

Report Says Close Folsom And Quentin

By Tim Findley

An extensive and high-powered report under consideration by the State Board of Corrections recommends abandoning California's two maximum-security institutions, Folsom and San Quentin Prisons.

Less dramatic but of more impact in the report commissioned last year and completed in June, is a recommendation to abolish the eight-man Adult Authority and end or modify the State's indeterminate sentence procedure.

The State Board of Corrections has been quietly reviewing the report for at least two months, but struck to an official "no comment" on the 1000-page three-volume report yesterday.

Details of the report, however, have been leading out of Sacramento since August.

REVIEW

No immediate changes were expected to result from the report, but State Board of Corrections Chairman James Hall said the board is still reviewing the document and will probably make final recommendations on it by the end of November.

Some administrative changes recommended could be done by the Department of Corrections or the Governor, but others, including the abolition of the Adult Authority, could require legislative action.

The Chronicle learned that at least three drafts of the report have been submitted

to the Board of Corrections. A final draft was submitted June 28, but some of its recommendations were later changed.

VIOLENCE

The study, financed by \$250,000 in federal funds, was commissioned last year before major violence broke out at San Quentin and Attica prison in New York.

The Chronicle learned that the Board of Corrections had intended to make its recommendations on the report in September, but delayed that because of the violence at those two institutions and

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publicity surrounding the incidents.

In the meantime, the Board of Corrections has completed a series of recommendations growing out of the violence at San Quentin. The recommendations reportedly include some measures for beefing up security and building a new maximum security institution — recommendations that contrast sharply and nearly contradict the report on the eight-month study that resulted in the elaborate report on California corrections.

FORCE

A task force of 57 criminologists and penologists headed by Robert Keldgord, former senior deputy in the Alameda County Probation Department and a member of the Bay Area Social Planning Council, completed the study.

San Quentin and Folsom prisons are termed in the report, "ugly and depressing," with "decent living conditions almost unattainable" in them.

The report urged that both be abandoned and that correctional programs be focused on local and county levels with emphasis on rehabilitation.

"The system," the report declared, "should always choose the least restrictive

alternative."

It also called for a "minimization of force" in prisons, "not out of leniency, but simply for best results in maintaining order."

"... Control by force and threat of force fosters rebelliousness," the report said.

The biggest jolt to the State's prison system was delivered in the report at California's often criticized indeterminate sentence procedure and the Adult Authority.

One section of the report recommends abolishing both the Adult Authority and the Youth Authority and reorganizing them as parole boards with more limited powers.

TASK

Those two bodies have the task of determining how long a convict spends in prison under the State's indeterminate sentence law—which fixes a minimum and maximum term, but no definite sentence.

The report said the Adult Authority hearings which do not allow an inmate to be represented by legal counsel, "may be a violation of the constitutional protection against double jeopardy", particularly since the board may fix longer sentences for crimes committed in prison.

Over-all, the report said, the State's parole system is not producing "satisfactory results," and is not likely to under present conditions.

PAROLE

The report said inmates should be eligible for parole after one year, regardless of the offense, and that authorities should prove why the inmate should not be released, rather than the present system of demanding the inmate prove that he is ready to be freed on parole.

The report said inmates much use of strict adjustment centers in the prisons and called for improvements and higher wages in prison industries.

Sections dealing with juvenile prisons and county jails also emphasized more community-oriented confinement with extensive rehabilitation programs.