

Post 10/14/71 U.S. Aide Sees Shift On Prisons

Associated Press

Jerry Leonard, head of the government's agency to help fight crime, says fortress prisons where prisoners are "locked away and forgotten" are outmoded. He added that requests for federal funds to build such institutions have been rejected.

Leonard said he is convinced that in a relatively short period of time "there will be an entirely new approach to corrections in this country."

He added that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is going to see to it that there is a new approach. He gave his views in a copyrighted interview in the magazine U.S. & World Report.

Leonard is head of the LEAA, which has some \$700 million to distribute this year around the country to help fight crime.

In the first three years of LEAA, he says, some 50 per cent of the funds went to police, 40 per cent into corrections and 10 per cent into courts.

Now, he said the order of priorities is changing, adding: "We have got to put more money into the courts."

Leonard also said the LEAA is deeply concerned about improving the correctional system.

A principal priority in LEAA, he said, is to develop techniques "that make rehabilitation more probable by keeping the offender in the community, where he usually has family or other ties."