

Sen. Cook ^{Post} _{1.1.72} Urges Probe Of Prisons

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Sen. Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) called Friday for a congressional inquiry into rehabilitation programs of federal prisons, with James R. Hoffa as leadoff witness.

Cook said Hoffa former teamster union president freed Dec. 23 from Lewisburg, Pa., prison through commutation of his sentence by President Nixon, "would be able to testify without stress and at length on the apparent unworkability of our rehabilitating programs" for prisoners.

Hoffa said after his release that the rehabilitation program at Lewisburg, considered one of the more advanced federal prisons, was woefully inadequate. Hoffa has indicated he plans to agitate for prison reform.

Cook, the ranking Republican member of a Senate Subcommittee on National Penitentiaries, asked Sen. Quentin N. Burdick (D-N.D.) the chairman, to schedule hearings early in the new session of Congress on effectiveness of rehabilitation programs.

"Since four of five crimes are committed by repeaters," Cook wrote Burdick, "it is imperative that new steps be taken to make rehabilitation programs more effective and to curb a rising crime rate."