

THE ADOLESCENTS IN DETENTION

In New York City all male adolescents over 16* years of age, if they cannot afford bail—or if they have been declared unailable by the court, are held by the Department of Correction in one of the four male detention institutions of the city while awaiting trial and court disposition of their case. Adolescents are being detained in our detention prisons for periods of anywhere from one day to a year or more. At no time during this administration have adolescents been permitted to be doubled up in one cell. Although adolescents are isolated from adult contacts in every aspect in these institutions, their activities had been so limited that, like adults, they were locked in their cells at 3:30 P. M. to remain there until breakfast at 7:00 A. M. the next morning.

In 1955, with the use of additional budgetary funds, we were able to expand our staff to include enough custodial and recreational personnel to permit adolescents (but no adults) in all detention institutions to remain out of their cells, under supervision, with limited recreation programs until 8:00 P. M.

Except for the Youth Guidance pilot project at the Manhattan House of Detention for Men, no opportunities for counselling youth were available to help adolescents deal with the problems they were to face upon release to the community.

The three other male detention institutions had no

similar counseling programs for youth. Not only were their facilities inadequate for such a program, but there were insufficient trained personnel to service the four male detention institutions in order to do a fully constructive job. At the Manhattan House of Detention for Men, the project staff labored under handicaps of inadequate facilities and personnel as well.

FUTURE PLANS—

MALE ADOLESCENT REMAND SHELTER

This administration has recognized the threat to the City of New York inherent in the neglect of its youth in detention, and has plans for two centralized detention facilities for male adolescents, one of which is to be located in the Bronx. Thirty-five acres have been designated for this facility.

The Planning Commission has allocated funds for the preliminary architectural plans for these shelters. When appropriate land can be set aside the other shelter will be located in either Brooklyn or Queens.

In the normal course of events, however, it will take from five to seven years to complete the construction of this facility and, according to past statistics, during each of these years 12,000 youths will be spewed out of prison gates (approximately 1,000 a month), worsened by their prison experience to further infect the community.

MALE ADOLESCENT & ADULT CENSUS IN DETENTION

HOUSES OF DETENTION FOR MEN	Cell Capacity	1954 Average Daily Census			1955 Average Daily Census			1956 Average Daily Census		
		Adoles. (16-20)	Adult	Total	Adoles. (16-20)	Adult	Total	Adoles. (16-20)	Adult	Total
Brooklyn	465	176	494	670	128	537	665	148	520	668
Manhattan	824	185	1,068	1,253	156	1,116	1,272	150	1,138	1,288
Bronx	239	85	239	324	65	230	295	67	268	335
Queens	199	74	192	266	56	195	251	61	205	266
TOTAL ...	1,727	520	1,993	2,513	405	2,078	2,483	426	2,131	2,557

HOUSES OF DETENTION FOR MEN	Cell Capacity	1954 Census		1955 Census		1956 Census	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Brooklyn	465	848	568	775	565	758	537
Manhattan	824	1,660	974	1,441	1,067	1,493	1,042
Bronx	239	423	274	366	218	396	265
Queens	199	316	201	322	197	320	192

* Adolescents 15 years of age are also received on felony charges (Homicide).