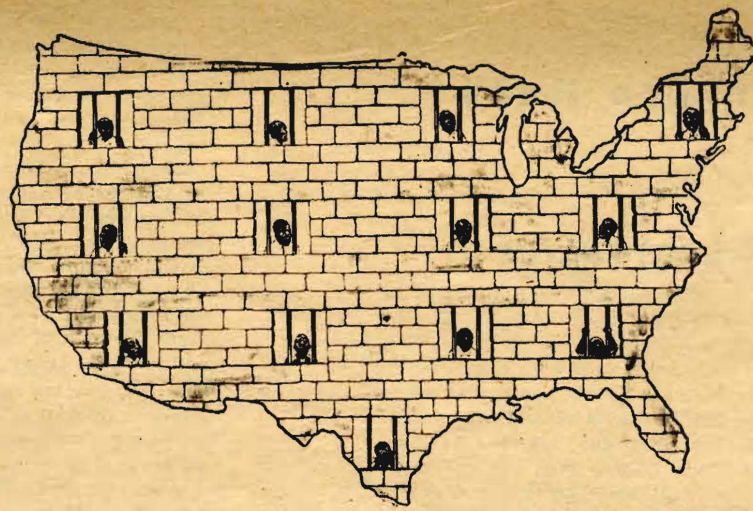
William Upchurch
San Quentin Prison

January 2 1975
Sister Pat,

Greetings of solidarity. Received your brief letter of 12/27 and one of the two manila envelopes which contained the various UPU "position" papers (e.g., labor statement, ect.); if I don't receive the second envelope (i.e., the Anvil) I will no doubt get in its place a CDC memo informing me of its confiscation (see enclosed forms for an "example"), uno. In the event of the latter I will definitely file a writ of habeas corpus petition with the federal courts to challenge the arbitrary rip-off -- I already have an attorney willing to represent the petition, which will be a class action civil rights type suit, once it is filed and docketed by the Court, uno.

Pat, no doubt you are aware of all the pigshit presently going on inside this joint (?). Any way it goes without saying that this pigshit is the prisoncrats usual manner in "dealing" with the violence caused by the very conditions they have created! Talk about contradictions---and they further compound these antagonistic contradictions by instituting increasingly more repressive rules and fascistic forms of oppression, etc.

I live here in D Section with a Category III custody status (that is the so-called violent oriented prisoners); D Section has simply become another B Section (hole), and in many respects is in fact worse than B Section ever was, e.g., three weeks without showers and exercise outside our cells; all meals (which includes one sack lunch and one "hot" meal) are served inside our cells -- we don't go to the mess hall as the prisoncrats have been telling the public!; and these "hot" meal are served on paper plates after having been carried from the mess hall to the unit, a distance of over 600 ft.!, and we're not fed



the "hot" meal on the 2 (two) visiting days so it ain't even a "daily" hot meal (sic) as they say, uno); canteen purchases are restricted to only 7 items of very limited quantities (no toilet articles, e.g. tooth paste, deodorant, soap, etc.); we are being handcuffed in restraining belts and forced to visit behind the segregation screen normally used for AC prisoners; the housing unit has become infested with flies and rats because of the unsanitary feeding procedures which has food wastes and garbage spread all over the unit; etc., etc.

In addition the prisoncrats are housing Category IV segregation men in the unit, with forced double-celling; also, the different "bars" (i.e., each tier is split into two sections, that is, "bars") are being segregated according to race -- another division meant to cause further tension by emphasizing the already present racial "conflicts" of their own doing! All the recent repressive measures, especially the visiting restrictions which limit visits to 2 (two) days per week, are all intended to cause further violence, more dissatisfaction and frustrations inside the prison -- a precondition to the total chaos yet to come. . . .

Unidos Venceremos
Michael Shane Guile

January 15, 1975

Dear Sister Pat,

In receipt of your January 13 letter -- good to hear from you, and I liked your response to my previous letter. By the way, I did receive the 2 Anvil issues you sent! These are the first issues I've seen in 2 years, except for photo-copied articles that were excerpted from past issues and enclosed in letters.

Any way, maybe you could send me another 2 issues so that I might be given the opportunity to file the petition I mentioned previously in the event the papers are confiscated, dig. What do you think?

Yeah, I definitely agree Pat--the "1000 foot high wall" which the prisoncrats use as a method to dissimulate their pig news is, as you said, a real drag! A good piece of agitational propaganda would be an organized campaign to demand some righteous accountability (i.e., evidence, objective proof, etc.) as to the credence of their press releases. I mean the proof of the pudding is in the taste, but they are not held accountable to offer any "taste"; in other words, they never allow anyone to come inside to obtain first hand evidence that would provide some support to their bogus press releases for the obvious reason that the truth in fact would negate their "official" truth (sic). The old cliché about the only free press is the one you own (e.g., free to print whatever the owner sees fit) is so true with the capitalist news media; however, the usual bourgeois lies are reinforced here since the prisoncrat reactionaries are given full free reign to total (absolute) control over what news is "news" (that is, what truth and/or lies are to be printed, etc.)! And their credibility is never questioned--never investigated for supportive truth, dig.

The press is a powerful instrument to be used for a thousand purposes. . . the essence of this matter is really not the credibility who are affected by their lies, by their inability to deal with those conditions which they have created themselves which cause the violence and thus their need to resort to lies in order to cover up their shortcomings (not to mention their excesses of exploitation, oppression, etc.).

This inability to deal with the contradictions of their own creation lead to the necessity to give half-truths, distortions and lies to the public; and as we know, the contradictions of the former -- become more intensive, more acutely antagonistic, their fucking lies will of course become more outrageous corresponding to their responsibility in causing the conditions that lead to the violence (racial or otherwise).

As to what is happening here. . . I can't really say precisely cuz I haven't left my cell except twice for 2 visits and 1 shower, since the lock-down (of course one does not have to go around the world to know its round, nor do I have to leave my cell to know that this joint is lousy)! Anyway, in the future I will try to convey a general idea of what is actually going on inside; and when the occasion requires it, I will be specific to particular incidents, etc.

Pat, send me your full name, your age, (necessary for me to have) and I'll send you a visiting form. My age is 29. Guess we should say we've known each other for a year --that is when I first became aware of you (via word of mouth, etc. (Friendship prior to my imprisonment is no longer a prerequisite for visiting approval).

Also liked what you said about Procunier say we "need" bigger and better prisons (actually we need a righteous revolution to replace capitalism with communism). I don't want my chains painted, but rather broken. (Let those creeps in the PU push their petty-bourgeois reformism, and let us get on with the larger, more urgent and important tasks!)

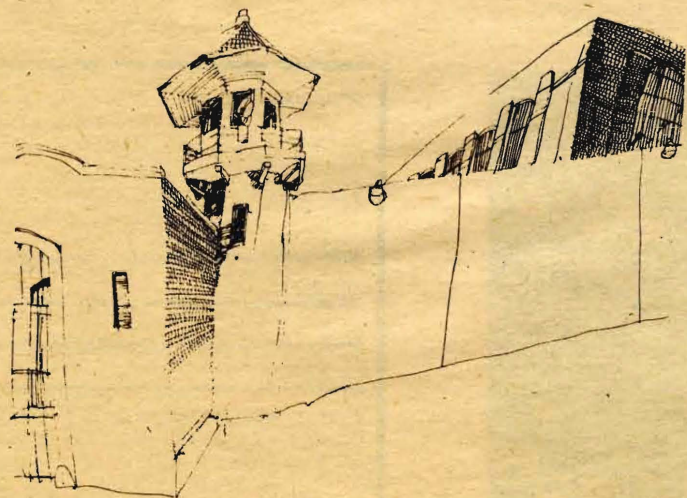
Pat, there is so much I'd like to tell you, so much that needs to be said(not to mention What Is to Be Done)--but let me close here for now. I'll write again in a few days. In the meantime take care and keep advancing.

Tu comarada,

Michael Shane Guile

PEOPLE WHO COME OUT OF PRISON CAN BUILD UP THE COUNTRY. MISFORTUNE IS A TEST OF PEOPLE'S FIDELITY. THOSE WHO PROTEST AT INJUSTICE ARE PEOPLE OF TRUE MERIT. WHEN THE PRISON DOORS ARE OPENED, THE REAL DRAGON WILL FLY OUT.....

HO CHI MINH



The Anvil needs your contributions to adequately represent the views of the Convicted Class inside and outside. Please send us any articles, letters, poems, or comments you might have.

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