

Senator's Prison Charges

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A conservative state senator demanded yesterday that prisons chief Raymond K. Procunier resign because he allegedly has given the governor bad advice, installed "liberal policies" and is "failing miserably" as an administrator.

But Governor Ronald Reagan defended Procunier, saying that under his leadership California's prisons have become a model for the nation.

Senator H. L. (Bill) Richardson (Rep-Arcadia), a onetime paid staff member of the John Birch Society, said Procunier misinformed Reagan on prison matters and allowed escapes by inmates and abuses of work furlough and 72-hour-pass programs.

Reagan said Procunier's penal programs reflected his thinking, adding "California

has become a model in correctional systems for the whole nation. And we have had great success."

Procunier, a 25-year prison system veteran who began as a Chino guard, has been in charge of the state's penal system since 1967. He was absent from his Sacramento office on a visit to the California Medical Facility at Vacaville and had no immediate comment.

Richardson said Procunier was "failing miserably" as prisons administrator. Guards' morale is down, recidivism is up and prison authorities have now "totally forgot about the punitive aspects" in over-stressing rehabilitation, he said.

Richardson said his demand that Procunier resign was prompted specifically by the recent murder of a Southern California school teacher, a crime in which the two suspects charged both were felons in work furlough passes.

Procunier frequently has

come under fire before from spokesmen for the New Left as well as from some disgruntled guards.

Under his leadership, however, prison population has dropped and a program of conjugal visits initially suggested by Reagan has been put into operation. Richardson, however, said he wants Procunier replaced by someone "more law-enforcement oriented."