

Recommendations

Prison Board: More Guards

SACRAMENTO — (UPI) — The State Board of Corrections, has agreed to recommend the immediate hiring of 403 new employees, including 318 guards, for California's prisons.

The board also decided yesterday to propose to Gov. Reagan that its members personally visit various institutions such as San Quentin and discuss issues with both prisoners and employees.

The two actions will form the basic recommendations of a short-range report to Reagan on improving safety and security at California penitentiaries where violence has claimed 18 lives this year and 33 since January, 1970.

Second Report

A second, more intensive report into the causes of prison violence and state correctional policies will follow later.

A total of 403 more prison employees, including 38 additional guards for San Quentin and 46 for Folsom, was proposed earlier by State Corrections Director Raymond Procnier.

James Hall, board chairman and secretary of the Human Relations Agency, said the estimated \$3.2 million ex-

tra cost of hiring the proposed employees would come from federal funds and by cutting back budgets of certain existing programs within his agency.

Tight Year

This would preclude asking Reagan and the Legislature for an emergency budget augmentation in an already fiscally tight year.

Hall said the expected federal funds are due the Human Resources Development Department but could be diverted to beefing up prison staffs. He said the federal money had not yet been claimed by the department.

Hall did not elaborate on what areas under his jurisdiction would be cut back, adding, "we're going around the agency trying to find programs of lesser priority."

The board agreed to recommend to the Governor that it make on-site inspections of prisons sometime in the future to meet with both guards and inmates.

Hall said he envisioned the proposed meetings at the institutions as open to "at least the press and maybe some members of the public. It depends largely on what the inmates want."