

a committee then makes a recommendation to the prison board which must have final authority before testing can be conducted.

In these states without testing programs the reasons, where given, for their non-existence were usually a lack of proper facilities and medical facilities in particular.

The one general area of agreement in those opinions expressed or inferable is that drug testing is essential. Further, the presence of drug testing programs in a prison affords another means of rehabilitation through the provision of a channel by which the prisoners can make both a humane and financial contribution to society and their families.

The programs in other states have far superior controls, both medically and administratively, to those presently found in the Alabama system. The relative lack of controls could well account for the vast amount of testing done in the Alabama system.

The appendix to this report contains examples of some procedures used in other systems in which the committee feels have considerable merit.

5. *The Present Medical Program (Alabama Prison System)*

We believe that the physicians responsible for the health of the prisoners at Atmore, Draper, and Tutwiler Prisons have done a *magnificent* job when their work is considered in relation to the pitiful and almost scandalous lack of facilities, funds, and personnel available to them. At the expense of personal economic loss, lack of time with their families and almost complete sacrifice of opportunities for recreation and relaxation they have proven their dedication to the Hippocratic tradition. We applaud the degree of voluntary devotion, to their own concepts of their obligation to society, displayed by these three prison physicians.

Certain aspects of the various prison medical facilities have been described earlier in this report. They, with the exception of Tutwiler, are unacceptable. The Tutwiler dispensary while superior to that in the other prisons, could be improved.

6. *Errors of Fact*

Respect for the Board of Corrections and for Commissioner Lee requires that the committee report that certain errors of fact did appear in the newspaper articles concerning the drug testing program. These include:

(1) The ownership of the ward constructed at Draper. This building is used by Southern Food and Drug Research, Inc. and was paid for by the corporation. It is now property of the Alabama Prison System.

(2) The "blood draws" allegedly taken at Atmore did take place, but these were donations to the American Red Cross. We were unable to confirm any plan to expand the drug testing program to expand the drug testing program to the Atmore facility.

(3) At no time has an expansion of the testing program been planned to include the testing of foods. Southern Food and Drug Research, Inc. did offer (this offer was accepted) \$7,000 toward the purchase of new kitchen equipment badly needed at Draper.

(4) No modern laboratory facilities were found to exist at any prison facility. The laboratory of Southern Food and Drug is in Montgomery.

It is not this committee's responsibility to pass judgment upon the motivation behind the printing of these stories. We do not believe these articles were errors of intent; however, they are errors of fact. The implications of some of these articles were not substantiated in this committee's findings.

IMPLICATIONS

Our investigations have shown substantial defects in the drug testing program as administered at present in Alabama prisons. This does not, however, change our opinion that drug trials using prisoners can and do serve an essential purpose. They benefit the Nation and provide the prisoner with an opportunity to contribute something back to society, to earn some extra needed money and to improve living conditions in the prisons through a well developed welfare fund. In addition, a well conducted drug testing program would provide extra medical coverage for prisoners with the possibility of the early diagnosis and treatment of disease and better diagnostic facilities than might otherwise be available. Actually this has frequently happened in Alabama.