

Feb. 11  
C.H.U.

## CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM

The Coordinating Council of Prisoner Organizations today called for an immediate moratorium on the construction of prisons in California. We favor the closing of San Quentin. However, we feel that its proximity to a supportive community should make San Quentin third in line for closing after Soledad and Folsom.

We do not support new construction of prisons at any time as it is our goal to reduce prison population and eventually to eliminate prisons altogether.

Over the past years the Department of Corrections' response to violence and political unrest has been increased segregation. However, we have observed during recent months that violence has erupted in the maximum security, isolation or segregation units throughout the system. We are told that it is to these units that the violent are sent. Yet there are people there in "protective custody" and for non-violent institutional infractions. We feel that violence in these units is bred by isolation from family and friend and segregation from peers.

As far as numbers are concerned the California Correctional System is now 400 below capacity. If this trend continues until the end of 1974 when San Quentin will close for good, there will be no need for additional space. The projected 1500 men in San Quentin at that time can be spread throughout the system. There therefore appears to be no numerical justification for the Governors request for two new prisons.

At current construction and land costs, it is estimated that it will cost between \$30,000 and 40,000 per cell to build the institutions requested by the Governor. At that price twenty men could be on parole for three years and if they were working, their own taxes would pay the cost of their parole. It currently costs the state \$4,014.00 to lock a man up for a year in a regular institution. Far more in a maximum cell.

We wish to remind the people of the state that "Prison Reform" doesn't mean modern prisons, with larger staffs of psychiatrists and counselors. It doesn't mean more guards in charge of more prisoners. It doesn't mean contingency parole dates, contingent on arbitrary "write-ups" and arbitrary decisions. It means returning men and women to their communities and strengthening the community's ability to deal with criminal justice on the local level.

1) EACH GROUP DETERMINES PRIORITIES.

2) STRATEGY: KAY HOLBROOK

was recommended → to the LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR OF THE BAY AREA.  
work with LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CCPO.

3) NEWSLETTER:

[Faint, mostly illegible text follows, appearing to be a list of points or a detailed report.]