

Convicts Meaner, Declares Younger

WHITTIER (UPI) — The state prison population in California has shrunk in the last few years from 28,000 to 21,000 but the smaller it gets the meaner it gets, Attorney General Evelle J. Younger said.

Speaking before members of six Rotary Clubs from the area, Younger said that in 1960, 30 per cent of all men convicted of felonies went to prison but today it is only 10 per cent.

A state policy adopted several years ago of paying counties to put convicted felons under local probationary supervision rather than sending them to prison was a major factor in the decline of prison population, he said.

"Only the most dangerous and most violent are in prison today," he said. "Over half of those in prison are there for felonious assault, rape, robbery or homicide.

"Also the campus revolution has moved on to the prisons and into the prisons. The revolutionaries want to use the desperate, violent men that make up a large part of the

prison population and these prisoners want very much to be used.

"Once the prisoner believes that he is in prison not because he held up a bank and shot a teller, but because of his radical political views, he

begins to act like a martyr and is less responsive to reasonable discipline.

"So these men in prison are not average men. Most of them have repeatedly demonstrated that they cannot or will not control themselves

and, further, that they cannot be controlled except by varying degrees of force.

"Many would not hesitate to kill a guard or fellow inmate in order to escape. The prison population is becoming increasingly hard to handle."