

From behind the wall

by Larry Baker 35021
Salem, O.S.P. Correspondent

Questions Asked Of The Following OSP Inmates Are:

1. Is there a difference between the Black inmates at O.S.P. and those in other prisons?
2. What advantages or disadvantages are there for Blacks at O.S.P.?

by Henry Madden 38967

When asked to state my opinion concerning the difference between the attitudes of Black prisoners at Correctional Training Facility (Soledad), California, I find it to be unfair, to myself, to the Black men here and those in California prisons. One cannot ask an incarcerated man to give an opinion of another fellow prisoner. To me it's like asking me to judge and I can not bring myself to judge another Black man even when I personally dislike him.

Instead of judging attitudes of Black men I would like to state a few facts concerning the difference in prison conditions. In doing this I hope to enlighten the readers as to what causes so much frustration, bitterness and resentment towards the establishment here at Oregon State Prison and at Soledad prison as a personal experience. Keep in mind that prisons have only one main function and it's not to rehabilitate like the establishment wants society to believe. The only function of a prison is to punish.

Each State has its own form of punishment. First I will show you California's then I'll show Oregon's prisons are no more than big businesses with the commodity consisting of human flesh. Like any business there's a man in charge - in this case it is the warden or in modern terms, the Superintendent. There is a chain of command until you come to the worker, in this case, the prisoner. There are a variety of methods one can use in order to control a large group of men, one is fear and another is pacification. California uses pacification. In return for things like being a good inmate one is

by Kenny Anderson 37245

What one fails to realize concerning the true definition of confinement, is that it remains inferior. Freedom is an individual's state of mind; in which his acuity is focused on. My name is Kenny Anderson, 26 years of age; and doing a 7 year sentence for armed robbery. I am originally the product of Washington, D.C.'s own ghetto.

Generally speaking, the institution in allotted certain benefits. By that I mean this, if an inmate is assigned to a job and in the performance of his assigned duty he does well he's given all the benefits. He is permitted to remain out of his cell until ten-thirty at night, one ten minute phone call a week, television in his cell, radio, stereo record player, personal clothes sent from home or bought through the prison canteen (store), unlimited visiting list, unlimited visits one can receive per month, movies once a week, and conjugal visits with legal wife or immediate family members - just to name a few.

Now compare that with the fear method of control used by Oregon State Prison. Here you have only two things - a battery operated radio and one pair of street shoes. One works without pay on most jobs and if you refuse you more than likely go to the hole. A man spends about 14 hours a day in his cell. There are limited visits and visiting lists, no conjugal visits. In other words you are not allowed to do anything unless staff tell you to.

I've tried to give a brief picture of how frustrating, resentful and bitter a man can become after serving long periods of time in Oregon's Prison as compared to California. I'm not saying one is any better than the other because to me as long as I'm confined I'll never applaud any place which confines human beings and calls it rehabilitation. To me there isn't a single solitary place on this earth which is worse than a prison cell and as long as I remain behind these bars I'll never think of myself as a prisoner because one is only a prisoner as long as his mind is.

Washington, D.C. is very flexible. The majority of its population is Black. The ethnicity status is, 1390 Blacks, five caucasians, three Chicanos, and two native Americans. Consequently, anything moving within their channels are Black sovereign. But, the opportunities are very vast; counseling, that an inmate supercedes his askew ways, and motivate his constructive potentialities. As compared to O.S.P., well, every Black inmate here is cognizably considered ignorant. But, ignorance comes in more than one subtle color.

Back in Washington, D.C., one can be assured of at least receiving qualified training, contrary to Oregon. The only benefit an inmate can be reassured of in O.S.P. is animalistic traits, or infinite periods of incarceration for many debilitating years. It's very deleterious, besides being annihilating to a man's spirit.

The time structure is basically the same though; but, one can live in reconciliations of his optimism of functioning once again in society. I hear that Oregon has a matrix or point system where inmates are adjudged from zero to whatever. Then, if this was the case, you can believe that inmates are being judged through speculation, presumption, assumption, and aberration. Consequently, if one has been convicted of numerous crimes, whether petty or felonious, his optimism are very much a resurrected pessimism because he may never walk on Mars again.

In D.C., one has a liberal system and a law was just handed down requiring that inmates become eligible to transitional releases after completing one-fourth (1/4) of their minimum sentence.

But let me reiterate this aspect - there are repeaters acts similar to habitual criminal acts. The imperative difference through, is that an inmate can be afforded an opportunity to exist once again in society providing that his present performance is in the direction of reformation. Normally, not too many receive this nemesis unless they have been a typical infidel for profound periods.

I'm not at all an expert on this matrix system, but I'm very far from being a novice in this game of chance. The odds are verily against every crook; whether petty or white-collar. I've seen what this system can do to a man; subsequently it broadened my perception and made me see way down the road; and, its not getting any better, so uncross your fingers and unwind that Nazi emblem. We're all here in this abyss of hell.

Some have weakened, corrupted and become oblivious. But, for those who are men, be as you are. This is the enmity of life and the genesis of a resurrected nightmare.

Behold! the ones that reject my contentions are the ones being warehoused without any knowledge of it. Its plain as day and night, but yet, very oblivious to so damn many.

by Pete Austin Jr. 39023

BLACKS BANNED IN OREGON

Fair trials have been banned in Oregon for over three hundred years in regard to Blacks. Society says "Not true," we the victims say very true.

I have done time in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and California. The worst jails I have ever been in are Oregon, Texas and New Mexico. Oregon is better in one respect, you don't have to fight for your food like an animal. I have never been harrassed anywhere else as much as in this state. I will not elaborate on my personal case, even though if I had been "white", I would have gotten a better deal.

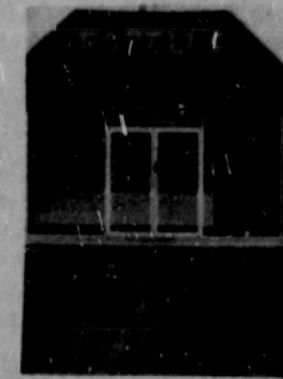
"Wake up" Black people of Oregon! This whole thing has gotten completely out of hand. Look around you out there in the free world. How many families are without their mate? How many more mother's sons, and husbands and fathers are going to be so neatly tucked away here at O.S.P. before you take "Action". If you only knew. Blacks in Oregon are programmed to stay in their place. Have you noticed that not many Blacks are even downtown except for waiting for a bus. The reason for this is that when you cross the river you are on "white man's land".

Blacks are harrassed and even arrested for standing on a corner in downtown Portland. I know. It has happened to me. I have lived and worked in Oregon for five years and still can't believe what is coming down on Black men and women here. In California where I was born and raised a person is naturally innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In Oregon you are automatically guilty if Black and you had better have at least twenty witnesses to prove you are not guilty, and these days that might not be enough.

Black peoples rights are being violated every day. I must stand up for mine. "Freedom and justice for all," who are we trying to fool!



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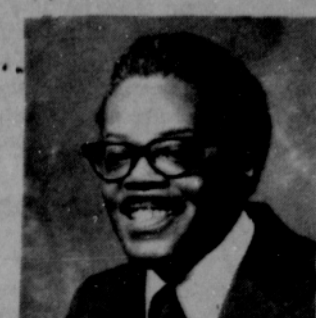
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Rougeau takes Labor post

Weldon Rougeau, Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Bennett Johnston, was appointed Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs in the Department of Labor. The announcement was made in Washington by Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall.

Rougeau, 34, a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, will direct the administration of laws requiring firms with federal contracts and subcontracts to provide equal employment opportunities for minorities, women, handicapped workers and Vietnam-era veterans.

As a Legislative Assistant to Senator Johnston, Rougeau had responsibilities on the Senate Budget Committee, African affairs, constitutional rights, finance, education, government operations, aging, and minority business.

"As secretary of labor," Marshall said, "one of my highest priorities is to strengthen and upgrade the enforcement of the equal employment opportunity programs. The appointment of Weldon Rougeau as the Director of OFCCP is an important step toward accomplishing that goal. I am confident that he will give the Federal Contract Compliance Programs the kind of firm direction that it needs."

Before joining Senator Johnston's staff Rougeau was an attorney with Simmons and Aulston, a New Orleans law firm. He has also served as Director of the Citizenship Education Department of the National Urban League; Director of the Voter Education Project of Southern Regional Council; and Field Secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)



Weldon Rougeau

in Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia during the early 1960's.

Rougeau, who was active in the 1960's civil rights movement, was arrested and jailed in December 1961 and January 1962 during sit-in demonstrations in Baton Rouge, La., and was expelled from Southern University. He subsequently received an S.B. degree in Sociology from Loyola University (Chicago) in 1967 and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1972. He and his wife Shirley Ann have four children and live in Wheaton, Maryland.

Workshop discusses energy

An up-to-the-minute "Report to the People" on how the Oregon Legislature is responding to the energy crisis will be presented at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on Tuesday evening May 17th, at 7:30 p.m.

On hand for this timely presentation will be Dr. Fred Miller, Director of the Oregon Department of Energy (DOE); Walt Pollock, Director of the DOE's Energy Conservation and Resource Development program; and Margery Harris, a conservation specialist with DOE. The panel report is sponsored by the OMSI Energy Center.

The report will focus on bills before the current legislative session which deal with energy conservation and development of energy resources in the state. The bills touch on three major areas of concern - financing and tax incentives for home weatherization; lighting standards for public buildings; and the development of alternative energy sources, including solar, wind, and geothermal energy. One interesting piece of proposed legislation focuses on biomass conversion, a lesser-known energy alternative.

Dr. Fred Miller has been Director of Oregon's two-year-old Department of Energy since October, 1976. Before

joining DOE, he was a Special Assistant for Transportation Policy Research and Special Studies at the Oregon Department of Transportation. He has also been an economic consultant to the Oregon State Highway Department and manager of the Program Analysis and Economics Services Division of the Department of Transportation.

Walter Pollock joined the Department of Energy upon its formation in 1975 and has been responsible for the Energy Conservation and Resource Development program since January of this year. From 1972 to 1975, he was on the staff of the Oregon Nuclear and Thermal Energy Council, a predecessor to DOE.

Margery Harris has been with the Oregon Department of Energy since September 1976. Her responsibility, in part, is to monitor the activities of the Legislature on energy-related matters.

The "Report to the People" on energy and the 1977 Oregon Legislature will take place in OMSI's Main Auditorium on Tuesday evening, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. OMSI Members will be admitted free of charge. There will be a \$2 admission fee for non-members, and \$1 for students. For further information, call the OMSI Energy Center, 248-5920.

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