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It must be spring! Portland Observer staff photographer Richard J. Brown discovered this horse parked illegally at an expired meter downtown. What we want to know is: Where will they stick the ticket?

Measures recommended to reduce Oregon prison overcrowding

"A system of criminal sanctioning based on punishment and risk management" is the major recommendation of a report released Wednesday by the Oregon Prison Overcrowding Project. After almost three years of deliberations, the group unanimously recommends that new statistical techniques for assessing offenders' risk to the community be developed and applied in Oregon.

"The risk assessment technology can help us allocate scarce, expensive corrections resources to the offenders who present the greatest risk," explained Sid Lezak, former U.S. Attorney and Chair of the Project. "Risk management, the concept of focusing our resources to reduce risk to the community, can be applied at every point in the system, including arrest, prosecution, pre-trial detention, sentencing, probation supervision, services to address offender problems, prison security classification and parole."

"Under a criminal justice system based on the principles of punishment and risk, resources such as bedspace, probation supervision, and services would be used on offenders who are the most deserving of punishment and those who are most likely to repeat crime," Lezak continued.

Presently, Oregon has no consistent philosophy to govern how to allocate criminal justice resources, the Project report declares. A policy of allocating resources based on punishment and risk management may help relieve Oregon's prison and jail overcrowding problem.

Other recommendations, all consistent with the punishment/risk management model, include the following:

- Creation of a Criminal Justice Council to develop the risk assessment

technology and to coordinate Oregon criminal justice into a system based on the punishment/risk management model. This recommendation is embodied in a bill (HB2093) now pending before the Legislative Joint Ways and Means Committee.

—Development of a full range of intermediate sanctions (punishments which lie between release and prison such as restitution centers, alcohol and drug facilities, house arrest) in Oregon's communities. "A full range of options is needed so that judges and probation officers can place offenders in appropriate settings and conserve scarce expensive jail and

prison space," Lezak commented.

—Addition of language to the Oregon parole statute that "Existing correctional resources shall be considered" in making length of stay decisions for prison inmates. Such a statute would instruct the Advisory Commission on Prison Term and Parole Standards to consider the amount of available prison space in setting the parole matrix.

—Support for accreditation of all jails and prisons by the American Correctional Association, as a means of meeting constitutional standards of confinement and avoiding costly lawsuits.

provide toll-free numbers and postage paid envelopes for use by recipients. It would require prompt processing of recipients' monthly reports and it would set up a grievance system.

Dr. Marc Bendick of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., analyzed the bill. He stated that "nearly 40 percent of adult Oregonians whose total income falls below the federal poverty level have not completed high school. Yet a recent study by Oregon's Executive Department concluded that welfare's forms require college-level reading skills. The requirement in HB 2480 to revise such forms so that they are comprehensible at a sixth grade level directly addresses this problem."

Dr. Bendick indicated that "there will be direct savings to taxpayers in the State of Oregon from implementing HB 2480 from reduced administrative costs due to running public assistance programs clearly and cleanly."

The Oregon Human Rights Coalition is made up of hundreds of poor people. The Coalition works to provide Oregon's low-income citizens with a strong and effective voice in influencing governmental decisions that affect their lives.

Welfare group eyes reforms

"I couldn't get welfare benefits, and the caseworker said, 'Well, if you're so miserable, why don't you just kill yourself?'"

"I send the paperwork on my earnings in on time to welfare, but the welfare department takes so long to process my check that I have to pay late charges on my rent."

"I went to welfare and told them about my family's problem and they said I wasn't eligible, but I was. I had named the wrong program."

"I receive \$386 a month for myself and my two children, and it costs me \$2.45 just to call my self-welfare worker in Medford."

"These are typical complaints of welfare recipients," said Anne Riley of the Oregon Human Rights Coalition. "Hearing these things over and over has led the Coalition to introduce HB 2480, the Adult and Family Services Division Reform Act."

The bill would require the Adult and Family Services Division (welfare) to revise all of its forms and notices so that they meet a readability level of the sixth grade. It would require welfare to screen all applicants for eligibility for all public assistance programs. It would require welfare to

Most Nicaraguans vow never to say "uncle"

by Lanita Duke
GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — One of the first prisoners exchanged in the U.S. encouraged and financed war in Nicaragua, Ray Hooker, said, "The great majority of Nicaraguans will never say 'uncle.' Our country may be transformed into a graveyard painted red, white and blue."

Hooker, of Indian and African descent, was the anti-Sandinista's prisoner for 58 days, from September 3 - October 31. He was captured while campaigning for the New National Assembly which he won. His margin of victory was bigger than Nicaragua's president.

"This is the first time in history that Nicaraguans will decide for ourselves what course our country will take," Hooker said defining his country's stand on self-determination. We will never become another Cuba, Russia or United States. Also, we will not become a military base for any country."

According to Hooker, Nicaragua is involved in a revolution. "The essence of revolution involves a caring and growing process. The revolution must take human beings who have suffered years and years of exploitation and oppression. They must be transformed into new human beings while the country keeps growing. We have a mixed economy. Fifty percent of all our production comes from the private sector," said Hooker.

He added that in the five years the current government has been in power one million people have received land. A brain drain occurred as the result of the government's priority in assisting the underprivileged population.

"We have reduced illiteracy from 50 to 12 percent. Our country is a classroom. We have free education, but a scarcity of educational supplies. But what we have are free," he noted.



RAY HOOKER (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

With 400 international observers monitoring their November election, Hooker said the results were that "Nicaragua's election was the fairest, freest and most honest held in Central America in 25 years."

Hooker is a member of an English-speaking community called Bluefields. He said Nicaragua wants to establish an autonomous government for the Black and Indian populations. "The national identity will be enriched. We have political pluralism in a mixed economy."

The Reagan Administration has

Haitian rights violations cited

Haitian authorities single out potential opinion leaders for arbitrary arrest, torture and political killing, according to a recent report by Amnesty International.

Journalists, opposition leaders and trade unionists have been targeted by the secret police and President Jean-Claude Duvalier's militia, commonly known as the "tontons macoutes" (bogy-men), the worldwide human rights movement said.

Most arrests and detention take place outside any legal framework, without reference to courts, constitution or law, the report said.

Until 1977, arbitrary arrest, torture and killing were widespread and indiscriminate, affecting thousands of victims, the report said. Since that time, most victims known to Amnesty International appear to have been chosen more selectively. "Disappearance" and death in custody, beatings and other torture have not been reported on the same scale, but still occur.

Among those reported to have "disappeared" after arrest, the report names lawyer Labbe Remy, engineer William Josma, who had tried to stand in legislative elections, and labor organizer Rock Charles Derosé. It quotes the torture testimony of journalist Evans Paul, lay preacher Gerard Duclerville and others, and testimony on the beating and shooting of trade unionists.

Political prisoners are often held

incommunicado for long periods, naked or almost naked, in damp, dark and dirty cells in the Casernes Dessalines, headquarters of the SD (Service Detectif), the secret police. This barracks, near the presidential palace, is one of the biggest buildings in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Some prisoners have been held for several years without any public acknowledgement of their detention by the authorities. In the relatively few cases in which political prisoners have been given trials and these have been witnessed by international observers, they have not met international standards for fair trial.

Victims include those who stand up for human rights as well as people suspected of challenging government policy on other issues. Gerard Duclerville, a lay preacher arrested in December, 1982, apparently for his work with the poor, said he was beaten until he asked his torturers to kill him "and get it over with." Released after appeals from the Catholic Church in Haiti and other organizations, he is reported to have needed skin grafts and other hospital treatment as a result of the beatings.

The work of the only independent human rights group in the country, the Haitian Human Rights League, was almost completely halted after a violent raid by men believed to be "tontons macoutes" in 1979. The attack on a meeting resulted in the death

of radio journalist George Michel from head injuries. Dozens of other people were reported injured. Among those beaten up were Salesian Fathers, in whose school the meeting was held.

The report named political prisoners known to have been in prison in recent years who have "disappeared" while in custody.

The report named political prisoners known to have been in prison in recent years who have "disappeared" while in custody.

It cited the testimony of a former soldier and former policeman that prisoners were killed by strangling at police headquarters and their bodies then shot and dumped in areas of Port-au-Prince known for a high crime rate. Former members of the "tontons macoutes" testified that arbitrary killings were justified by those responsible by describing the victim as a "Kamokin" (traitor) or as having "said bad things against the government."

Many people are reported to have been imprisoned for trying to flee the country illegally. Amnesty International quoted eyewitness accounts of such people being arrested and beaten until they were bruised and bloody after bad weather forced their boat back to shore.

Among prisoners of conscience whose cases are described in the report are Sylvio Claude, founder of (Please turn to Page 10, Column 1)