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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

Moral Health of the Nation—There was a general increase in crime across the country during the first half of 1951, as compared with the same period of 1950, with the totals up 5.1 percent in the cities and 4.0 percent in the rural areas. Auto thefts rose 18.6 percent in the urban communities and showed a 20.0 percent jump in rural territory. Larcenies which increased 7.9 percent in the cities were up 12.9 percent in the rural areas. Rape offenses in the urban areas showed a 6.0 percent rise but were down 2.4 percent in the rural communities. On the other hand, negligent manslaughters were down 3.2 percent in the cities while rural districts showed an increase of 2.3 percent. Murders, robberies, aggravated assaults and burglaries declined in both urban and rural jurisdictions.

During the first six months of 1951, personnel in the criminal fingerprint section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation examined 519,451 arrest records, as evidenced by fingerprint cards forwarded to this central clearing house for criminal information by law enforcement agencies of the nation. This compilation is limited to instances of arrests for violations of state laws and municipal ordinances. In other words, fingerprint cards representing arrests for violations of federal laws or representing commitments to any type of penal institutions were excluded from this tabulation. The number of fingerprint records examined exceeded the 402,383 prints handled during the first half of 1950 by 4.2 percent. More than 42 percent (177,279) of the records examined during the first half of 1951 represented arrests for major violations. Persons charged with murder, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft numbered 112,626, constituting 26.9 percent of the total arrests records examined. Fingerprint cards representing arrests of males during the first half of the year numbered 377,507, a 3.6 percent increase over the 364,519 cards received during the same period of 1950. Female arrest prints increased from 37,864 during the first half of 1950 to 41,944 during the same period of 1951, representing an increase of 10.8 percent.

During the first half of 1951, males and females under 21 years of age arrested and fingerprinted numbered 63,592, constituting 15.2 percent of the total arrests. In addition, there were 62,146 (14.8 percent) between the ages of 21 and 24, making a total of 125,738 (30.0 percent) less than 25 years old. Arrests of persons 25 to 29 years old numbered 70,696 (16.9 percent). The resultant total is 196,434 (46.8 percent) less than 30 years of age. It should be remembered that the number of arrest records is doubtless incomplete in the lower age groups because of the practice of some jurisdictions not to fingerprint youthful offenders.

Youths played a predominant part in the commission of crimes against property as indicated by the following figures: During the first half of 1951, there were 98,700 persons of all ages arrested for robbery, burglary, larceny, auto theft, embezzlement, fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, receiving stolen property, and arson; and 29,750 (30.1 percent) of those persons were less than 21 years old. The extent of the participation by youths in the commission of crimes against property is further indicated by the following figures: Of the 30.0 percent of all persons arrested who were less than 25 years of age, persons less than 25 years old numbered 53.6 percent of those charged with robbery, 61.7 percent of those charged with burglary, 45.2 percent of those charged with larceny, and 69.7 percent of those charged with auto theft.

Approximately one-half of all crimes against property during the first half were committed by persons under 25 years of age.—*Uniform Crime Reports, Semi-annual Bulletin, 1951.*

Parliament Honors Retired Head of R. C. M. P.—The Parliament of the Dominion of Canada paid an unusual tribute to Commissioner S. T. Wood of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police upon his retirement after 38 years of service. Justice Minister Garson announced the retirement with a warm expression of appreciation for the services of Commissioner Wood. Mr. Garson mentioned that the Commissioner was literally born into the police service, having been the son of a Mountie, Zachary Taylor Wood, who rose to be assistant commissioner; and that the tradition of public service extended back to Commissioner Wood's grandfather, Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States. Progressive Conservative Leader Drew added: "I believe there are a number of things about which Canadians have some reason to boast. I believe we have a right to claim that there is no police force in the world which commands greater respect than the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. To Commissioner Wood goes our respect for what he has done to maintain its high standard. To Commissioner Nicholson, our best wishes for success in his new responsibility."

Leonard H. Nicholson, M. B. E., director of criminal investigation at the R. C. M. P. headquarters in Ottawa, is now commissioner. He became a constable of the force in 1923, and served for a period of three years. In 1938 he was appointed an inspector in the former New Brunswick Provincial Police until it was absorbed by the R. C. M. P. in 1932. At that time he was granted a commission as inspector and subsequently rose through the ranks from superintendent, assistant commissioner, senior assistant commissioner and director of criminal investigation. Superintendent M. F. E. Anthony has been promoted to the post formerly held by Commissioner Nicholson.—From the *Police Chiefs News*, International Association of Chiefs of Police, October, 1951.

Graduate School of Correctional Service Urged—Colleges and universities (including schools of social service), while usually not integrating their courses under the title of correctional service, albeit sometimes in rather makeshift fashion, have begun to train personnel for various subdivisions of the correctional services. These include police and court work, probation and parole, field and laboratory work in criminal investigation and, to a limited extent, training for employment in correctional schools for children. There is some training, too, for work in jails, reformatories, and prisons for adults. It would be a justifiable expectation that the development of the graduate school of correctional service sometime in the future will result in an equally impressive advancement in the status of workers in the correctional field.

The older custodial reform school or walled prison required of its superintendent or warden no special competence of a professional character. Since the emphasis upon custody has been replaced by other considerations in the modern institutions for juvenile and adult offenders, the untrained political appointee is almost certain to be incapable of meeting the requirements of today for institutional administration. With the introduction into correctional service of the diagnosis, guidance and treatment of offenders, the demand becomes acute for professionally trained leadership. The university training center for correctional service could make a contribution to the administration of correctional institutions and other agencies for juvenile

and adult offenders very much as did the schools of education during the past fifty years in the professionalizing of educational administration.

To achieve the objectives of personnel training in correctional service and to bring the other closely related professions into closer association therewith, it is suggested that a demonstration school of correctional service be developed somewhere with a specially recruited faculty of subject-matter specialists and experienced professional workers. The emphasis here is upon the development of a graduate school of correctional service to organize what is now being done in piecemeal fashion into an ordered, meaningful and better integrated program of training. The graduate school should, if possible, be located in an urban center near enough to diversified local and state juvenile and adult correctional facilities so that ample demonstration or laboratory resources could be made available. Those offerings in the program which involved the facilities of institutions and those of other correctional agencies would resemble the practical experiences of observation and practice teaching in teacher education. Such a university center may also evaluate critically current correctional procedures and stimulate research directed toward study and experimentation for the advancement of correctional service as a profession.

Two major criticisms of present educational offerings in correctional service may be suggested. The first is the obviously insufficient representation of career specialists in correctional service on their teaching staffs. The second is the opportunist quality of the mosaic type of unintegrated curricula. In fairness to those educational institutions which have had the courage to pioneer in the training of correctional specialists, it should be noted at the outset that the establishment of a graduate school for correctional service offers no golden promise for the opportunist promoter in educational administration. Like the graduate schools of law, medicine or social service, the graduate school of correctional service will be expensive to develop. If conducted adequately, it is unlikely ever to be profitable or even self-supporting in terms of enrollment fees and the like in meeting the cost of operation. The great reward to its founders will be the satisfaction of doing something that may make a contribution to the advancement of democratic society.—From an article by Norman Fenton, *The Graduate School of Correctional Service*, *Journal of Correctional Education*, official publication of the Correctional Education Association, an affiliate of the American Prison Association, July-October, 1951. (Mr. Fenton is Deputy Director of Classification and Treatment of the California State Department of Corrections, Sacramento, California.)

Movement of Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories—On December 31, 1950, sentenced prisoners in State and Federal prisons and reformatories for adult offenders numbered 167,173, an increase of 2,046, or 1.2 percent, over the number confined at the end of 1949. Most of the small increase occurred in State institutions. Prisoners received from court in 1950 increased even less than did prisoners confined. They numbered 71,978, an increase of 275—less than half of 1 percent. This was the smallest increase which has occurred in any year since the end of the war. Besides the 71,978 admissions from court, 14,871 other prisoners were admitted. These comprised violators of parole and other forms of conditional release, prisoners returned from escape, and other admissions.

While Federal institutions received more prisoners from court in 1950 than in 1949, State institutions received fewer. Court commitments to Fed-

eral institutions increased by 1,107, or 8.4 percent; those to state institutions decreased by 832, or 1.4 percent. The decrease in court commitments to State institutions in 1950 as compared with 1949 is not inconsistent with the small increase in year-end population of these institutions. The latter increase merely indicates that a smaller number of prisoners were discharged during the year than were admitted. More than 75,000 prisoners received unconditional discharges from State and Federal institutions in 1950. Less than half of these, about 32,500, were unconditional discharges, that is, the prisoners were discharged absolutely. The remainder, about 42,500, were by various forms of conditional discharge, about eighty percent of which were paroles.—Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, 1950, *National Prisoner Statistics*, Number 4, November 27, 1951, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C.

Southern Police Institute—Now under way at the Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, is the fourth consecutive class in Police Science and Administration, which will terminate on March 21, 1952; the spring class begins March 31 and ends June 20. Officials admitted to the school must be full-time law enforcement officers on active duty, with a minimum service of one year in a municipal, county or state unit of government. Preference is given to applicants holding commanding, supervisory or administrative positions in the Southern region of the United States. The courses of instruction include investigation, identification, patrol, communications, records, administration, law, crime prevention, human relations, and police problems peculiar to the south. Students selected to attend the course receive a stipend covering living expenses and a travel allowance. The Institute is financed by grants from the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Southern chiefs wishing further information or the formal application forms may write to Director David A. McCandless, Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, Louisville 8, Kentucky.— *Police Chiefs News*, October 1951.