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O.S.P. Correspondent

## Behind the wall

Julius D. Snowden #38013  
Poetry Editor

It was once said "politics and prisons don't mix." And it's going to be hard convincing some of the young legislators, thank God.

On December 6th you could have found Jane Cease, House District 18, roaming about the prison taping with inmates and employees about the manner in which she could assist those caught up in the criminal justice system. To help straighten out their lives and become productive citizens once again.

Then up pops Chick Edward, District 33, who spent an evening in the Legal Processes Class discussion on parole; while Chalmer Jones and Betty Browne (parole board members) gave a lecture on the history of the Oregon State Parole and what to expect in the future.

The O.S.P. Chicano Culture Club was entertained on December 8th by a large group of Chicano Dancers and actors from the City of Woodburn, Oregon.

A group who call themselves "Vagas" presented "rock and roll" to the entire prison population on the afternoon of December 9th.

A couple of inmates accompanied Don Adams, Coordinator of Community Services, to Taft High School and laid out what prison life is to a group of young students studying "Modern Problems."

"Behind the Wall" awards Thomas Burke as the "Artist of the Month." Hey! Merry Christmas people.

by Linda Cochell #40510

It seems to be easier today for the prison system if all are called

'prisoners.' I understand it has dropped from, 'resident,' 'inmate' (presenting) and soon will be back to plain old 'prisoner.' I also understand it's much easier for staff-type employees to be able just to see everybody in the same stereotype.

Qualifications: be a terrific liar, which is the way some staff think anyway, regardless. Be sneaky, like you would steal the soles off the staff shoes — even while walking. A big bragger — your crime is better than another guy's.

Have lots of money and brag as to where it came from. Be a good fighter and super disrespectful so the staff can unload their mental strain of working on 'prisoners' by writing an extreme amount of disciplinary papers. Even to the 'prisoners' who are stripped down, even while a detective or minister sees. Fair? I think not!

Now if you do not have any of the above qualifications, it will blow the staff's minds. If you have a severe medical problem don't worry, you won't get help — just delayed excuses. If you are religious you will promptly be called a phony and just trying a good excuse to get out of jail. The prisons 'intelligent' responses will be a cover-up.

Have you ever been "on tour" to a jail? Why don't you look at a wall; you'd see more! They tell 'prisoners' to clear ahead. In fact it will be posted. Everything will be spotless before the 'tour' gets there. Also hassles of all sorts are settled. But all in all people walk through seeing not the 'real' thing but what the prison wants them to see. I noticed on one particular tour they were taken only



O.S.P. inmates listen attentively during Legal Process class.

in specific places and any other places requested were explained rapidly.

Why is it the prison and jails cannot be seen as they are — not covered up and not made to look better than they really are?

Why can't the public see actual procedures and ways people are 'allowed' to live? Why are these things so shielded from public eye?

Something doesn't seem quite up to par. Another point — 'tourists' should be allowed, and so should 'prisoners', to ask questions.

What's your feeling on this subject.

Oregon State Penitentiary has recently put into effect these new Visiting Rules and Procedures.

1. PHYSICAL CONTACT — It

is permissible to have one embrace and kiss at the beginning of the visit and one embrace and kiss by the door (adjacent to the restrooms) at the termination of the visit. At the termination of the visit, the inmate will leave the Visiting Room immediately after the above mentioned embrace. You cannot wait at the door with your visitor for the escort.

2. During the visit it is permissible to hold hands with your visitor across the table but that is to be the extent of the physical contact. This means that you do not hold each others elbows, hands on each others knees, or other parts of the body.

3. Couples are not allowed to go to the vending machines or restrooms together. You do not need to escort your visitor to the restroom door and just one of you will be allowed to go to the vending machine area.

4. Inmates may hold babies on their laps during visiting periods.

5. Control of children in the Visiting Room is the responsibility of the visitor and the inmate — they are not to disturb other visitors. Children will remain at the inmate's table or in the playroom; they will not be permitted to play in the visiting area.

6. Tables in the Visiting Room must remain between the visitor and the inmate.

There are reasons for the timidity of the federal enforcement effort against white collar crime. For example, cases are often complex, requiring months and even years of investigation and litigation. Law enforcement officials are also disposed to focus their energies in other directions since the public has so little awareness of the costs of white collar crime and is often distracted by the sensationalism of street crime.

Beyond these disincentives is the nature of the business-government relationship itself. Individualism and belief in the virtue of free enterprise are deeply-engrained in the business mind, and these attitudes contribute to the notion that regulation is illegitimate and that its criminal law against improper economic behavior are not always deserving of respect.

Some critics note that since the business world is a heavy contributor to political campaigns, too rigorous an enforcement policy would not exactly be in the interests of politicians. Furthermore, the revolving-door relationship between the public and private sectors — whereby businessmen work in government agencies that regulate the companies they worked for and ex-officials move into corporate positions — tends to create a cooperative rather than an adversary relationship.

A serious national strategy against white collar crime is obviously needed. To that end, the House Subcommittee on Crime has launched a major inquiry into white collar crime which, hopefully, will prod the government, from the President on down, to go after the boardroom criminal as aggressively as it pursues the street criminal.

(Representative John Conyers (D-Mi.) is Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime.)

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## White collar crime serious problem in USA

by John Conyers, Representative

(PNS) — Four years ago, the United States Chamber of Commerce estimated the cost of white collar crime conservatively at \$40 billion a year, ten times the value lost through property-related street crime. The Chamber figure excluded the cost of anti-trust violations which, according to a Senate staff report, may add as much as \$160 billion more.

Recently, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that, based on its study of \$250 billion worth of federal economic assistance programs, government fraud may rake off as much as \$25 billion annually. Unfortunately, there is no report available of fraud involved in defense contracts and arms sales abroad.

The nature and scope of white collar crime can be gauged by a few examples:

The Food and Drug Administration estimates that more than \$500 million annually is spent on worthless or misrepresented drugs. In the famous Mer/29 case, William S. Merrell Company knowingly sold an anti-cholesterol drug that subjected at least 5,000 persons to serious side effects, including cataracts and hair loss.

Gulf Oil Corporation distributed \$10.3 million to American and foreign politicians in illegal contributions between 1960 and the early 1970s; leaders from Sweden, Canada, South Korea, Italy and Bolivia were among the beneficiaries.

The Equity Funding scandal in 1975 resulted in the conviction of Stanley Goldblum, Equity's chairman, along with several other corporate officials, for their manipulation of the price of the company's stock by inventing thousands of fictitious insurance policies; thousands of shareholders lost their investments.

C. Arnholt Smith was convicted in 1975 of making illegal campaign contributions; he pleaded "no contest" that same year to federal charges of engineering one of the biggest bank failures in history by defrauding his own U.S. National Bank of \$27.5 million, while approving \$170 million in illegal loans.

The Securities and Exchange Commission in 1972 charged Robert L. Vesco, along with twenty individuals and 21 firms, with embezzling more than \$224 million from four mutual funds under their control; Vesco is fugitive living abroad.

But the true extent of white collar crime is unknown because so much goes undetected and the federal government lacks a statistics-gathering capability to monitor it.

White collar crime eats away at

national income through embezzlement, consumer fraud, government fraud, tax evasion, kickbacks, and securities fraud, to name a few of the major categories. It contributes heavily to productivity losses in the workplace, a major source of inflation, which result from negligent and criminal behavior that impairs the health and safety of workers. It cheats consumers of the real value of goods and services they purchase. The pervasive double standard under which street criminals, typically, receive stiff punishment, while white collar criminals frequently get by with slaps on the wrist, creates cynicism toward the law and abets criminal behavior.

Despite the costs and hazards of white collar crime, the federal government devotes a minuscule part of its budget and manpower to its prosecution and control. In the wake of Watergate, Congress has both helped and hindered enforcement. On one hand, it has stiffened anti-trust penalties, but has also blocked IRS cooperation with Justice Department investigations. Resources, training, and expertise devoted to enforcement remain meager. Of the \$2.5 billion in the current Justice Department budget, only about \$139 million (5.5 percent) is devoted to white collar crime. Of the nearly 56,000 Department employees, approximately 4,800 (8.6 percent) work in the economic crime area at all levels. The Criminal Fraud Section, which oversees prosecution of all fraud against the government as well as corporate bribery cases, has a budget of only \$2.4 million and 50 lawyers. The Public Integrity Section, which handles major political corruption cases, has a budget of \$1.3 million and a staff of 25 attorneys.

Many programs designed to combat white collar crime appear to thwart serious enforcement efforts. For example, responsibility for policing such crime is scattered across various regulatory agencies as well as the Justice Department. The most aggressive regulatory bodies, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, are strapped for funds. Many are enmeshed in conflicting mandates, both in policing the industries they regulate and assuring them a good climate for growth. There is no single consumer protection agency to check consumer fraud.

The American Bar Association last year concluded that the federal white collar crime effort is "underfunded, undirected, and uncoordinated," and where resources exist, they are "poorly deployed, under-utilized, or frustrated by jurisdictional considerations."

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