

Procunier's Testimony

San Quentin Closing Costs

Sacramento

It will cost at least \$16 million to replace San Quentin Prison, state prisons chief Raymond Procunier told an Assembly Ways and Means subcommittee yesterday.

That's the preliminary figure Procunier submitted based on the assumption that 60 per cent of San Quentin's 2000 inmates can be housed in now vacant cells in medium security prisons with some minor building modifications.

Procunier said that he is anxious to close the 120-year-old prison on San Francisco Bay, but that he is against closing it completely until new specially designed maximum security prisons

are built to take its place.

"The department, I fear, would really be in trouble if we were to close Quentin and just try to disperse them," Procunier said.

Procunier said approximately 1200 of San Quentin's 2000 inmates require special handling and maximum security and that only 400 to 500 of those can be housed in other state prisons by modifying them.

He proposed two new 400-bed maximum security prisons to handle the rest of them.

Procunier said he also favors converting half of the state prison at Susanville into a regional drug rehabilitation center for city and county jail inmates in North-

ern California, but that he could not act now to start such a program without financial support from local officials.

He was directed by the subcommittee to try to come up with a tentative agreement with local officials by the end of March.

He said otherwise a 600-bed branch — about half the total size of the Susanville minimum-security facility will be closed next year.

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