

Publishers of
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS
AND WORLD LEPROSY
- Howard W. L'Hommedieu

An end to monopoly — in government, banking, land, patents, mergers, trade unions, medicine.

Rational, humane laws. Prisons abolished; replaced by fines, with psychiatric treatment if necessary.

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Assess full ground rent, without exception, for ethical revenue source, low improvement taxes, an end to speculation. Choice of sites at true rental value will ensure a surplus of safe employment, at wages equal to one's production.

KIND & USUAL PUNISHMENT

The Prison Business

-Jessica Mitford

Government restitution for official or private injuries. Polygraph tests to be accepted as evidence.

Almost every sentence of this book makes one curse the hell out of government, for being comprised exclusively of thieves, liars, hypocrites, indifferent, callous, cold-blooded sadists, insensitive zombies, and blanket-blank-blank-blank-blank-blank so-and-so's, if not for planning what goes on in prisons, then for not setting up constant independent checks to prevent it, providing restitution for government iniquities, and legal acceptance of voluntary truth tests to verify them. This most ominous book on penitentiaries (treatment-oriented correctional institutions), arbitrarily controlled by wardens and guards (correctional officers), in which prisoners (patients) have their characters improved (at least changed) by assorted painful, dangerous drugs, to alter the mistakes nature made in their gene structures, administered according to the whimsies of psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists and lawyers, but always subject to the sadistic Custodial Division (as if most shrinks weren't sadistic enough, in addition to being empty-headed), which compound the usual physical brutality (negative reinforcers), of clubbings, lashings, chainings, filth, stink, insects, tear gas, Mace, prolonged insanity-producing isolation (sensory deprivation), with the club of indeterminate sentences reducing most "patients" to a paralyzed despair (of 135 inmates paroled from Patuxent—a "total treatment" facility—46% had served beyond their expired sentences) states that they are planned for an ever larger segment of the population—\$ 6 billion for new construction this year, an annual amount expected to double soon. They are our new legal concentration camps (fitting in with the Omnibus Crime Bill, which, in effect, defines a criminal as someone the Establishment doesn't like.)

"Studies made by clinical psychologists of prison populations demonstrate that those behind bars compare favorably with the general population in intelligence." "A study of 1,700 New Yorkers weighted toward the upper income brackets, who had never been arrested for anything, and who were guaranteed anonymity, revealed that 91 percent had committed at least one felony or serious misdemeanor. The mean number of offenses per person was 18. Sixty-four percent of the men and 27 percent of the women had committed at least one felony for which they could have been sent to the state penitentiary. Thirteen percent of the men admitted to grand larceny, 26 percent to stealing cars, and 17 percent to burglary. When wealthy high school seniors in Piedmont, Cal., committed arson, vandalism, breaking and entering, assault, car theft and rape, they were released to the custody of their families, with no formal action taken against them. In the same week, a nine-year-old Black boy, arrested for stealing a nickel from a white classmate, was charged with "extortion and robbery," and imprisoned for six weeks, awaiting a court hearing. There is considerable lying about crime statistics, murder, as a percentage of the population, being down 30% since 1933, robbery down 15%; while 88% of murders occur within the family or among acquaintances, and only 25% of aggravated assault cases are unacquainted. Uniform Crime Reports don't include murder, assault or theft by police or prison guards (an estimated 200 in "Bodyville," at the Cummins Prison Camp in Ark.), or corruption of officials by organized crime, and illegal monopolies, collusion, defective merchandise, stock and commodity manipulations. (Positive law is highly discriminatory. We need democratic mediation.)

Blacksville No. 1 coal mine, 9 dead, 485 safety violation citations in four years; Sunshine Mining, 91 burned to death, 14 fire and safety violations in 21 months; Lockheed Shipbuilding & Construction, accused of wilful negligence in San Fernando Tunnel explosion, killing 14; from 8% to 15% of all food in U. S. is contaminated,

and over 3 million a year are made seriously ill by it. A New York Times authority on police estimates that 75 % to 80 % of New York police take graft, construction costs being up 5 % because of it. Crime-prevention squads average \$ 1500^{no} from addicts and pushers, become pushers themselves, of confiscated heroin; and order stolen goods as the price for laying off. Between 1963 and 1968 police officially killed 1805 men and 21 women in the U. S.-about half Black ("Justifiable Homicide"). 362 policemen were killed by civilians. The New York Police Dept. said that they killed 50 persons in 1971, while the medical examiner reported only 16. 1826 official deaths reported for five years may be grossly understated. In 1790 there were only three statutory crimes; by 1950 almost 600. Sumptuary laws, creating crimes without victims, should be repealed. Jails are kept atrocious, to induce acceptance of plea bargaining, whereby the accused pleads guilty to the least of several piled on charges, even if completely innocent. Sentences are more than twice as long for those demanding a trial. 90 % so settled.

"Therapeutic practices" are often disciplinary threats: painful electric shock, insulin shock, (producing coma), fever treatment, hydrotherapy. Amytal and Penothal interviews, spinals and cisternals (insertion of needle into spinal cord). " I would like to have you think in terms of deliberate changing of human behavior and attitudes by a group of men who have relatively complete control over the environment in which the captive population lives." A doctor who trained flatworms to traverse mazes by administering painful electric shocks, "now proposes to apply similar techniques to convicts." "We'd probably have to restructure his entire personality." Sensory Deprivation: Indefinite confinement in a vile Adjustment Center, subject to any treatment fancy dictates. Stress Assessment: Lack of privacy in open dormitory, worst jobs, badgering in group therapy, to determine boiling point. Chemotherapy: Use of drugs, some experimental, as "behavior modifiers," including antitestosterone hormones, chemically castrating subject, and Prolixin, which may induce a catatonic-like state, nausea, loss of appetite, constipation, blurred vision, glaucoma, bladder paralysis, impotency, liver damage, hypotension severe enough to cause fatal cardiac arrest, and cerebral edema." Also, perhaps, a palsy-like syndrome. Aversion Therapy: Medical procedures causing pain and fear, to change behavior. Neurosurgery: Removing portions of brain to end "aggressive behavior." Anectine, a derivative of poison curare, causes loss of control of voluntary muscles, including those used for breathing, inducing sensation of suffocation and drowning, and a terror of being about to die.

"The World Medical Association in 1961 proposed that prisoners, 'being captive groups, should not be used as the subject for experiments.'" American doctors opposed. Medical experiments are carried out in 44 of our prisons, at great savings to drug firms, and profits to doctors, hospitals in prisons, prison officials, but at considerable pain and disabilities to prisoners, usually paid only \$ 1 a day, with no recourse for damages, but desperate for any money, as they may earn nothing, or as little as 2 ¢ to 16 ¢ a day. Hundreds of Ill. and N. J. prisoners were infected with malaria in 1944, some becoming extremely ill, and others suffering horribly from experimental cures. In 1960 prisoners in Ohio and Ill. were injected with live cancer cells and blood from leukemia patients, "Time" magazine reported; also that Okla. doctors were making \$ 300,000 a year from drug firms, for testing new drugs on prisoners. In 1969 the New York Times " reported hundreds of inmates seriously diseased, with many dying, often painfully, in programs in three states. Cholera, typhoid fever, viral respiratory, and viral diarrhea studies are currently being conducted at the Maryland House of Correction, under a grant from a div. of HEW. The dose for the first two will produce disease in 25 to 30% of the victims. Nearly all Phase I testing, the most dangerous, is on prisoners.

The abolition of prisons has been advocated by thoughtful students of the subject for 100 years. A 1972 Conference looked toward the end of prisons, the immediate end of bail, indeterminate sentences, forced treatment; and favored permission to organize. The Prisoners Union demands all civil and human rights for the prisoner, which would lead also to the end of prisons. Clarence Darrow: "The only way...to abolish crime... is to... Make fair conditions of life. ...Abolish the right of private ownership of land, abolish monopoly, make the world partners in production, ...in the good things of life." (For "land," read "land rent.")