

1955

Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

To Readers.—The Editors offer this section of the JOURNAL as a publication outlet to workers and students, both domestic and foreign, in all disciplines and professional areas related to the problem of crime and the criminal. Short articles; abstracts; announcements and reports concerning significant conferences; new developments in the fields of crime prevention and corrections, including administration, rehabilitation, parole and probation; the psychiatric, psychological, sociological, and biological aspects of crime and delinquency; significant research under way or completed in any of these areas, and related subject material, are invited.

Address communications to V. A. Leonard, Chairman, Department of Police Science and Administration, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington.

Prison Association Renamed.—By unanimous vote of members attending the 84th annual meeting of the American Prison Association last fall, the name of the organization was changed to the American Correctional Association, Mr. Roberts J. Wright, assistant general secretary, reports.

The 85th Annual Congress of Correction is scheduled to be held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa, September 27 to October 1, 1955. Mr. Wright cordially invites all interested officials to attend. The monthly magazine of the Association, formerly known as *The Prison World*, is retitled the *American Journal for Correction*.

Affiliated with the Association are the following organizations: Correctional Education Association, American Prison Chaplains' Association, International Prisoners' Aid Association, Correctional Service Associates, National Jail Association, Penal Industries Association, Medical Correctional Association, National Probation and Parole Association, and Wardens' Association. Headquarters of the parent Association is 135 East 15th Street, N. Y.—THE POLICE CHIEF. February, 1955.

Action taken to Control Distribution of Objectionable Comic Books.—Several cities and counties are taking steps to ban the sale of objectionable comic books and magazines. In Memphis, Tennessee, a citizen committee appointed by the mayor listed 70 comic books as objectionable judging them on six points: crime, torture, sex, horror, vulgarity and ad-

vertising content. Local comic book distributors have agreed to abide by the decision of the committee. In Miami, Florida, a recently adopted ordinance prohibits sale of crime and horror comic books to anyone under 17 years of age and makes it unlawful for such books to be displayed on the stands with other comic books intended for children.

The New Orleans city council has passed an ordinance prohibiting "the selling, offering for sale, distribution, lending or giving away to a person under 17 years of age any horror comic book, crime comic book, sexually indecent comic book, or comic book portraying deeds of brutality and violence." The ordinance is intended to prevent adults from purchasing the books and giving them to juveniles. Distributors and wholesalers are mainly charged with responsibility for observing the ordinance which includes penalties of \$100 fines, 90 days in jail or both.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed an ordinance creating a board of literature review and prohibiting publication, distribution, sale or gift to minors of obscene publications, pictorial material and phonograph records. In Columbus, Ohio, a citizen advisory committee has recommended that the city council ban the sale of comics or other publications featuring criminal activity. The mayors in four New York counties, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca, and Yates, have begun a cooperative campaign to curb the sale of objectionable comic books.

In the meantime the Comics Magazine Association of America has announced that

a voluntary publishing code to clean up comic books has been established and will become fully effective March 1, 1955. The code prohibits 31 objectionable subjects and establishes advertising standards.

Reflecting general interest in the problem, the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers has issued a model ordinance for control of comic books. The ordinance attempts to control objectionable publications with due regard for decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the state courts.—PUBLIC MANAGEMENT, January, 1955.

Purdue University 1955 Arson Investigators' Seminar.—The Eleventh Annual Arson Investigators' Seminar was held at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, on April 25–29, 1955. Announcements concerning the Seminar were made by Professor Shelby Gallien, Director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. The Seminar Planning Committee met in Chicago on December 13. The agenda included general programming, a review of new subject matter for presentation, and a tentative selection of lecturers. The annual meeting of the International Association of Arson Investigators was held in conjunction with the Seminar—NEWSLETTER, International Association of Arson Investigators, Volume 5, Number 2, October–November–December 1954.

New Technique with Pre-Delinquents in Chicago.—The Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago is attempting to bring needed social services to some of the large number of children who are picked up by the police for acts of delinquency but whose offenses are not serious enough for them to be referred to juvenile court, the U. S. Children's Bureau reports in its news notes on juvenile delinquency.

The JPA is attempting to determine if offering social services to such children and their families will prevent those who are pre-delinquent from becoming delinquent. The project will also determine what form these services should take and whether they should be offered on a city-wide basis.

Initially, the Chicago Police Department is

cooperating with JPA in one police district of the city. To JPA's branch office juvenile police officers and policewomen are making referrals—first or minor offenders and younger children. The JPA staff works with the police officers in determining which parents might suitably be referred to the project office. They will then be offered casework service directly or be referred to another agency better qualified to help them. The family is free to accept or refuse the offer of service.

Supported by a grant from the Wieboldt Foundation, the project is expected to run for a minimum of two and a half years. Inquiries should be addressed to G. Lewis Penner, Executive Director, Juvenile Protective Association, 816 S. Halstead St., Chicago 7, Ill.—THE POLICE CHIEF, January, 1955.

Delinquency Control Institute Schedules Spring Training Session.—The Delinquency Control Institute, University of Southern California, scheduled its spring training session February 28 through May 20, 1955, according to announcement of Director Dan G. Pursuit.

The Institute course covers techniques and control methods to afford specialized training to police officers as well as workers in related fields responsible for handling of juveniles.

Those interested in future enrollment in this course may write for details to Dan G. Pursuit, Director, Delinquency Control Institute, University of Southern California, 3818 University Avenue, Los Angeles 7, California.

College Course Given Inmates by Television.—“Television supplies the ideal answer to some of the problems in the field of correctional education,” according to Donald R. Pelch, supervisor of academic education at the Ionia State Reformatory. Pelch said he believed the Ionia class was the first in the nation to take a college television course behind prison walls.

The first class has eight Ionia inmates enrolled in the Michigan State College telecourse in literature and five arts. “We looked on this as an experiment,” Pelch said, “but now we are convinced that TV classes present the best economical way to broaden the academic

and cultural program in correctional institutions."

Dr. Lawrence McKune, co-ordinator-producer of the MSC continuing education telecourse series, said the college is talking with corrections officials about the possibility of organizing similar classes at Jackson State Prison. "Class interest is high at Ionia, and four of the men are enrolled for college credits," Pelch said. "The four will take their final tests at the prison."—MICHIGAN POLICE JOURNAL, November-December, 1954.

Plans for 1955 IACP Conference.—The 62nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police will be held in Philadelphia from October 2-6, 1955. I. B. Bruce, president of the IACP and chief of police of Colorado Springs, Colorado, recently announced that the Benjamin Franklin Hotel will be headquarters for the conference.

Thomas J. Gibbons, co-chairman of the State Disaster Committee of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and Commissioner of Police, City of Philadelphia, will be host to the conference. Many chiefs of police in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are serving on committee for the conference. The 1955 conference will be the first annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police ever to be held in Pennsylvania.—PENNSYLVANIA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION BULLETIN, Winter, 1955, Edition.

FOA Police Training Program.—The Foreign Operations Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police have entered into an agreement to provide training in the U. S. for 225 foreign police administrators and technicians during the next three years.

The training project is part of FOA's program of technical cooperation in this and other fields of public administration to help underdeveloped countries accomplish their economic development objectives. In some countries improved police administration is necessary for the maintenance of law and order as a basic prerequisite to economic progress. In others, assistance is being requested on specific economic

development problems, such as traffic control in congested areas.

Under the terms of the agreement the IACP, working with FOA, assumes the major responsibility for making arrangements with academic institutions and U. S. police agencies for the specific training program, furnishing technical literature, and supervising the period of study.—PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REVIEW, Volume 15, Number 1, Winter, 1955.

Anti-Delinquency Bills introduced in Congress.—This session of Congress already shows signs of unusual activity bearing on the current serious nationwide delinquency problem.

The Administration, members of the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, and various individual members of Congress have, within the past few weeks, introduced a number of bills on delinquency, related either to the problem as a whole or to particular aspects of it. Several of these bills call for grants-in-aid to the States to help them develop better ways of coping with the problem.

Following is a chronological listing of the bills related to delinquency that had been introduced in Congress as of Feb. 16th.

H.R. 1817—(Introduced Jan. 10 by Congressman McCormack.) A bill "To authorize the expenditure of public funds for the assistance of State, municipal, and other nonprofit youth projects." The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is to allot funds on a matching basis to any State or local youth program that meets the conditions set forth in the bill. (Referred to House Committee on Education and Labor.)

H.R. 2455—(Introduced Jan. 17 by Congressman Zelenko.) The purpose of this bill is the same as H.R. 1817 and the bill is identical in most respects. (Referred to House Committee on Education and Labor.)

H.R. 2543—(Introduced Jan. 20 by Congressman Anfuso.) A bill "To establish a Bureau of Crime Prevention in the Department of Justice," to conduct a continuous study and investigation to discover methods of preventing crime and curbing juvenile delinquency. At least one office of the Bureau shall be

established in each State. (Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.)

H.R. 2818—(Introduced Jan. 24 by Congressman Broyhill.) A bill "To establish a Council on Juvenile Delinquency," with 24 members appointed by the President. The Council shall engage in studies of the methods used by State and local governments, courts, public schools, and other public agencies, and by private schools, associations, and agencies to control and prevent juvenile delinquency. It shall report to the President the results of its studies and recommend a program for adoption by States, local governments, and private groups. (Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.)

H. Res. 103—(Introduced Jan. 24 by Congressman Wickersham.) This resolution creates a select committee composed of seven Members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker, to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of juvenile delinquency in the U.S. (Referred to House Committee on Rules.)

H. Con. Res. 54—(Introduced Jan. 24, by Congressman Wickersham.) This resolution is practically identical with H. Res. 103 except that it provides for a joint committee to be composed of three Members of the House and three members of the Senate. (Referred to House Committee on Rules.)

S. 728—(Introduced Jan. 26, by Senator Kefauver, for himself and for Senators Langer and Hennings). A bill "To provide for assistance to and cooperation with States in strengthening and improving State and local programs for the control of juvenile delinquency." This bill provides for three main types of grants: (1) strengthening and improvements grants; (2) grants for training personnel, and (3) grants for special projects. These grants would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. (Referred to Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.)

H.R. 3222—(Introduced Jan. 31 by Congressman Reed.) A bill "To amend the maternal and child health, crippled children's and child welfare provisions of the Social Security Act

and for other purposes." It incorporates the recommendations of the President with respect to changes in these provisions of the Social Security Act. Under this bill the child welfare provisions of this act pertaining to the return of runaway children would be changed so as to raise the age limit of runaway children for whom Federal child welfare funds may be used and so as to permit the use of these funds for maintaining such children until their return. (Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.)

S. 894—(Introduced Feb. 1 by Senator Wiley, for himself and Senator Thye.) A bill "To strengthen and improve State and local programs to combat and control juvenile delinquency." The bill incorporates the President's recommendations for grants in this field. It provides for two main types of grants: (1) planning, coordination, and training grants; and (2) strengthening and improvement grants, in both of which a portion is to be used for special projects. The grants would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. (Referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.)

S. 957—(Introduced Feb. 4 by Senator Kefauver, for himself, Senators Hennings and Langer.) A bill "To permit any taxpayer who provides a home for any foster child placed in his home by a licensed agency to treat such child as a dependent for Federal income tax purposes." (Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.)

S. 958—(Introduced Feb. 4 by Senator Kefauver, for himself, Senators Hennings and Langer.) A bill "Relating to the handling of juvenile delinquents." Its purpose is to provide for the more effective waiver to State authorities of juveniles who have also violated Federal law. (Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.)

S. 959—(Introduced Feb. 4 by Senator Kefauver, for himself, Senators Hennings and Langer.) A bill "To prohibit juveniles, unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, from going outside the United States without a permit issued by the Attorney General for

such purpose." (Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.)

H.R. 3746—(Introduced Feb. 8 by Congressman Burnside.) This bill is identical with S. 958. (Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.)

H.R. 3771—(Introduced Feb. 8 by Congressman Frelinghuysen.) This bill is identical with S. 894. (Referred to House Committee on Education and Labor.)

S. 1087—(Introduced Feb. 15 by Senator Hennings, for himself and Senator Kefauver.) A bill "To authorize after-care payments by the Youth Division of the United States Board of Parole," in order to give juveniles and youthful offenders financial assistance upon placement from a Federal institution. (Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.)

S. 1088—(Introduced Feb. 15 by Senator Hennings, for himself and Senator Kefauver.) A bill "To assist the States to return runaway children to their own communities in another State." It provides for grants to the States for the development of procedures and services to enable the return of the runaway child to his community as quickly as possible and to provide such interim care as will protect his welfare. These grants would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. (Referred to Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.)

S.J. Res. 44—(Introduced Feb. 15 by Senator Hennings, for himself and Senator Kefauver.) A bill "To give the consent of the Congress to interstate compacts or agreements dealing with the cooperative supervision of juvenile probationers and parollees, the return of runaway juveniles, the return of juvenile delinquent escapees, and for other purposes." (Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.—Persons who wish copies of any of these bills may secure them from their Congressman or Senator or from the House or Senate Document Room, U. S. Capitol, Washington 25; D. C.)—From the Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C.

from Britain reveal that a marked decrease of delinquency in England and Wales has been taking place at a time when the trend in this country has been decidedly upward.

The Children's Department of the British Home Office bases its trend on the yearly count of persons under the age of 17 found guilty of indictable offenses. Delinquency in England and Wales reached its highest point in 1951. The downturn began slowly in 1952, when the number of persons under 17 found guilty of indictable offenses decreased by about 3 percent from the preceding year. This was followed by the sizable drop of 14 percent between 1952 and 1953, making for a total decrease of a little more than 18 per cent for the 2-year period 1951 to 1953.

The decrease in the delinquency *rate*, which gives a more accurate picture of the relative extent of delinquency than do the raw numbers, was even slightly greater. The rate shows the number of delinquents (8 to 17 years old in England) in proportion to the size of the total 8-to-17 age group. During the 2-year period mentioned, while the number of delinquents was decreasing, the population group from 8 to 17 years old was increasing. There was a decrease of 7 percent in the delinquency rate between 1951 and 1952, and a further decrease of 16 percent between 1952 and 1953, making for an over-all decrease of 22 percent. In other words, the delinquency rate of England and Wales dropped more than one-fifth in two years.

Throughout the forties and up until 1951 the delinquency trend in this country was roughly similar to that of England, with minor variations. In both countries there was a rapid increase following the entry of each into World War II, a decline following the war, and a new rise as the "cold war" began and worsened into the Korean War.

In 1952, however, as the British rate began to drop, delinquency in this country continued to climb and in 1953 reached its highest point so far. The estimated number of juvenile court cases in 1953 was 13 percent above the figure for the previous year and 24 per cent above the 1951 figures. In terms of the delinquency rate, the increase was 15 percent between 1951 and 1953. This compares with a

Delinquency Drops in Britain.—Reports

22 percent drop in the delinquency rate for England and Wales between these 2 years.

Trend data for 1954 for the two countries are not in yet. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has estimated that there was a 5 percent increase in serious crime in 1954 over 1953. If this estimate proves to be an accurate sign of what the delinquency trend may be, delinquency in the U. S. continued to increase in 1954.

First UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.—Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, the selection and training of correctional personnel, the use of "open institutions", prison labor and juvenile delinquency will be the main items on the agenda of the First UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders which will be held in Geneva from August 22 to September 3, 1955.

The Congress will bring together experts officially appointed by their governments, representatives of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, and individuals who have a direct interest in the subject. It is expected that some 400 participants will be present. Eighty-four governments will be invited including the 60 members of the UN and Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Jordan, the Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Libya, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Nepal, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Switzerland and Vietnam. Some 55 non-governmental organizations will be invited also.

In the past such congresses were organized by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission which was founded in 1875. But with the transfer of the Commission's functions, library and archives to the UN in 1951, the General Assembly authorized the convening of similar congresses by the UN every five years.

The main agenda and background on its items follows:

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. At the request of the UN, the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission, before its dissolution, revised the

standard minimum rules endorsed by the League of Nations in 1934. The revised draft was submitted to governments and later to UN regional conferences.

The Congress will be called upon to complete and approve the rules, for subsequent action by appropriate organs of the UN. The rules deal with questions such as accommodations, personal hygiene, food, exercise, medical services, discipline, complaints, contacts with the outside world, books and religion in relation to prisoners under sentence or awaiting trial, including those who are mentally abnormal.

Selection and training of correctional personnel. No program of rehabilitation of offenders, however elaborate and progressive, can be expected to yield good results unless administered by personnel adequately qualified for the purpose. The Secretariat will present to the Congress a synthesis of the discussions and findings of various UN regional conferences held on this subject. The Secretariat has also obtained the preparation of about 20 national reports from selected countries describing concrete examples of selection and training of personnel.

Open institutions. The open institution is characterized by the absence of physical precautions against escape and by a system of self-discipline that encourages inmates living in conditions close to those of normal life to use the freedom accorded to them without abuse and thus facilitates their rehabilitation. In addition to summaries of the work of regional conferences and national reports, two special reports will be available. Prepared by consultants, they consider the selection of offenders suitable for treatment in open institutions and the place of the open institution in a penal system.

Prison Labor. This question will be considered on the basis of a general report prepared, in cooperation with the ILO, by a consultant. Information on this item has been obtained by means of a comprehensive international inquiry and covers such questions as the purpose of prison labor (is it a right of the prisoner or a duty inherent in the sentence?); economic and organizational aspects (is prison labor used in

private enterprise, to what extent is it utilized to carry forward public works, how is the problem of competition of prison labor with free labor handled?); and social aspects (how are prison wages fixed, and in what manner is the remuneration used to aid the prisoner's readjustment upon release?).

Juvenile Delinquency. The Congress will be presented with a general report on juvenile delinquency, prepared by the Secretariat, giving a synthesis of the conclusions reached at

regional and international conferences in recent years. In addition, participants will receive a report on practical programs now in operation, prepared by the London Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency. These undertakings deal with child and family guidance clinics, juvenile aid bureaus, educational programs aiming at discovery of behavior problems and specific preventive programs on a country basis.—From the Press and Publications Division of the United Nations.

ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF CRIMINOLOGY

The third meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology for the year 1944-1955, was held on Monday, January 31, 1955. The program was as follows:

"The Professional Organization of Correctional Agencies" . . . Dr. Lloyd E. Ohlin, Director, Center for Education and Research in Corrections, University of Chicago; Administrative Assistant in Corrections for the Sheriff of Cook County, and Associate Editor of this *Journal*.

Discussants: Henry D. McKay, Sociologist, Illinois Institute for Juvenile Research and the Chicago Area Project, and Ben S. Meeker, Chief, U. S. Probation Officer, Northern District of Illinois and Associate Editor of this *Journal*.

Mr. Edward H. Stullken, President of the Academy, opened the meeting and introduced the main speaker, Dr. Lloyd E. Ohlin. A resume of his report follows:

The Center for Education and Research in Corrections was established in 1953 through the support of the Russell Sage Foundation, as a joint project with the University of Chicago. (See this *Journal*, 45, No. 3, Sept.-Oct., 1954, 311-312.) Personnel in addition to the Director consists of Professor Frank Flynn, Assistant Director, and two research assistants in social work and sociology.

The Center has aimed towards exploring the possibilities of developing programs of education and research that will be effective in professionalizing the correctional agencies. A

basic premise is that the careers of offenders are significantly affected by their experiences in the correctional settings. The nature of these correctional institutions therefore becomes an important focus for analysis. How are they organized? How are they changing in character under new influences such as those of the social work movement? How do they affect the offender in defining his role and in changing the nature of the groups with which he identifies?

At present the Center is surveying the adult field mainly. Some important observations are emerging. Correctional institutions represent a social system in which there is conflict between the informally organized inmates on the one hand and the formally organized administration on the other. At times this conflict almost simulates trench warfare with the inmates probing the defenses constantly in order to better their position. Systems of control between the two groups develop. One of the problems for study is to examine this interlocking system of controls and expectations.

A number of studies are now going on along these lines: Sheldon Messenger in California is evaluating treatment possibilities in an authoritative setting. Richard M. Cleary (author of "Strange Journey") is studying basic attitudes of inmates, for example, their use of terms such as "fink" or "rat" as informal control devices which the core group of inmates utilizes to establish distance between other inmates and the administration. McCorkle at the Trenton, New Jersey Prison which experi-

enced some very destructive riots has been instituting new systems of control through isolating inmate leaders from the core of long term offenders and by changing the organization of the guards. Donald Cressy in the Wisconsin correctional agencies is attempting also to change the systems of control.

The goal of the professional in the correctional field is to establish effective controls that will represent a continuing rehabilitation process from the time of arrest through imprisonment and the period of release. In this connection the Center has studied the operation of group therapy programs in prisons and reformatories. It is observed, for example, that these programs result initially in a release of marked aggressiveness. One hypothesis to explain this is that the therapy program produces changes in the cohesiveness of the inmate group and in their informal criminal value systems. The aggressive behavior by participants in group therapy may therefore represent attempts to demonstrate to fellow inmates that they are still anti-administration in their identification. Group therapy and other professional programs may violate inmate-established systems of control and thus produce greater tension for the inmates involved who tend to become isolated from their former associates.

Another instance of some of these forces was evaluated in a study of the Army Rehabilitation Center in Pennsylvania. The goal of this institution is to return the inmates to active army service. Sixty to seventy percent of the inmates express conformity to this aim officially but within their own group no one expresses it. This illustrates the kind of adjustment often made by inmates in systems where there is marked social distance; on the one hand an official adherence to conventional value systems, and on the other hand an identification with the anti-social values of their fellow inmates.

As part of this program a study is being made of the personnel in the Wisconsin probation and parole services. Intensive interviews have been conducted. Two main types of probation and parole agents are observed, the idealistic and

the realistic. These differ in their philosophy, background, and measures of performance. The idealistic type adheres to conventional middle class values; he takes a paternal or friendly role. The realistic or social work types sees his function as promoting the welfare of the community by aiding the defendant's adjustment.

Agencies in the period of transition or growth are coping with problems of staffs where both types of workers are employed. A struggle for control may be present because of some points of conflict. Different concepts of the job may produce aggression. There is a problem of coordinating older untrained workers with new professionally trained people. The "old timers" can promote a bureaucratic set up and resist changes. Older workers may set up defensive clique groups and develop protective systems. The social workers also may have conflicts about working in an authoritative setting. Pressures towards emphasis on their arrest and surveillance functions conflict with their professional ideals regarding treatment.

It is of central importance to define clearly the philosophy, the structure, and the role and functions of these various operating agencies. This can yield a basis for effective changes. These problems need continuous research and this is a main purpose of the Center for Education and Research in Corrections.

The meeting was then turned over to the first discussant, Dr. Henry D. McKay. Dr. McKay reviewed the trend toward the introduction of professional workers in the field of correction. This he indicated represents a social movement with certain characteristics. We may view this new movement critically in terms of some of the myths by which it is sustained. First there is the assumption that non-professional workers are not competent. This may be viewed skeptically; education is not always the best qualification for treating people. Non-professional persons may be just as effective as professionals. The old-timer probation officer is not always the worst one. Another myth is that we have available tested and workable techniques. We may even suggest

that the introduction of scientific methods into some institutions can do great harm. Another question to consider here is whether the public is really interested in rehabilitation, or whether their aim is punishment of offenders. This dilemma is still with us. As for the professional person themselves, they may not always be qualified even with training; and even the better workers may get caught between the contradictory demands of this system. The pressures in institutions are toward getting the professional person to go along and to compromise if he is to make a good adjustment himself.

Another basis for criticising the movement toward the introduction of social workers in the probation and parole field is that to some extent it represents a class movement. Decisions by professional workers tend to conform to their system of middle class ethics, which may not necessarily be the beliefs held by others. We tend to view professional programs with some bias and to explain negative results with conventional rationalizations. In short, we as professional workers in this field need to evaluate ourselves critically.

The second discussant, Mr. Ben S. Meeker, then related his own experiences in getting into

the field of probation. It was necessary, he found, to acquire social work concepts and training. The issue is not simply that of professional versus non-professional. It is important to recognize the value of intuitive skills even in the absence of training. The virtue of proper selection and training is that persons with intuitive aptitude will be strengthened. There is a question as to how much professionalism is good in a particular field. The type of research conducted by the Center will enable us to synthesize knowledge from different fields. There are many important problems. For example, the problem of administrative control as related to the treatment potential of the defendants. Professionals cannot operate efficiently in an entirely authoritative set-up. In some German prisons, for example, professionals were in complete control and this provided a different climate for rehabilitation. In the Navy one experience may be cited of a disciplinary barracks where the entire administration was changed over from a disciplinary to a professional regime. Remarkable changes were carried out and sixty percent of the men were returned back to duty.—From A. A. Hartman, Vice President.