

1954

Current Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Current Notes, 45 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 195 (1954-1955)

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

Education and Vocational Training in the Federal Prison System—A broad program of diversified educational activities attracted the participation of about three-quarters of federal prisoners in 1953. An average of 9,296 were enrolled in organized general-education classes and vocational-training projects. Some of this number also took correspondence courses, and an additional 2,046 were enrolled in correspondence courses only. Also educational activities of a less formal nature were carried on, including craft and hobby shops, music appreciation classes, current events sessions, and discussion groups. These were operated mainly on a leisure-time basis and consistently brought out large attendance.

In planning the Federal Prison educational program top priority is given to raising the functioning literacy of the 25 to 30 percent of prisoners who fall below fifth-grade level on standardized achievement tests. This group includes many who are totally illiterate and a larger number who can barely read or write. Almost six thousand prisoners were given instruction in the elementary tool subjects this year, and, on the basis of standardized achievement tests administered after varying periods of instruction, more than a quarter raised their educational levels to fifth grade or above.

Comparable class instruction was provided for those at intermediate levels, fifth grade through eighth. An average of about twenty-five hundred were enrolled in classes at these levels, many to augment the instruction they were receiving in specific vocational-training courses, while the prime motive for others was to win academic credits. Of the latter, 145 completed eighth grade and were awarded public-school diplomas. Classes were also provided in high-school subjects, as a result of which, and of arrangements with local school systems,

1,175 individuals were granted credits towards high-school graduation, and 118 actually received State-approved high-school diplomas.

Paralleling the academic program were the vocational-training and job-placement programs sponsored and financed by Federal Prison Industries, Inc. Organized trade and industrial training was offered in 71 different occupations, including machine trades, building trades, and various manufacturing and service occupations. Among the more specialized projects were those for training dental-laboratory technicians, hospital attendants, and airplane-engine mechanics; also, those providing training in the fabrication of prosthetic appliances of various kinds, in typewriter repair, and in the operation of International Business Machines tabulating equipment. An average of forty-one hundred vocational trainees were enrolled. All of these were required to attend Related Information Classes to supplement the instruction given in manual skills.

To assure the maintenance of sound standards and practices in vocational training the cooperation of outside accrediting agencies was enlisted. These include State departments of vocational training, apprenticeship councils, the Agriculture Extension Service, and the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The resulting arrangements for the approval of training courses and for granting of certificates to trainees have not only kept standards of instruction in line with modern techniques and developments, but also have provided important incentives to trainees.

For example, the Civil Aeronautics Administration's certification of the Airplane Mechanics School at Chillicothe, which has been renewed annually for seven years, has assured the maintenance of notable standards in the training of airplane mechanics. This year 45 trainees who

were qualified for engine and aircraft mechanic's licenses were graduated by the School. Fourteen institutions had comparable arrangements with State departments of vocational training under which trainees who completed prescribed courses are granted certificates by the State. As an illustration, the Georgia State Department of Education granted certificates of achievement to 60 trainees at the Atlanta penitentiary. These individuals had completed basic courses in sheetmetal, masonry, welding, machine shop, radio and television repair, baking, plumbing, and commercial art. A total of 1,795 such certificates were issued to vocational trainees.

In addition to training in trade and industrial occupations, organized training in farming as a vocation was provided at a number of the institutions where a fairly large percentage of prisoners come from rural areas and are likely to return to agricultural work. Such training is organized mainly on a short-unit basis and in such specialized fields as dairying, beef production, swine husbandry, poultry raising, field-crop production, the operation of farm shops, etc. On-job training is correlated with classroom instruction provided by professionally trained vocational-agriculture instructors. Six hundred forty men received such specialized farm training. In many cases the assistance provided by local county agriculture extension resources made it possible to so individualize this training as to center it around specific agricultural products and farming situations which characterize the community or area to which a particular trainee expects to return.

Correspondence courses were used extensively to supplement vocational training, to provide a substitute for classroom instruction for particular individuals, and to furnish instruction in subjects for which no teacher was available. There were more than thirty-one hundred enrollments in correspondence courses, of which 635 were to supplement vocational training, and 2,046 as has been mentioned, represented individuals not otherwise participating in organized educational activity. At the year's end, a total of 805 correspondence courses were active, of which 515 were with outside correspondence

schools and 290 were courses developed by our own institutional staff—FEDERAL PRISONS, 1953, United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons.

Symposium on Vandalism—One of the most penetrating studies that has thus far appeared on the subject of vandalism is presented in the current issue of Federal Probation. The symposium consists of a series of papers dealing with important facets of the problem. The following titles and names of participating authors are indicative of the approach: *What is Vandalism?* by Martha M. Eliot, M.D., Chief, U. S. Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; *Vandalism as an Outlet for Aggression* by Hyman S. Lippman, M.D., Director, Amherst H. Wilder Child Guidance Clinic, St. Paul; *Vandalism: Whose Responsibility?* by J. P. Shalloo, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania; *The Answer to Vandalism May Be Found in the Home* by Joseph P. Murphy, Chief Probation Officer, Essex County Probation Service, Newark, New Jersey; *Vandalism and Our Present-Day Pattern of Living* by Chester C. Scott, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Community Services, State Youth Commission, Springfield, Illinois; *Vandalism: An Outgrowth of Hostility, Aggression, and Frustration* by Eli M. Bower, Consultant in Mental Hygiene and Education of the Mentally Retarded, State Department of Education, Sacramento, California; *The Problem of Vandalism in Great Britain* by Hermann Mannheim, Dr. Jur., Reader in Criminology, London School of Economics and Political Science—FEDERAL PROBATION, March 1954, published by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in cooperation with the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

The Fourth International Course in Criminology—The Fourth International Course in Criminology took place in London from the 24th of March to the 13th of April, 1954, under the direction of Dr. Denis Carroll and Dr.

Hermann Mannheim. It was organized by the International Society of Criminology with the support of U.N.E.S.C.O. and the co-operation of The British Council. Held at the Headquarters of the Council, 65 Davies Street, London W.1., it was attended by fifty-five full-time and thirty part-time members coming from seventeen countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and North America, and representing the different aspects of Criminology and Penology, notably Prison Administration, After-Care, Probation work, Psychiatry and Psychology, Sociology and Police Science. The subject of the Course was "Recent Advances in the Study and Treatment of Offenders". The Opening Session was addressed by the Directors and by Monsieur Jean Pinatel, Paris, Inspector General in the French Ministry of the Interior and Secretary General of the International Society of Criminology. Lecturers included Professor Paul Cornil, Brussels; Monsieur Charles Germain, Director General of Penal Administration, Paris; Mr. D. Q. Mulock Houwer, Director of Children's Home Zandbergen, Holland; Miss H. M. Tjensvoll, Lecturer in Criminology, Oslo; and from Great Britain, Sir Lionel Fox, Chairman of the Prison Commission for England and Wales; Mr. R. L. Bradley, Prison Commissioner; Mr. Duncan Fairn, Director of Prison Administration; Dr. H. K. Snell, Director of Prison Medical Services; Mr. John Ross, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office; Mr. Basil Henriques, J.P., Dr. Edward Clover, Dr. Sessions Hodge, Dr. Denis Hill, Dr. Peter Scott, Dr. Maxwell Jones, Dr. John Spencer, Mr. Hugh Klare, and the Directors.

Among the subjects discussed were the treatment of persistent offenders in prison and their treatment by law and psychiatry; Borstal Institutions and After-Care; Approved Schools and Schools for Maladjusted Children; Classification; Detention and Attendance Centres; Institutions for juvenile delinquents on the Continent; Probation; Juvenile Courts and Scandinavian Child Welfare Councils; Police Techniques in the field of Prevention; E.E.C. Studies of Offenders; Hormone Treatment of Sex Offenders; the Ambulant Study and Treat-

ment of Offenders; Group Treatment of Aggressive Psychopaths; and the Psycho-analytic Study and Treatment of Offenders. There were also reports on recent research projects on Prediction; on the work of the London Juvenile Courts; on Mental Deficiency and Delinquency; and on Community Studies related to Juvenile Delinquency. In addition to formal lectures followed by general discussions small informal groups and visits of observation in small groups were arranged—From Denis Carroll and Hermann Mannheim, London.

The Incarceration of the Adult Female Offender—This study of the Adult Female Offender who is incarcerated in the Federal Reformatory for women, and twenty-five state women's prisons, deals with the following specific problems: (1) the condition of health of the inmate as she is received in the prison and what are the health facilities for her at the institution, (2) the status of her education when she is admitted and what kind of an educational program has she in the institution, (3) what vocational skills does she have a chance to learn while in prison, (4) what physical facilities are needed in women's prisons today, and (5) how is she released from incarceration.

Sources of data: the sources of data include case history files of inmates, record files of state correctional departments, published pamphlets of annual reports of state prisons, correctional bureaus, as well as published bulletins of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The author through the above sources of data and his experience in observing the admission procedures of women's prisons, finds that the wardens of such institutions are getting a job of admission and classification well done in most part. One finds a sincere effort on the part of the Classification Board of women's correctional institutions, to try to start the female inmate out in her new environment, constructively. Some state correctional institutions issue to the inmate a handbook of information about the institution when she is admitted to the prison. This handbook gives her informa-

tion concerning her duties and responsibilities around the institution.

The health of the inmate is carefully diagnosed by the institution's physician when she first arrives, before she is assigned to duties or to a vocation in the institution. If she needs hospitalization she is hospitalized; if she needs surgery which cannot be safely performed at the institution's hospital then she is taken to a state or city hospital where her needed surgery is performed. Some inmates have social disease—about 8 percent of them—and the rest are just as healthy (physically) as most women are on the outside of these institutions. Both the state prisons and the Federal Reformatory have excellent well kept hospitals.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS

The educational status of all inmates is carefully checked. Their formal education consists of approximately 10.3 percent illiterate, 24 percent completed 5th grade, 58 percent completed eighth grade, 8.2 percent completed high school, and less than 1 percent completed college. The Federal Reformatory for Women has an excellent academic and vocational program. The author found academic and vocational educational facilities and programs, decidedly lacking in state prisons for women. Eighty-two percent of the inmates were given aptitude tests, and 62 percent of them were not permitted to engage in vocational training because the prisons did not have the facilities, program, and personnel for such work at all.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

All inmates were adequately housed, with the greater percent housed in modern cottages, allowing a single room for each inmate. The inmates' quarters were simple in most prisons but quite clean and attractive. The grounds or campus of women's prisons are attractively landscaped, especially with shrubbery and trees. The inmates do an excellent job caring for laws and shrubbery. More flowers could be grown by inmates upon the grounds of some state prisons for women.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE

The author found the morale of personnel and inmates of women's prisons fairly good. Some inmates indicated that they were not too happy with their lots. Some of the personnel thought they had all the answers; however, many chaplains and cottage supervisors were very considerate of inmates' feelings. The greater percent of all women's correctional institutions afforded facilities for the inmates' hair dressing, and wardens insisted on "good grooming" of personnel and inmates themselves. Good grooming has added much to the inmates' morale, as stated by the wardens of women's prisons. The writer did not observe any corporal punishment of inmates by the prison staff. Some warden's used loss of privilege, such as prohibition of smoking, or loss of off-campus working as a means to discipline some inmates. All correctional institutions had attractive chapels and the inmates were making the best of use of them for their religious life. Chaplains seem to be effective with their religious teaching. Many of the women's prisons had excellent choirs composed of the inmates. The author observed the music or choral director in many of these institutions and she seemed to be getting a fine response in participation from the inmates furnishing music for chapel services or for special holiday occasions.

LEISURE-TIME AND HOBBIES

Some wardens do a good job encouraging the inmate to make use of her leisure time by engaging in worthwhile hobbies. This is not true of all wardens; that is, there did not seem to be any total prohibition of hobbies in all institutions, but some wardens do not seem to be interested in encouraging hobbies of inmates.

SOME SUGGESTED NEEDS

1. More land area in those prisons with less than 20 acres is needed for more out-door work for women. There could be more actual food production, by gardens, and canning plants, in many of the state prisons for women. The Federal Reformatory for Women does a fine

job in furnishing out-door work for women and in the production of food.

2. Educational programs with qualified teachers should be provided in all state prisons; for academic and vocational education. There needs to be more emphasis placed upon commercial education, especially in those state prisons where there are a great many young women inmates.

3. Green-houses should be provided for all state prisons where the inmates could grow flowers.

4. There needs to be a job placement department in all women's prisons, for parolees and for those who complete their sentence—An Abstract from J. Roy Leevy, Associate Professor of Sociology, Purdue University.

Manual of Correctional Standards—For the last two years a special committee, under the chairmanship of Richard A. McGee, director of the California Department of Corrections, has been revising and expanding the American Prison Association's *Manual of Suggested Standards for a State Correctional System*, published originally in 1946, and reprinted three times subsequently. As most association members know, the revised manual was formally adopted by the membership at the annual meeting in Toronto last October. Publication was expected in May, 1954.

With 27 chapters written and contributed to by some 70 top-flight leaders in the correctional field, this manual of more than 400 pages bids fair to become the standard keystone of modern correctional thinking and practice. It is a monumental work, exceedingly well done by a group of experts. Copies may be obtained at \$2.75 each (paper bound) or \$3.75 (cloth bound) by addressing the American Prison Association, 135 East 15th Street, New York 3, New York—(This Jour. 45, 1, 64 f.) **THE PRISON WORLD**, March–April 1954.

First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders—The General Assembly of the United Nations provided, in Resolution 415(V) of 1 December 1950, for the convening, every five

years by the United Nations, of a World Congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The Congress is part of a broader structure, calling in addition for the appointment by governments of individual correspondents with the United Nations Secretariat and for the organization of regional conferences, set up by the plan relating to the transfer to the United Nations of the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission. Thus, the Congress will be, from an historical point of view, the continuation of the Congresses previously organized by that Commission, the last of which was held at the Hague in August 1950.

It is expected that the Congress will be held at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland, from August 22 to September 3, 1955. This is subject to the necessary budgetary appropriation by the U. N. General Assembly. The organization is being planned on the lines of the recommendations that have been made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts in its report dated June, 1953.

The Congress will group three categories of participants, namely:

- (1) Members officially appointed by their governments, who will be experts in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders possessing a special knowledge of, or experience in, the questions of the agenda;
 - (2) Observers of specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations having working relationships with the United Nations;
 - (3) Individual observers.
- The agenda of the Congress will include the following items:
- (1) Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners;
 - (2) Selection and training of personnel;
 - (3) Open institutions;
 - (4) Prison labor;
 - (5) Juvenile delinquency.

These questions will be examined on the basis of the findings of the United Nations regional conferences in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, as

well as of additional documentation prepared at the request of the United Nations Secretariat. In accordance with the above-mentioned Resolution of the General Assembly, the resolutions adopted by the Congress will be communicated to the Secretary-General and, if necessary, to the policy-making bodies of the United Nations. In addition, the program of the Congress will include certain related activities, such as visits to institutions, the showing of films, etc.

Later, the United Nations Secretariat will give further information concerning the organization of the Congress, *inter alia* with regard to the participation of individual observers—From Julia Henderson, Director, United Nations Division of Social Welfare.

London Crime Shows 9 Percent Drop—Information released by the statistical branch of Scotland Yard indicates the number of crimes in London during 1953 was the lowest for 10 years, the Police Chronicle and Constabulary World (London, England) reported recently.

The number of indictable offenses in 1953 was 99,454, compared with 109,392 in 1952, a reduction of 9.1 percent. Practically every form of crime shows a decrease except in the pocket-picking and thefts from unattended cars categories—MICHIGAN POLICE JOURNAL, April, 1954.

1953 Crime Statistics in the U. S.—The 1953 annual *Uniform Crime Reports* bulletin released by the FBI in April shows that an estimated 2,159,080 major crimes were committed in the United States last year. This is the highest total in the history of recorded crime statistics, and it reflects an increase of six percent over the 2,036,510 major crimes estimated for 1952. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, which decreased 1.2 percent was the only category of major crime which did not show an increase in 1953 as compared to 1952. Percentage increase in the other crime categories were: robbery, 8.5; burglary, 8.2; larceny, 5.4; aggravated assault, 5.3; automobile theft, 5.2; rape, 3.8; and manslaughter by negligence, 0.7.

Crime in urban areas of the United States rose 4.5 percent over 1952. The increase ranged from 2.6 percent for rape to 8.3 percent for robbery. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, the only category to decrease in cities last year, was 2.2 percent lower than 1952. Rural crime was 9.6 percent higher than the 1952 total. The only category of major crime to decrease in rural areas was negligent manslaughter which was 5.5 percent lower than in 1952. Rural increases ranged from 0.4 percent for murder and non-negligent manslaughter to 16.5 percent for burglary. According to Mr. Hoover, the estimated number of major crimes in the nation has progressively increased since 1947, when 1,665,110—or 493,970 less than last year—were recorded—THE POLICE CHIEF, May 1954.

ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF CRIMINOLOGY

The fourth meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology for the year 1953–1954 was held on Monday, March 1, 1954. The program was a round table discussion of Group Therapy in the Treatment of Offenders. The participants were:

Mr. Lawson J. Ford, Psychiatric Social Worker, Clinic Manager, Medical Counselling Clinic, Provident Hospital.

Mr. Raymond J. Corsini, Formerly Supervising Psychologist, Psychiatric Field Services, Wisconsin Dept. of Public Welfare.

Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs, Psychiatrist, and

Professor of Psychiatry, Chicago Medical College.

The Moderator: Mr. Henry D. McKay, Supervising Sociologist, Institute for Juvenile Research.

Mr. Ford reported on a current approach by the community, in which group therapy is utilized to deal with narcotic addicts. These are a group 17–21 years old at the House of Correction and County Jail. Some 33 members were treated over a period of two months. Of 17 released during this period, 13 reported subsequently to the Provident Hospital Clinic. Ad-

mission was on a voluntary basis and the role of the therapist was permissive, but authoritative. In order to obtain greater ego involvement the group selected consisted of persons scheduled to be released in 30 to 90 days.

Mr. Corsini discussed some group therapy projects in various correctional institutions. Group therapy may be defined as therapy of the group or as treatment of the individual in a group situation. It is a formal attempt to ameliorate personality or character in individuals in a protected situation. In a legal sense, prisons are prime examples of group therapy, since their intent is correctional. Actually, the literature reports very little on group therapy in correctional institutions. At San Quentin Prison, an attempt was made to enforce group therapy for older sex offenders, with rather favorable reactions. One of the first group therapy attempts in prison was that of Dr. David Schmidt in San Quentin in 1933. A few of the many different types of group therapy are the lecture form, psycho-drama, and group counseling. In 1947, Abrams and McCorkle reported on group therapy with military offenders. At San Quentin some 40 to 50 professional people were engaged in various types of group work. In one instance, a group of inmates were given a choice of 29 days in isolation or 29 hours in group therapy; about 15 men elected to meet three hours per week. The results were not very impressive, although the group receiving therapy committed fewer infractions of the prison rules than a similar group placed in isolation. At the Wisconsin Penitentiary, group procedures proved very

promising. Group therapy is the present great hope of penology.

Dr. Dreikurs discussed some of the theoretical and practical aspects of group therapy. He referred to a survey by McCorkle in 1950 of 312 correctional institutions listed in the American Prison Association. Of 109 replying to a questionnaire, 35 percent used group therapy, including psychotherapy and other forms such as athletics and leader discussion. No role playing procedures were reported. McCorkle suggested the term "guided group interaction" to describe these efforts. In the prisons, group therapy follows a process of first establishing interaction; as a result, values begin to be challenged; new relationships occur and there is a period of confiding; finally, primary group feelings of mutual regard and understanding are developed. Jablonski discussed an attempt to reduce delinquency in New York City. He started group sessions with a gang of six boys. He also intends to work with parolees and probationers who are particularly vulnerable to feelings of isolation. Some types of "Criminals Anonymous" may be in the making. This raises the legal problem of congregating of parolees. Another project is a type of educational role-playing situation participated in by the school with the aim of working through the public's reaction to criminality and the offender.

The annual Spring Institute of the Academy was held at Northwestern University Law School. The main theme in the various sessions was an examination of the problems of predicting criminality.