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The Vera Report will be published on the first of each month beginning with this issue and will be distributed to Vera staff, members of the Board of Trustees and friends of the Vera Institute of Justice. It will be devoted to news of demonstration projects in operation, research being done by staff members and other subjects of interest to the readers.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

In its role as consultant to Mayor John V. Lindsay's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Vera has become involved in a number of areas of research, six of which are described below.

Community Patrol Corps

In March, Vera ran a week-long experimental Community Patrol Corps in the 28th Precinct of Central Harlem. The purpose of the Corps, as announced by the Mayor prior to the March experiment, is four-fold:

1. Crime prevention by the maintenance of a visible patrol.
2. Securing government service for the community by reporting to the appropriate government agencies, those incidents and conditions requiring corrective action.
3. Bridging the gap between the community and government agencies, particularly the police.
4. Providing employment opportunities for community youths.

The first two days of the experiment were devoted to orientation of the 42 young men who participated in the trial Corps. Members of the Departments of Police, Social Services, Sanitation, Health, Buildings, Rent and Rehabilitation provided Corps members with instruction and information designed to be useful in their patrol work.

The Corps moved to its storefront location, at 117th Street and Seventh Avenue, for patrol operations. Mayor Lindsay and Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary joined the co-chairmen of the Community Patrol Corps Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Milton Richardson, Esq., and Chief Harry Taylor, in a small ceremony which marked the beginning of the Corps' street patrol. For four days, the Corpsmen successfully handled many problems involving housing and sanitation violations, street conditions, fires, street disturbances, and accidents and provided escort service and other assistance to the community. After the one-week experiment a debriefing of the Community Patrol Corps members was held.

An evaluation of the experiment is being prepared by George Nash of Columbia University's Bureau of Applied Social Research. Vera staff attorney Harold Klapper, with the assistance of Lt. Mike Farrell, Sgt. John Gilmore, Sgt. George Pascale who all contributed much time and effort to the experiment, is preparing a proposal for the establishment of a Patrol Corps.

Legal Intern Committee of the C.J.C.C.

Harold Klapper is working with Associate Director Harry Subin on Vera's participation in the Legal Intern Committee, which is attempting to provide academic credit for law students engaged in the operations of the agencies involved in the administration of criminal justice. The roles of the students will be designed to be both action and research oriented. To date the committee has stressed summer employment opportunities with possible academic components.

Court Delays

Vera staff attorney Robert Dobrish is in the process of completing a report of his study of adjournments and delays in the criminal courts of New York City.

Criminal Justice Information System Committee of the C.J.C.C.

Under the co-chairmanship of Harry Subin, and David Grossman (Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget), this committee has been exploring the feasibility of constructing a Criminal Justice Information System which would offer all the agencies involved in the

administration of criminal justice a means of pooling and sharing data. At the last meeting of the committee, held April 23, discussion centered on the newly established New York State Identification and Intelligence System. The NYSIIS, which will not be fully operational for several years, is designed to collect criminal history and fingerprint information at the time of arrest, receive periodic reports on cases between arrest and court disposition, and receive post-conviction information regarding probation, parole and prisons.

The committee is now considering the potential uses of the NYSIIS and the Judicial Conference (another centralized information collection service) in the realm of New York City's administration of criminal justice. At the same time, a study is being made of information gathering projects currently taking place in various city agencies (notably, the Police Department, the Appellate Division of the Courts, the New York District Attorney's Office and the Office of Probation). The committee's study is undertaken to determine the status of the various projects, the funds available, and the future plans for the projects.

Correction, and Rehabilitation

Research for the C.J.C.C. in this field is being done by staff attorney Tom Chittenden, who reports activity in four areas:

1. He has studied the sentencing of misdemeanants at the Criminal Court for New York County and the Criminal Court for Bronx County for the purpose of gaining statistics and understanding the way in which sentences are determined. His study has included investigating the participation of the District Attorney's Office, the defense counsel and probation investigators in the sentencing process.

2. His present work is the development of a "short form" pre-sentence report for misdemeanants which will provide selected information to the sentencing judge, the DA and defense counsel. The short-form report is based on the studies made by Vera in bail and summons and includes a point scale as a way of recommending sentences. Successful results from preliminary testing of the short-form report have led to present efforts of designing a small pilot project to further test the form.

3. In cooperation with the Department of Correction and the Mayor's office, he has been active in drafting a work release bill for the city under which the Department will be authorized to release selected prisoners for jobs and job training in the community and for short periods of time to participate in other community activities. He recently testified before the Committee on Penal Institutions of the State Senate. The bill is now before the legislature.

4. He has also been working at Rikers Island and at several Federal prisons and community vocational training installations in an attempt to learn about the problems of job training and placement for prisoners. Consideration is being given to possible roles for private employers and unions in vocational training in prisons, work release programs and post-release employment.

Juvenile Court Project

A new area of involvement for Vera in the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is that of the administration of justice for juveniles. Barry Mahoney is Vera staff attorney for this area. He is assisted by Judith Rubenstein, who joined the staff March 15. The following is a condensation of their latest progress report.

We have been undertaking a preliminary study aimed at two objectives: (1) developing a specific proposal for the establishment of an agency which would exercise a kind of prosecutorial role in juvenile delinquency cases in New York City; and (2) identifying major problem areas in the operation of the city's juvenile system with a view to doing further research in these areas in conjunction with the establishment of a prosecutor's office in the Juvenile Term of the Family Court.

At the present time, the only "prosecutors" who appear in Juvenile Term cases with any regularity are policemen attached to the Police Department's Legal Bureau. In almost all of the other cases there is no attorney to represent the interests of the community, although where a homicide or other especially serious act is involved a judge may request the Corporation Counsel to represent the petitioner.

The judge in many cases must attempt to be simultaneously an investigator, prosecutor and judge—clearly an undesirable situation from the standpoint of the juvenile as well as the judge,

the petitioner and the community. Even where a prosecutor is present, as in cases where a city police officer is the petitioner, there is substantial room for change. It would seem that a prosecutor in a juvenile court should have responsibility to the community at large rather than solely to an individual client or department.

We are now studying how a Juvenile Term prosecutor's office should be organized and how the establishment of such an office can best be made a vehicle for further improvements in the operation of the city's juvenile justice system.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice Under Emergency Conditions

On March 24 Mayor Lindsay announced the formation of this committee, the members of which represent city agencies, private agencies, the Bar Association and the District Attorneys. Herbert Sturz is serving with John Wallace (Office of Probation) as co-chairman of the Sub-committee on Bail which will work out summons, bail and bail re-evaluation procedures to follow in case of emergency.

There are many possible ways in which Vera staff members could assist in the administration of justice under riot conditions. Robert Dobrish is working on a plan which calls for the establishment of an information center, manned by Vera personnel, to respond to requests for information concerning the location and bail status of persons arrested or injured, and to make referrals to emergency facilities or agencies where assistance might be obtainable.

Vera staff would be assigned to key locations and feed information to a central headquarters in the court building. The central headquarters would follow each case and would be able to locate individuals at any stage of the proceedings in order to respond to inquiries from those who come into the building or who telephone. Special phone numbers would be assigned and local groups and the mass media would be asked to publicize the number and the service provided.

Manhattan Bowery Project

Admissions to the project totaled 463 on March 25. Of this total, 61 were second admissions, 8 were third admissions and 2 were fourth admissions; this represents a recidivist rate of

approximately 15%. It is interesting to note that 41 of the 71 readmissions were self-referrals, men who returned to the project on their own initiative to seek help. This is a new and useful function the project is beginning to serve; providing Bowery men with a way to stop drinking before they deteriorate to a level where they are obviously in public distress. The majority of these men presented fewer and far less complicated medical problems than were apparent on their first admission.

The project staff has been increased so that the daily working census is between 37 and 40. Additions include: three new members of the nursing staff; two new case workers of the social services staff; and four people from the Women's Talent Corps, which is a federally funded training program for non-professional women. These four women are completing their training while assisting the staff as case aides and as recreation and art therapists.

With the cooperation of the Department of Social Services, the Bowery Project staff is exploring ways in which additional medical services can be made available to homeless alcoholics. Experimental nursing stations were set up in the first floor of the Men's Shelter for a three day period for the purpose of determining the medical and social problems encountered there and how they could best be handled. Results from that experiment will be reported in next month's Vera report.

Manhattan Court Employment Project

As of April 24, the project has taken in 105 participants. Two of these have been favorably discharged, one to attend a merchant marine training school outside of New York state and the other to pursue his college education. Six have been unfavorably discharged, four due to non-cooperation and two because they were rearrested outside of the Manhattan Courts' jurisdiction. One participant died of an asthmatic attack. If these 9 discharged participants are subtracted from the total, it leaves 96 defendants taking part in the project.

Participants receive pre-vocational orientation and counseling and referral to other project services such as housing and medical care. Thirty-nine participants have been referred to 70 jobs, resulting in 30 hirings. Twenty-six participants have been referred to 30 skill training programs, with 9 acceptances. Three participants are full-time students.

The first group of participants is scheduled to return to court on May 5 after three months with the project. Twelve defendants are due for hearings in Part III on that date. Results of the hearings will appear in the next Vera report.

Bail Jumping Study

There is at present a great concern on the part of persons involved in the administration of criminal justice that there is a large and ever-growing number of "bail jumpers", i.e., defendants who fail to appear after summons or release on recognizance, as well as those who default on cash or security bonds.

Few facts are presently available in existing court or police records, and thus Vera has undertaken a Bail Jumping Study to determine the rate of bail jumping and the characteristics and backgrounds of bail jumpers and to analyze these findings in the hope of isolating variables which might indicate likelihood of default. The study will encompass approximately 15,000 cases which arose in the Manhattan Criminal Court between January 1 and March 31, 1967. The study will be under the direction of Harry Subin; he will be assisted by Stuart Cohen, as research supervisor, and several research assistants.

Twenty-four Hour Arraignment

Harry Subin is revising his Twenty-four Hour Arraignment Report in light of comments received from the participating agencies. It is hoped that the final report will be submitted in the next month or two. We are exploring the possibility of publication.

Information Booth at 100 Centre Street

Under the leadership of Joan McCall, the Information Booth in the lobby of the Criminal Court Building has been staffed by volunteers five mornings a week for the past five months. The volunteers direct persons through the building, answer questions and seek to assist those who seem particularly troubled or confused.

Vera Personnel Policy

A personnel policy has been established in the past month and distributed to the Vera offices. Special note: Summer vacations should be scheduled with your supervisor as soon as possible.

Other Areas of Interest

Future issues of The Vera Report will discuss Vera activities in the following fields: Bail Reform, Summons, Prostitution, Interrogation, Fingerprint Transmission Equipment, Bowery Half-Way House, Police-Community Relations Questionnaire, and the Police-Community Career Development Program.