

12A(ONS: 10A.F. 4B) (M-F) Thursday, October 19, 1980

State prisons 'bottom of barrel' — Welborn

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Pick any prison issue you want — state management, construction, philosophy. Sen. Jack Welborn probably will dissent from the prevailing thinking in the state Department of Corrections.

I've not found any that are worse," said Welborn, a Republican from Kalamazoo who chairs the Senate committee that handle prison legislation. He bases that on visits to prison systems in five other states and two foreign countries.

He knows people in Plymouth and Northville townships of western Wayne County and in central Oakland County oppose more prisons in their backyards.

There are more communities that want prisons than there are prisons to build. Many are in the Upper Peninsula, many in northern lower Michigan. They're far to visit, but we don't build prisons for the convenience of visitors.

ONE TOWN in Welborn's district — Ionia — loves prisons. It has five and has been a prison site for 110 years.

Mayor Fred Thwaites says his city associates prisons with jobs and economic growth.

One story in the history books is that when Michigan was organizing as a state, the cities were dividing up the institutions. Kalamazoo took the insane asylum, as mental hospitals were called, and Marshall thought it would be the state capital. Jackson won a draw over Ann Arbor and elected the prison over the university on the theory that a prison would mean more jobs.

"Ionia grew up with them," said Welborn. "It was a prison town before the modern era with its probation point."

"I introduced and we passed a bill that the people (near a proposed prison site) should have the right of referendum. There are too many shotgun marriages."

'Overcrowding is not the No. 1 problem. Lack of management, lack of real tough discipline, is the No. 1 problem. The No. 2 problem is overcrowding. . . We need a work ethic and a discipline ethic.'

— Sen. Jack Welborn
committee chairman

MICHIGAN HAS been on a prison-building binge in the last five years, and at times it has had to release inmates early because of overcrowding. But to Welborn that's not the big trouble.

"Overcrowding is not the No. 1



problem. Lack of management, lack of real tough discipline, is the No. 1 problem. The No. 2 problem is overcrowding," he said on WXYZ's "Spotlight on News" program and an off-camera interview.

The philosophy of the five-member

Corrections Commission, which sets prison policy and hires the director, is that "being in prison is punishment enough," he said. "And the rights we give prisoners — their own radio and TV and typewriter — Other states cannot believe we do that."

"We need a work ethic and a discipline ethic."

"Guards say the prisoners run Jackson and allow the staff to operate," Welborn went on. "Other prisoners don't like what's happening because, remember, 85 percent of 'em are going to be back on the streets some time. They'd like a tighter ship than what we've been running."

WELBORN CAME back from a March visit to Georgia advocating a "boot camp" type of prison with three months of military drills and hard labor. He has introduced a bill to set up one in Michigan.

"I've seen prisons in Taiwan and Japan. They have tough discipline. But they're humane. I've visited prisons in Georgia, Ohio and Indiana. Ours are the bottom of the barrel."

He has won Senate passage of another bill to eliminate the Corrections Commission, making the department director directly accountable to the governor. Gov. James J. Blanchard likes that one.

"That's the primary thing that needs to be done to put discipline in

the prison system," Welborn said.

His idea of strong management is "where the boss gives an order and it's followed through the chain of command." With the commission system, he said, a policy comes down and it has a different interpretation by the time it reaches the officer "at the bottom of the totem pole."

WHEN A FEMALE guard at Jackson was raped and murdered, Welborn was quick to renew his criticism of hiring women to guard men, and vice-versa.

"It's asking for trouble," he said, because it results in sexual harassment and security problems.

Welborn, 54, was a dairy farmer who started his political career as a township supervisor in 1967. He was elected to the House in 1972 and the Senate in 1974.

In 1982 he sought the Republican nomination for governor, trailing in a field of four. His brother, Robert, succeeded to his Senate seat that year but died in 1985, and voters returned Jack to the Senate.

While the outspoken, controversy-hunting, conservative Welborn's name has figured in speculation for a 3rd District congressional run against Democrat Howard Wolpe, the senator is less than enthusiastic about a job in Washington, D.C., where he can't commute daily from his 80 acres in Kalamazoo County.

Murphy's war chest: \$130,000

Daniel T. Murphy says he has \$130,000 in his 1978 war chest for reelection as Oakland County executive.

Three fundraisers have yielded that sum — a St. Patrick's Day party, a golf outing and a 64th birthday party.

Campaign officials say the events are a "great success" and show both strong business and popular support.

A Republican, Murphy was elected Oakland's — and Michigan's — first county executive in 1974. A campaign theme will be that more than half of all new office and hotel construction in Michigan took place in Oakland County in recent years.

The economy is likely to be a major theme — particularly because of his expected challenger, Lansing gossip is that Doug Ross, now state Commerce Department director, is being recruited to challenge Murphy next year. Ross is a former state senator from Southfield.

OCC campus hosts business session

The Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College will host a one-day business conference entitled "Beyond the Beginning: Growth Strategies for the Going Concern" on Friday, Oct. 18. Highland Lakes is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

The conference, opening at 9 a.m. in the Student Center Arena, is designed to satisfy the informational and educational needs of small business. Workshops, roundtable sessions and lectures will be featured. A detailed conference manual will also be supplied to all registered participants.

The conference is sponsored by OCC in cooperation with the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Chambers of Council of Oakland County.

For registration details, contact Carol Lubin in the Highland Lakes Community Services Office at 360-3041.

Middlebelt to be closed

Middlebelt Road between Walnut Lake and Lone Pine roads in West Bloomfield Township will be closed to through traffic Monday-Friday, Oct. 9-9.

"Closing is necessary for replacement of a cross culvert," said Oakland County Road Commission Managing Director John L. Grubba.

A detour to Orchard Lake Road will be posted.

Irish author due at U-D

David Noel Doyle, Irish author and historian, will talk on the role of the Irish in the American Revolution and in the formation of the American Constitution at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at the University of Detroit.

The professor of history at University College, Dublin, will speak in Lansing-Reilly hall, Six Mile and Livernois.

The lecture is sponsored by the Irish American Cultural Institute — Irish Perceptions Series. There will be time for light refreshments and discussion. Donation is \$3.

Doyle earned his graduate degrees in the United States, and taught American history at Loyola University before returning to Dublin. He has written extensively about Irish Americans.

His talk will cover their contributions to the idea of freedom and representative government — the idea that developed into the American Constitution.

Only The Finest

AMERICAN IDEAL CUT™ DIAMONDS

20-50% MORE BRILLIANCE

70 CARATS	1.13 CARATS
MSRP \$2000	MSRP \$2225

MANY OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE.

JOHN LAURI AND ASSOCIATES
GEMOLOGISTS AND APPRAISERS
390 SOKETI WOODWARD, SUITE 200, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48011
(313) 946-1500

ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE

HILDA OF ICELAND

Stay warm and dry with your **HILDA**

Exchange your old rubber boots for a new pair of Hilda boots.

Call for a free catalog or visit our website.

HILDA OF ICELAND
255 N. WOODWARD AT BROWN
BIRMINGHAM • 642-6460

HOUSE OF SHUTTERS and Draperies

WE WILL BEAT YOUR BEST DEAL — OR, IT'S FREE! *

EVERY STYLE & SIZE ON SALE!

VERTICAL BLINDS 50% to 80% off

Measurements and Installation Available

Free In-Home Estimates!

FREE SHOP-AT-HOME! Call: 357-4710

NEW LOCATION IN SOUTHFIELD:

SOUTHFIELD: 2102 Southfield Road (Southfield Plaza)
FARMINGTON HILLS: 31255 Grand Lake (Hwy 16 & 3)
STERLING HILLS: 4234 Van Dyke East (Hwy 16 & 11)
TOLAND: 10000 E. 14 Mile (Hwy 16 & 11)
TROY: 10000 E. 14 Mile (Hwy 16 & 11)
TROY: 10000 E. 14 Mile (Hwy 16 & 11)
TROY: 10000 E. 14 Mile (Hwy 16 & 11)
TROY: 10000 E. 14 Mile (Hwy 16 & 11)

A HOT INVESTMENT.

THE ULTIMATE HEATING MACHINE.

Plus 90 FROM bryant

When you buy a Bryant Plus 90 furnace from Flame Furnace, you'll be making a smart investment. The Plus 90 is both affordably priced and up to 97% efficient, so it'll quickly pay for itself by lowering your heating bills. And Bryant will reimburse you for any two of your monthly gas bills this winter, after installation. That's a return on your investment that's hard to beat.

And when you buy from Flame Furnace, Michigan's largest residential Bryant dealer, you'll also get the protection of their free two year parts and labor warranty. Call today!

FURNACE SAFETY & ENERGY CHECK-UP
Make sure your furnace is ready for winter with our thorough safety and energy efficiency check-up. Offer expires Oct. 31st.

\$3650

FLAME bryant

FURNACE COMPANY Since 1949

DETROIT 527-1700 WARREN 574-1070 TROY 524-1700

WESTSIDERS
We quickly cover the Tri-County area — no charge for travel time

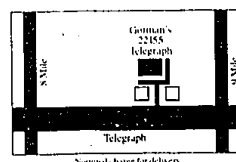
IT'S TIME FOR GOOD BUYS.

AT GORMAN'S FURNITURE CLEARANCE CENTER.

We offer you 40% to 70% savings every day on clearance items from all four Gorman's stores. Customer cancellations, slightly injured merchandise, one-of-a-kind, floor samples...and it's all Gorman's quality furniture. Plus, we're able to bring you special merchandise we've acquired through one-time manufacturer deals.

Gorman's Furniture Clearance Center. Quality furniture at 40% to 70% savings. No frills. No design staff. No special orders. No holds or layaways. No extra costs. Just good buys, four days a week.

Sectionals • Sofas/Loveseats • Chairs • Occasional Tables • Leather • Bedding • Dining Rooms/Dinettes • Sleep sofas • Bedrooms • Wall units



GORMAN'S FURNITURE CLEARANCE CENTER

Phone: 357-7774

OPEN 4 DAYS
Thurs. & Fri. Noon-9 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. Noon-6 p.m.