

go for improvements in the prison system, that the testing program be so scheduled as not to interfere with the work or training at the prison, that the participants be clearly informed of possible dangers involved in the program, that the controls over the program provide for good scientific evaluation and that good medical supervision be exercised at all times.

Following this adverse publicity which carried distinct connotations of laxity on the part of the Board of Corrections and possible dishonesty on the part of certain of their senior employees, the Board of Corrections adopted the following resolution.

"That the Chairman be authorized to appoint a committee of two or more persons qualified to determine from a medical standpoint, and not connected with the Board of Corrections, to investigate any drug testing programs conducted in the State prisons, to determine whether the programs are properly supervised to protect the health of the participants, both in testing and in the event of any after effects of the testing, to determine whether any prisoners are being abused in any way, and to report to the Board their findings."

Upon receipt of this request, this committee was appointed by the governing body of the Medical Association. The report constitutes our findings.

FINDINGS

The findings of the Committee may be summarized under the following headings:

1. Prison testing facilities
2. Equipment and staff (Southern Food and Drug Research)
3. Drug house relationships
4. The situation in other states
5. The present medical program (Alabama Prison System)
6. Errors of fact

1. Prison Testing Facilities

Kilby, Tutwiler and Draper Prisons were visited during the course of the investigation. Private conversations were held with the three wardens, the three prison physicians (two of these were seen elsewhere than in the prison for which they were responsible), Dr. Stough, the staff providing medical care in the three prisons, technicians involved in the testing program, and a number of prisoners who were on or had been on one or other of the testing programs together with a number of more junior prison officials.

At Kilby Prison a list was seen of prisoners who had been selected by the Southern Food and Drug Research from their records as being suitable subjects for a new test which was being started that morning. No person in the prison system had any hand in selecting this initial list. From about 60 names which had been submitted, the warden had deleted about ten because, so he advised us, these persons could not be spared by their division heads from their official prison occupation. Most of the remaining 50 prisoners had been called into the testing room in the prison that morning in groups of about six persons. While blood was being taken from them (apparently for laboratory testing) they had received a rapid explanation of the purpose of the test, (there was considerable variation in the understanding of what had been said) with the statement that the drug being tested was safe and should the laboratory tests be satisfactory, they would be asked to sign a waiver-consent form. All this had seemingly been done by technicians with no physician being present as far as could be determined. Two of the four prisoners who were interviewed indicated that they had never been examined by a physician while they were in the prison although they had been on several drug trials. One of these prisoners told of tests with an anti-hypertensive drug which had had to be discontinued after three weeks (the trial was supposed to run for four weeks) because of severe reactions among those taking the pills. He himself had hung on to the end although he had been feeling very ill and had not complained of this illness, because it would have meant his losing the pay which he was hoping to receive for his participation. The majority of the prisoners interviewed indicated that the only reason they participated in the drug trials was because of the money which they were paid.

At Kilby, the original medical screening of convicts and the treatment of those who fell ill appeared to be largely in the hands of Mr. Howell, a man with very little previous medical training. His prior experience before entering his present position had been that of a venereal disease inspector. This man is supplemented in his duties by a number of part-trained inmates who are used as orderlies.