

Proposal to Close Folsom, Quentin

Special to The Examiner

SACRAMENTO — The closing of California's two most famous prisons — Folsom and San Quentin — has been recommended by the State Board of Corrections.

The report ordered by Governor Reagan after the Aug. 21 escape attempt at San Quentin also blamed prison violence on revolutionaries, militant inmates and "irresponsible attorneys."

Six persons, including three guards, were killed in the prison riot.

The 650-page report, the result of a \$250,000 study financed with federal funds, said yesterday future penal institutions should be small and located in the communities they serve.

Shorter Sentences

Sentences should be shorter and unnecessary regulation of convicts should be eliminated, the report says.

"It is a mistake to bring a convicted man to prison if that can be avoided," it says.

Alternatives include probation, honor camps and halfway houses.

Folsom, 20 miles southeast of here was built by prison labor of granite from nearby quarries in 1880. It is California's maximum security prison.

San Quentin, California's first prison, was established in Marin County in 1852.

Manson, Sirhan

Two of the famed residents of San Quentin's Death Row

are Charles Manson, the so-called hippie cult leader convicted in the Sharon Tate murders, and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan convicted of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Board chairman James M. Hall said he "has no doubt that California's prison system is under revolutionary attack from within and outside State prison walls."

"Unfortunately," he added, "this attack is being encouraged by some members of organizations such as the National Lawyers Guild, the underground press and other misguided individuals."

Public Figures

The report also names Angela Davis, black militant charged with murder in the Marin County courthouse gun battle in August, 1970, and actress Jane Fonda as "active . . . well-known public figures" supporting prison revolutionaries.

The report describes the deaths of nine State prison employes in the past 20 months and many of the 24 inmates deaths in that period.

It noted only four prison employes had been slain in the previous 17 years.

The "assault by revolutionaries" started in 1970, the report says, after a tower officer killed three inmates by firing into the prison yard at Soledad Prison to break up a gang fight.

Campaign

"This incident provided radical groups with the opportunity to launch a full-scale propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the California Department of Corrections and its programs," said the report.

Several days later a Sole-

incident in which George Jackson and two other inmates, the so-called "Soledad Brothers" were charged with murder.

The report noted Jackson was linked with both the first and the most recent prison "revolutionary" violence.

Escape Attempt

Jackson was killed by a guard's bullets in what authorities said was an escape attempt after the slaying of the guards and inmates.

Major recommendations in the report include:

- Hiring of 405 new guards and employes at the 13 major institutions.

- Initiating visits by the board at all institutions to inspect them, interview staff and inmates and review security.

- Provide additional emergency alarm and communication devices for prison staff members.

- Exclude from the pris-

ons outside groups advocating violence or revolutionary activities.

- Building modifications costing \$164,000 to improve security at various facilities.

- Possible establishment of a training academy for guards.

- Reviewing salaries, fringe benefits and assignment of guards to determine if they are adequate.

- Continuing a program of recruitment of minority group employes.

- Continuing an intensive security review.

Hall said prison violence has brought operations to a point where future correctional reform and a wide variety of rehabilitative programs are endangered.

"It is ironic," he stated, "that California has been singled out for this revolutionary activity since this State has long been recognized as the nation's leader in progressive, rehabilitative prison programs.