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Lee Brown: New breed in law enforcement

by Gregory Gudge

According to nationally-syndicated columnist Carl Rowan, Atty. Gen. Griffen Bell is considering abolition of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). Rowan cites conclusions made by the Attorney General's office, concurrent with criticisms made earlier by the National Urban League, that LEAA has proven relatively ineffective due to improper channeling of program funds by LEAA Administrators: money which should have gone to financing new crime reduction programs was spent on new hardware; little was spent to involve Blacks, the disproportionate perpetrators and victims of crime, in the war against crime as partially indicated by the minimal allocation of funds to criminal justice programs at Black universities, and the hiring of only nine Blacks in filling LEAA's 193 professional, administrative and management positions.

The study also indicated that police/community relations are predicated on fear and distrust.

In conclusion, the reporter suggests that Bell "try a new staffing pattern and targeting of its (LEAA's) resources," rather than scrapping the office.

If Rowan's commentary were well taken, it would provide all the more reason for the Justice Department to take a good, long look at people such as Lee Brown, Director of Justice Services for Multnomah County.

Brown was named earlier this year as a candidate for the deputy directorship of the agency and has been suggested to President Carter as a possible candidate for the directorship. Not that Brown is some kind of soulful magician who can cure the ills of the agency with a Black face and some measure of administrative prestidigitization; but as a policeman, community relations person, educator, sheriff and administrator, he has demonstrated his qualifications as a capable public servant and administrator of innovative law enforcement programs.

Dr. Brown (he has a PhD in law enforcement) was appointed Sheriff of Multnomah County in 1975 for the expressed purpose of reorganizing the department to implement the innovative and controversial Team Policing Program which sought to maximize services in the face of budgetary limitations.

Opinion

A year-and-a-half later, he was named Director of Justice Services, another product of radical reorganization in the county justice system, which involves a systematic approach to coordinating personnel, planning, budgeting and policy making of the many areas of justice services including the District Attorney's Office, the Courts, the Medical Examiners, Juvenile Court and Juvenile Home, Public Safety, Corrections, Public Defender, Legal Aid and the Law Library.

"One of the things you find in just about all the literature that deals with crime and the criminal justice system," explains Dr. Brown, "is the fragmentation of what is called the 'Criminal Justice System.' For all practical purposes, there is no system...you have various components of an overall system that may or may

More children behind bars

by Elliott Currie

(PNS) - Ten years ago, study after study concluded that imprisonment was the worst possible treatment for children who broke the law. But today the number of youths behind bars in America is skyrocketing.

A decade of liberal reform aimed at channeling young offenders away from penal institutions-into counseling, job-training programs, mental health services and the like-has been reversed.

The bewildering array of youth institutions-public and private, local and state, huge prisons and small homes-makes it difficult to accurately estimate the number of youths in detention. But it appears that more children are locked up, in adult jails as well as juvenile facilities, than ever before.

The swelling ranks behind bars parallel the shrinking opportunities for youths in the streets and schools of America's cities. At the same time that youth unemployment has risen, financially pressed cities have cut back on school, recreational and social welfare programs.

As at least a partial result, youth "property" crimes spurted up by 50 percent between 1970 and 1975. FBI statistics indicate youths under 18 now account for over half of all arrests for burglary and auto theft and over one-third for robbery.



DR. LEE BROWN

not come together at some place." A coordinating body would provide a consistency toward the achievement of system-wide goals and prevent components of the system from working against each other.

"What I think we have here," he added, "is a model that many people throughout the nation are looking at for potential for replicating it in their cities." Brown pointed out that the City of New York has followed the example and appointed a deputy mayor of criminal justice, a position similar to his.

The relationship between the police and the community is something that Brown has been dealing with since he developed and headed such a unit for the San Jose Police Department in the late 60's at the height of campus disturbances and the Black athlete protest spearheaded by Harry Edwards. "That involvement obviously gives you a perspective on all aspects of community life, in terms of those who are protesting, the issues involved...and the ability and willingness of the city to respond to differences of opinion," recounted Brown of the experience.

Another aspect of the San Jose experience dealt with the voicing of concerns by the minority community about the quality of life in the city. Says Brown, "My primary objective was to attempt to avoid the disturbances that were occurring in other places...to bring about non-violent resolution to the concerns that were being voiced."

There was a myth in the 60's that Blacks didn't want the services of law enforcement agencies," said Brown, adding that currently, "there is a high level of awareness in the Black community and a worldwide recognition that we must have some law enforcement." Those services, however, must be organized to deal with cultural differences.

Brown sees this as an "exciting time" for Blacks to get involved with law enforcement and he cites the increasing number of people, including Blacks, looking seriously into careers in that area. The criminal justice system is being challenged, even from within the system itself, to make law enforcement more responsive in all areas.

"There is more writing, more organizations and more studies concentrating on crime and the criminal justice system. The Institution of Law Enforcement is amenable to change," he says, and there is the recognition that public support is necessary if law enforcement is to be successful in carrying out its mission.

The injection of some new blood in an anemic system in the form of the young Blacks on the campuses and entering the justice system, may be the answer to the disease which plagues American communities.

often made them worse.

In 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice declared the juvenile justice system a "failure." "The youth who has once been through the process and comes out a delinquent is more likely to act delinquent again," it said.

"The most informed and benign institutional treatment of the child, even in well designed and staff reformatories and training schools, thus may contain within it the seeds of its own frustration, and itself may often feed the very disorder it is designed to cure."

Fueled by the emerging consensus, many states experimented with programs to "divert" youth from the justice system to presumably more constructive social services.

But today, after extensive studies of this "diversion" process, most criminologists agree that rather than replacing jails, the new alternatives have simply made room for more youths-including less serious offenders-in the juvenile justice system.

And pressed by the public outcry against crime, even some of the states that led the reform swing, such as California and Massachusetts, are beginning to fund more lock-ups.

SURGE IN DETENTIONS

In 1960, one of every 50 American

County budget castrates MHRC

Multnomah County has announced that its contribution to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for 1977-1978 will be \$42,730 rather than the \$45,971 request. The City of Portland contribution matches that of the County, making a total request of \$91,942 for the year. The budget had already been pared down from the original request of approximately \$96,000.

Since the City intends to match the county contribution, the net effect of the county's action will be a \$6,422 reduction.

During the 1976-1977 budget year, Multnomah County contributed only \$25,000 due to shortage of funds. The city carried more than its share of the operation, providing enough funds to keep the Commission operative with a reduced staff.

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission currently has a staff consisting of a director, a human relations specialist and a secretary. The requested funds would allow the addition of two staff positions.

In the public hearing Wednesday, Vern Pearson, Chairman of MHRC that the plans of the Commission for the coming fiscal year include: a public information project to bring to the community the awareness of differences between groups of people and remind them of the importance of equality; a study of racial discrimination in housing; a Neighborhood Mediation Project which would deal with neighborhood and family conflicts in an informal way, avoiding police contact; study the effect of practices of law and enforcement and the judicial process on

minorities; develop civil disorder contingency plan; study school desegregation in Portland; and continue to provide a forum for grievances.

Nick Barnett, MHRC Director told the County Board of Commissioners, "Now - \$3,211 in comparison to the much larger sums other bureaus need might not be of much impact to them. But for an office such as MHRC, which for the past nine months has had a permanent staff of only a Director, one professional staff member, and one secretary to carry out duties that are mandated to be responsive to an entire County and City the size of this metropolitan area, this obviously puts MHRC's mission in critical jeopardy. . .

"In essence, our request represents a strictly cost-conscious effort to carry (Please turn to page 2 col. 1)

Eugene student earns Achievement award

Brian Rousseve of Churchill High School in Eugene has been selected for a \$1000 National Achievement Scholarship sponsored by IBM Corporation. Rousseve is one of two Oregon high school students selected on the basis of competitive testing in their junior and senior years.

Brian, who is seventeen years old, was born in Hempstead, Texas, on November 17, 1959. He has two older brothers, ages 19 and 20. His father is a professor at the University of Oregon and his mother is a housewife. Brian has lived in Eugene since he was in the third grade.

Brian is president of Churchill's chapter of the National Honor Society, a member of the French Club, and last year was the school's Assistant Budget and Finance Director. With an interest in acting, he played a minor role in "The Emperor Jones." He also served on a community committee exploring alternative schools in the Eugene area.

Brian was selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1976-77" and has received awards for accomplishments in Advanced Placement American History and other social studies and literature classes over the past three years.

He has been accepted by Stanford, Lewis & Clark, and Oregon College of Education and currently is leaning toward OCE. He expects to major in Geography.

Brian was extremely pleased to receive the scholarship award. "The award is quite important to me for several reasons the most important of which is the original objective of the Achievement Program - to recognize and honor the Black students demonstrating exceptional achievement in school and promise for the future. The fact that I have been recognized as one of these students is quite an honor."

Brian attributes his success to several factors: "I am a member of a family that has always taken education seriously and that has encouraged us to do well in school. I've also benefitted from having been taught by some really stimulating teachers from grade school right up to the present. Perhaps most important is the fact that I've enjoyed reading and learning things since I was a young child, and I've been seriously committed to mastering the content of my classes."



BRIAN ROUSSEVE

Vancouver NAACP meets

The Vancouver Branch, NAACP, will hold a public education meeting on April 24th at the Pacific First Federal Hospital-ity Room, 915 Broadway, Southeast entrance.

The topic of the meeting is "Reasons You Should Belong To the NAACP". Speakers include Board members: Bobby Davis, Edith Roeder, Clarence Harris, and Bertha Baugh; Marshall Hudson, Instructor at Clark College and Theodore Baugh, Examiner-Investigator, Real Estate Division, State of Oregon.

Areas to be covered are: jobs, housing, education, civil rights, public facilities, political, emergency relief and others, including the History of the NAACP.

Sherry Davis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Davis, of Vancouver, who recently returned from Brazil as an Exchange Student, will tell us about her experiences. Sherry completed her high school courses there, however upon returning home, she reentered Fort Vancouver High School to finish with her class. She plans to continue her education this fall in college.

Everyone is welcome to the meeting.



BARBARA ANN TEER

Conference demonstrates arts

Barbara Ann Teer, founder and chief visionary of the National Black Theatre, is a liberating force of magical power who takes an audience on a "Soljourney into Truth." She is assisted on this journey by liberators from the National Black Theatre whose creative skills and theatrical expertise have received world wide acclaim.

A Soljourney is a ritualistic revival that tugs at the inner force of all who encounter its presence. And, if you will allow yourself the privilege, Barbara and the National Black Theatre's liberators will show you a way to spiritual uplifting that will allow you to reach inside yourself and experience the love that is (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

were staying longer.

But even these statistics mask several hidden figures indicating the rise in detentions is much sharper, including:

*A growing number of youths sent to adult jails to compensate for cutbacks in juvenile facilities, a practice condemned by reformers for more than a century. LEAA jail census figures show that between 1970 and 1972, when youth institution populations began to drop, the youth populations in local adult jails on a given day shot up from 7,800 to 12,700.

*A trend toward use of private facilities to replace state and local lock-ups. These include everything from large detention centers run by private charities or church groups to small private homes for juvenile delinquents.

Though comparable figures are not available for previous years, the LEAA found nearly 32,000 youths in private detention facilities in 1974. But a look at several states that trumpeted "deinstitutionalization" in the early seventies indicates the decline in public youth prison populations was often accompanied by increased use of private facilities.

In Massachusetts, for example, the number of youths in public custody dropped all the way from 724 in 1971 to 161 in 1974. But by 1974 the state had over 1,000 children in private detention centers.

*An unknown number of youths sent by the courts each year to homes for neglected and dependent children, mental hospitals and institutions for the retarded.

In the early 1970's, several states passed legislation requiring that many "status" offenders-those, like truants or runaways, whose crimes are illegal only for youths-be handled outside the juvenile justice institutions. But no systematic data is available showing where they went.

Much recent research has questioned the effect that diversion of youths from the juvenile courts has had. The bulk of federal delinquency prevention funds goes for diversion programs, but several studies suggest the effect has not been to replace youth prisons.

Instead, as former Massachusetts Youth Commissioner Jerome Miller has argued, such programs have "swept new people into the system who otherwise might have been ignored."

Malcolm Klein of the University of Southern California, for example, recently found that the prime candidates for police diversion programs in the Los Angeles area were minor first-time offenders.

Before the programs they would have been released with a warning by police. Now they are shunted into shelter care (Please turn to page 2 col. 3)