

Dehoco Jail Plan Blocked

by W.W. EDGAR
Two massive roadblocks have been placed in the path of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and have sidetracked a plan, at least temporarily, of alleviating the overcrowded condition at the county jail by transferring some of the inmates to the Detroit House of Correction.

The first was a legal opinion from Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan, made public at a meeting of a special ad-hoc committee on Wednesday afternoon, stating that, under the law, it would be impossible to approve such transfer.

The second came as a real shocker when William Bannan, superintendent of the Detroit House of Correction, vehemently denounced the plan and voiced stern opposition to a dual operation.

IN MAKING his protest, Supt. Bannan, who has had more than four decades of experience in penal institutions, bluntly told the members of the committee:

"If you're planning a dual operation, then let with it. I've been in this business 40 years, and I know you can't mix city and county prisoners. I've worked too hard at De-

hoco to have our program upset." In his legal opinion, the prosecuting attorney pointed out that the Detroit House of Correction, under state law, shall be used for the confinement, punishment and reformation of "criminals" or persons "sentenced" thereto.

He THEN cited the Kaminsky case (1968) in which the State Supreme Court held: "The House of Correction is a prison for the confinement of persons convicted of offenses. No one can be received into it except in pursuance of some express statute."

"The only house of detention recognized by our laws is the county jail. The house of correction was never designed to hold persons who could at any time entitle themselves to a discharge, and it has no legal facilities for such a purpose. It is a place of punishment, and not a place of confinement generally."

In contrast to the law laid down for the House of Correction, it was pointed out that the County Jail is a holding institution wherein prisoners are held awaiting trial.

After listening to the prosecutor's legal opinion Presiding

Judge of Circuit Court, Joseph Sullivan pointed out that enabling legislation would be required before any sort of plan could be worked out for a dual program at Dehoco.

"And the deadline for new bills in the Legislature is passed," he said, then suggested that—moved be started for a suspension of the rules or that the county purchase Dehoco.

"WHY MUST it be Dehoco?" Supt. Bannan shouted. "There are other sites—and there are buildings at the Wayne County Training School that could be used."

After emphasizing again that he was against a dual system, he informed the committee that even if a plan were finalized, Dehoco could care for only 50 men and 35 women in cell blocks.

"If we could take any more than that, or the 200 as you suggested, it would have to be outside and you can bet they'd be gone when their trial date arrived."

Bannan relaxed his stand a bit by suggesting that an invitation be sent to the National Jail Association or the American Correction Association to make a study of the entire set-up.

"These fellows," he said, "pointed out the folly of your building the annex to the County Jail in seven years ago, and they knew what they were talking about."

The suggestion of another study brought a protest from County Commissioner Carl Pursell.

"They have authorized expenditures of \$100,000 for studies in the last two years, and there is no need for any more," he said.

PURSELL STATED that there were some vacancies at the Detroit House of Correction now and that he thought they could be used on a cooperative basis.

He further pointed out that the use of Maybury Sanitarium was unrealistic because of the antiquated buildings, and he voiced surprise that Bannan should suggest the use of the Training School when all facilities there are needed for the training of youth.

After explaining that there is a great difference in the attitude and behavior of persons who are serving a sentence and those awaiting trial, Sheriff William Lucas pointed out that if a transfer could be made, it should be limited to those persons who cannot make bond, those who are charged with petty crimes and the type one wouldn't expect to try an escape.

His assistant, Frank Henderson, also asked that a plan be considered to take all the women—the county jail is no place for them. Henderson also pointed out that the present population of the jail is approximately 1,400 compared to a capacity of 1,250.

COMMISSIONER Gene Sikora, chairman of the ad-hoc committee, called attention to a suggestion from County Prosecutor Cahalan:

"The safer and more legis-

lative approach to the problem would be to procure amendatory legislation authorizing the confinement of persons awaiting trial or awaiting sentence. This amendment could take the relatively simple form of stating, to wit:

"Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the Common Council of the City of Detroit may enter into an agreement with the County of Wayne for the detention of such persons in the custody of the sheriff awaiting trial or awaiting sen-

ence as the sheriff shall designate."

No member of the Common Council was present, but the committee limited any further action to a suggestion that Sheriff Lucas prepare a list of inmates of the County Jail that would be suitable for transfer, explore the Dehoco site, and report back at the next meeting.

With that, hopes for a speedy solution to the overcrowded condition of the jail faded.



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The Adventurers	R	B
Airport	G	A-3
Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice	R	B
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	GP	A-3
Cactus Flower	GP	A-3
Five Card Stud	none	none
Funny Girl	G	A-2
Hells Bells	G	A-1
Marooned	G	A-2
M*A*S*H	R	A-4
Midnight Cowboy	X	A-4
Oliver	G	A-1
Stirpe Cuckoo	GP	A-3
They Shoot Horses, Don't They?	G	A-1
True Grit	G	A-1
The Undefeated	G	A-1
Zabriskie Point	R	B

Industry ratings: G—General Audiences; GP—Approved for general audiences; R—Restricted (parental discretion advised); X—No one under 17 admitted; none—no rating; A-1—All Ages Admitted; A-2—Mostly unobjectionable for general audiences; A-3—Mostly unobjectionable for general audiences; B—Mostly unobjectionable for adults; C—Some material may be objectionable in part for adults; D—Material is patently offensive in part for adults; X—Material is patently offensive to parents and is unsuitable for children.

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- Schaefer-Michigan: Sun., April 12th. and Mon., April 13th.
- Farmington: Fri., April 17th. thru Sun., April 19th.

Chamberlain Tells Sales
Chamberlain Real Estate Companies had a record 1969 sales volume of \$106 million, according to Martin Hemphill, director of finance.
Hemphill reported that the company's contribution to employee-owned profit-sharing trusts was \$58,765.

Chemtron Picks Manager
Chemtron Corp. of Chicago has appointed Vernon J. Baarman operations manager for all plants in its chemical group manufacturing division. The division includes the Livonia plant at 38321 Schaefer.
Baarman, who will be based in Chicago, was previously production manager for the chemicals group's five plants in the pigments division and has been with Chemtron 16 years. He holds a B. S. from Calvin College.

Re-Elected
Alan T. Howley of 28477 Ridgebrook, Farmington, has been re-elected secretary-treasurer of Braun Engineering Co., Detroit, manufacturer of cold and warm extruded components for mass production industries.

Save Meteorite
The first meteorite to be preserved was the Ensisheim aerolite, which fell in Alsace Nov. 16, 1942. This 280-pound specimen is still exhibited in the town hall there.

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