

# Burger Asks Prisons to Let Inmates 'Regulate Some Limited Part of Lives'

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Chief Justice Warren E. Burger called upon the nation's

prison administrators today to

start "communicating" regular-

ly with their prisoners and to

let the prisoners "regulate

some limited part of their

lives, however small."

"We cannot turn the man-

agement of a prison over to

the inmates," he said in a

speech prepared for delivery

here tonight, "but society, as

represented by the "keepers,"

can listen to what the inmates

have to say."

And to the extent that it is

"feasible and consistent with

orderly administration," he said,

prisoners should be allowed to

exercise some measure of "de-

liberation and choice."

"If we tie a person in a

chair for a long time, we can

hardly be surprised if he can't

walk when we let him loose,"

Justice Burger said. "Within

limiting regulations necessary

for basic order, inmates should be allowed to think and walk and talk as we will demand that they do when they are released."

The Chief Justice's address to the 350 penal experts invited by the Justice Department to a national conference here also called for the separation of "in-prone inmates"—particularly "riot-prone inmates"—from other prisoners.

Holding that the recent riots at Attica and San Quentin had in a forced the nation to "re-examine" the attitudes and techniques of its prison system, Justice Burger said that it was "particularly important today" to give "very high priority" to improving the classification of prisoners.

"Those who would disrupt and destroy a penal institution must be separated to protect those who are trying to learn and to prepare themselves for the future," he said. "Every inmate has a right to be insulated from those who are bent on lawless acts."

He said that the prison prob-

lem was of "terrifying magnitude" and that he hoped the delegates would address themselves to "just a few of the most urgent but soluble problems." "We must be content with modest progress and small victories," he said.

Among other "urgent needs" that he cited were speedy disposition of cases in the courts, careful training of personnel and adequate compensation and "decent living conditions" in the prisons.

**Mitchell's Plan Applauded**

On the subject of better living conditions, he said that the prison riots had demonstrated that more was needed than "good plant and equipment." On the need for a better trained correctional staff, he applauded Attorney General John N. Mitchell's announcement yesterday of plans for a national corrections academy.

The Attorney General, who convened the conference at the direction of President Nixon, appears to be giving priority to this plan. Today, he asked that

the conference delegates try in their workshops to develop ideas, such as curriculum, for the academy.

The Chief Justice asked for athletic and other recreational facilities for prisoners and also for educational programs. "We should develop sentencing techniques to impose a literally 'learn his way' out of prison as we now try to let him earn his way out with 'good behavior,'" he said. "We

in addition, he said, "We should make certain that every inmate works and works hard,"

"With countless thousands of law-abiding citizens moonlighting on second jobs to make both ends meet, there is no reason why every healthy prisoner should not be required to work to earn at least part of his keep," he said.

The Chief Justice's talk, like most of the speeches and discussions since delegates began arriving Sunday, had about it an air of grimness. But in a speech earlier in the day, a

Federal judge offered one note of cheer.

Speaking of prisoner rights, Judge William B. Bryant, district judge in the District of Columbia, said:

"The assertion of these rights to their very limits is probably the most meaningful step in the business of rehabilitation," for if the prisoner is "aware that the navel cord which connects him to the human race hasn't been severed, there is a chance the prisoner can still be reached."