

Closed circuit T.V. in jail may cut time, cost of trials

Last in a series on the Lane County jail system.

By KEN HASWELL
Of the Emerald

Closed circuit television may someday cut the cost of transporting county and city prisoners from the new county jail to downtown courtrooms for arraignment, says Lane County jail superintendent Capt. Paul Bailey.

Bailey says he isn't sure just when closed circuit TV might be installed in the new jail, but he says conduits for a system have been installed already.

Currently, he says, Lane County courts are not receptive to the idea of closed circuit television.

Circuit Judge Roland Rodman says that closed circuit TV has been used in Oregon during trials in which the defendant becomes unruly. The Oregon Supreme

Court has upheld the constitutionality of the ruling.

Both state and federal constitutions give citizens a right to confront accusers in court.



Rodman says that the procedure has been upheld in case of courtroom misconduct.

"Now when we are talking about doing it for reasons of economy or convenience, then you might say that this does violate the confrontation clause," he says.

"Before I approved it (closed circuit TV) for arraignments, I would want to see a case which indicates that this does not violate constitutional protections," Rodman says.

The procedure would save county taxpayers money by cutting the costs of transporting prisoners to the courtroom Bailey says.

"The defense attorney would be here (in the jail) with his client, the prosecution would be over in the courtroom with the judge and arraignment would occur over closed circuit television," Bailey says. "And you don't have to move people."

Bailey says federal courts are experimenting with closed circuit TV in both New York and Boston for both civil and appellate cases.

"They (the courts) are hearing

(Continued on Page 10A)



Photo by Keith Allen

A spanking fresh cell in the new Lane County Jail awaits its first prisoner. A closed circuit television system may be installed in the jail.

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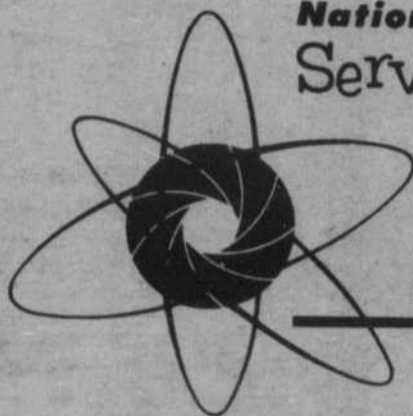
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