

SHIFT OF ADOLESCENTS TO BROOKLYN HOUSE OF DETENTION FOR MEN

Five to seven years is too long to wait to mitigate this process; therefore, to do justice to youth itself, we are taking the following steps to reduce the incidence of recidivism among apprehended youth. In January 1957, the new institution in Brooklyn will serve as an Interim Remand Shelter for Male Adolescents. To this new site all adolescents (16-20) awaiting disposition of their cases in other boroughs of the city will be transferred. Here we will utilize the techniques perfected in the Youth Guidance and Counseling Project at the Manhattan House of Detention for Men.

In addition, this proposed shift of the youth program to Brooklyn will remove many of the handicaps under which the counseling staff is forced to operate in Manhattan and will somewhat alleviate the continuously overcrowded emergency condition there. The new institution has modern facilities which include: four dayrooms on each floor, (a total of 28 in the entire building), a library and a study hall, bright, light and airy surroundings, a gymnasium, two open roof (wire mesh covered) recreation areas, and up-to-date medical and dental facilities. For the Youth Guidance and Counseling offices we will convert the segregation area (two segregation confinement cells, popularly known as "the bing," into two interview rooms and the anterior room designed for custodial supervision of these cells into an office to function within the institution as the Counseling Unit's quarters. Modern recreational and library equipment are also available here to implement an effective program.

PREPARATORY STUDY OF ADOLESCENT POPULATION FOR THE TRANSFER TO THE NEW INSTITUTION

In preparation for and prior to the movement of the adolescent population into the new Brooklyn institution, the Youth Guidance staff will survey each departmental detention facility to study the nature of the adolescent population for programming and to psychologically test these inmates for classification and segregation in terms of housing assignment and program participation. *To our knowledge, this is the first time in the history of local jail systems that any attempt will be made to use these pertinent factors in dealing with detention inmates.* The population involved in this study consisted of over 500 adolescents between the ages of 16-20.

* Tests Administered: Bender-Gestaldt (modified), Wex, Bellevue Adult, HTP, Kent and Raven's Matrices, 1947 series.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION AND SEGREGATION IN DETENTION

An evaluation of the adolescent's behavioral patterns is important for the inmate's effective assignment into the institutional population and program activities. All adolescents will routinely be given a series of psychological tests*, constituting an objective way of evaluating their patterns of behavior, in addition to indicating learning capacity, and capacity for adjustment with other people, especially in terms of present institutionalization. This will help give us a comprehensive picture of the *WHOLE* person.

The individual is to be properly classified in terms of custody, treatment and management, so that the detention period may be more profitable to the individual in terms of adjustment and treatment. A better understanding of the individual assists the counsellors, as well, who will be engaged in intensive counseling in the new institution, aimed at helping the inmate gain self-understanding and altering inmate attitudes that may have been inculcated through many years of emotional deprivation.

RECEPTION

In the new institution the adolescent inmate will be received in a separate receiving area, examined by the physician and custodial personnel, and assigned to the reception floor for orientation and classification procedures. Here, in the period of two days the inmate will be orientated in terms of the nature of the institution and its opportunities and available services. He will be given a battery of psychological tests, an intake interview, and upon the evaluation of this data, assigned to a cell block area with inmates of compatible psychological patterns.

From this location he is to be involved in directed athletic and recreational programs, which include quiet games and leisure activities (conducted in the day-rooms serving the inmate's housing quadrant), a scheduled gym period for indoor physical fitness, and, weather permitting, more vigorous athletic activities in the outdoor and fresh air areas on the roof.

HOUSING

The cell block location indicates the degree of intensity with which the inmate is to be related to the Youth Guidance and Counseling operation.