

A Plan to Solve the State Penal Problem Announced to Public

By the State Planning Board, Which Contemplates Numerous Changes in Present System.

A complete plan, meant to solve Oregon's pressing penal problem as well as full details on cost and probable results of a number of alternative suggestions, is recommended in the report "A survey of penal and reformatory methods in Oregon, with special reference to the establishment of an adult reformatory for men," just made public by the Oregon state planning board.

The plan involves reorganization of the parole board, employment of an adequately trained staff of parole officers, a change in the indeterminate sentence law so that the parole board has the power to fix terms of individual sentences after a period of clinical observation, and an educational and industrial program.

The report, which includes a thorough study of Oregon prison methods as well as those of other states, was prepared at the request of Governor Martin and the legislature. It gives special attention to the problem of constructing a new cell block, estimated to cost \$150,000. The recommendation is made, however, that if the board's suggestions are followed, the state could be spared this expense. Adoption of the recommended parole system would also save the state a considerable sum annually, it was pointed out.

"A man in prison costs the state between \$250 and \$300 per year," the report states. "The cost of a man on parole varies from \$24 to \$36 per year. Since the estimated number of men who would be removed in time from prison and placed on parole is between 300 and 400, the annual saving to the state in supporting prisoners would be about \$120,000."

"The parole system could be established for \$50,000 or \$60,000 per year, and the clinic for an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000 thus saving the state between \$20,000 and \$40,000 annually."

Adoption of the report's recommendation for the parole system would necessitate construction of a clinical building and a new dormitory, but these structures could be erected at a cost not to exceed that of the needed cell block, it is pointed out.

Under the plan of parole proposed in the report the parole board would have sweeping powers, but it would also have the personnel and means to do a thorough job of supervision. It is asserted the parole board would supervise parole persons from all correctional institutions.

The report shows the seriousness of the prison problem in Oregon. It gives the number of commitments by years; number of "first offenders" and others in prison for a second, third, or more times; education of prisoners, and many other facts.

Installation of more adequate industrial and educational facilities is strongly recommended.

In order to carry out its proposal, the board recommends that the program of rehabilitation of less hardened offenders be centered at the group of buildings located at the present prison annex, and that this center be designated as the Oregon State Reformatory. The reformatory would be under the same management as the prison.

Fairview

Mrs. Fred Kelly

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Voss and house guest, Herman Voss, of Ft. Collins, Colo., were dinner guests Wednesday of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Volgt.

Mrs. Otho Van Schoiack was hostess to the Happy Circle Sewing club Wednesday of last week. An all-day meeting was held and two quilts were worked on. Mrs. John Hocker was a visitor.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Downes were dinner guests Friday of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Voss.

Lowry England was a guest over the week end at the home of a sister, Mrs. Marion Lebow, of Lynx Hollow.

Miss Oris Hocker, assisted by Mrs. Babe Plowman of Dorena, sponsored a pie social and dance Saturday night and the proceeds will be used to benefit the basketball team.

Grandma Yancey, who has been ill, is considerably improved.

Leonard Layng of Mosby creek spent the week end with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Kelly visited Saturday with Mr. Kelly's mother, Mrs. Florence Kelly, in Cottage Grove.

Herman Voss, who had been visiting at the home of a brother Edwin left Tuesday for Lafayette to visit friends a few days before returning to his home at Fort Collins, Colo.

The Darrel Garoutte family of Culp Creek visited Sunday with Darrel's mother, Mrs. Ida Garoutte.

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