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S.F. Attorney

Lewis Urges

Penal Reform

New York

Marvin E. Lewis, San Francisco attorney and president of the American Trial Lawyers Association, yesterday characterized the nation's prisons as "warehouses for storing human bodies," and called for several reforms including regular sexual contact with wives and sweethearts.

Lewis, 64, said that outbreaks such as those at the Attica Correctional Facility in western New York State and San Quentin in California underline the need for prison reform.

"We've kept the penitentiary as a place to do penitence," he said. "It's going to cost the public more in the long run if prisons aren't reformed."

When he was elected president of the 30,000-member association one month ago, Lewis established a committee, headed by noted criminal lawyer F. Lee Bailey, to look into prison reform.

"I had the feeling that prisons were pots about to boil over," he said. "They're warehouses for the storage of human bodies without any real attempt made to rehabilitate them."

Lewis, who said, "I don't claim to be an expert on prison reform," mentioned several areas the committee may look into.

He said he felt prisoners should be allowed regular visits from wives and sweethearts with facilities provided where they could have sexual relations. He also proposed that all guards should attend annual courses on penal reform. *United Press*