

The IOWA DUNGEON REPORT

**June, 1998
December, 1998
January, 1999
February, 1999**

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JUNE, 1998

The use of incarceration in Iowa has become a standard of Iowa living especially if your part of the lower class "citizenship" which without doubt does not have the privilege of rights and political expression, as is demonstrated with the substantial placement of these people in Iowa's penal system which continues to grow in leaps and bounds as expanded legislative policies enacted against what the state bureaucrats like to call the criminal class. In the appearance of locking away "Iowa's Dangerous" even though the majority are doing time for non-violent offenses, the prison population in the last decade has grown 138 percent from 2,851 at the end of 1987 to 7,300 prisoners on May 31, 1998. This is even after serious crime in Iowa and the nation as a whole has fell for the 6th year in a row. Iowa is warehousing these people in extremely crowded facilities with only a designed capacity for 5,701 beds despite the recent opening of three new medium security prisons in the last two years in Newton, Clarinda and Fort Dodge, that have created space for 2,250 prisoners.

Along with this growth the operating budget for the Iowa Department of punishment has soared from \$74 million in 1986 to \$198 million during the current fiscal year. This extension of cancerous growth is only the beginning as state correctional officials recently forecasted Iowa's prison population will soar to 10,870 over the next decade facilitated by ongoing and planned policies and practices such as tougher sentencing laws which lengthen prison terms, more people going to prison for drug offenses and increased reasons to violate those on probation and parole.

The newest of these medium-security facilities is Fort Dodge constructed in a small community where this outside "Industry" and its jobs were enthusiastically welcomed at a groundbreaking ceremony during July 1996 as state politicians lead about 200 attending the event in an empty farm field that would soon become another Iowa dungeon in a high school like pep rally chanting, "It's a great day for Fort Dodge and a great day for Iowa!" Proclaimed reactionary Iowa governor Terry Branstad. While state representative Michael Cormack a republican from Fort Dodge, then led the audience in a series of cheer-like questions and answers: "Are we proud to live in Fort Dodge, Iowa?" He asked. "Yes," The crowd replied. "Is the city moving forward?" "Yes." They said. "Is this the end or can we do more?" He asked. "More," they said. Cormack then declared "I'm proud to be a Fort Dodger." This rhetoric continued with eight other speakers, at the end of the ceremony each guest was given a tiny gold shovel pin and a small card, which reads "a shovel full of progress." Now that Fort Dodge is open Iowa lawmakers are already poised to approve an expansion at the 750 bed facility by allowing an additional 400 beds at an added cost of \$10 million.

The fact state politicians can openly call prison expansion "progress" is disturbing and can only worry to what degree those right-wing extremist will go to reach their ultimate agenda of complete domination over an anesthetized society. Other construction expected to begin next year is a 200 bed addition to the women's facility in Mitchellville, Iowa at a cost of \$1.4 million, and a 200 bed unit at the state Penitentiary in Fort Madison at a cost of \$6.5 million. Even three different private correction corporations have jumped into the states prison construction derby, by proposing to build and operate the next planned 750 bed prison at a discount to the state. Even though the bed space is needed per say the institutions are filled to the max, like at Clarinda correctional facility where prisoners stuffed four into a nine by six foot cell designed for only two prisoners, whereas at the receiving facility for Iowa's prisoners Iowa Medical and Classification Center, prisoners are being made to sleep out in the day rooms.

Fortunately, the idea to build a private prison was met by opposition when the Iowa Board of corrections and a key lawmaker distanced itself from the idea of allowing the first private prison in Iowa. And though they lost this round its expected a multimillion dollar contract will eventually be awarded, as greed will rule once private correction industry lobbyist greases a couple of bureaucrats and legislators hands with dirty greenbacks. Although this has not stopped the increase in the use of

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exploitative prison labor by the private sector, especially since these companies know they'll maximize profits, simply because such cost as work compensation, health care and other benefits are covered by the state, not to mention the free on ground rent to industry buildings and lower wages paid compared to workers on the street.

Currently there are 175 prisoners working for private business here in Iowa and its expected it will grow to 400 prisoners in the next year, one such company request to gain access to cheap prisoner labor is Boomsma's Inc. A major egg supplier wants to hire 50 inmates from the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City, IA, to process and package eggs for grocery stores. In accordance with this contract with the Iowa penal system Boomsma's president John W. Glessner must have made a deal with the Iowa Attorney Generals Office and Wright County prosecutors when they refused to seek further criminal charges when the Iowa Supreme Court reversed a criminal conviction of false-imprisonment when Glessner and Maron Lawler, a supervisor for Boomsma's kidnapped Lucas Ortega, an employee who they suspected of theft by the hair from his apartment took him to Glessner's warehouse bound him with duct tape and then slapped him around forcing to admit he was involved in a break-in at a Wright county egg plant, and that they planned to turn him over to authorities. In all prosecutors have asked for the charges to be dismissed based on two key witnesses could not be located and the Iowa Attorney General's Office had declined a request to prosecute in a retrial. In addition the Wright County Board of Supervisors had declined to pay the \$15-20,000 needed to hire an independent prosecutor, which would have been necessary because the county attorney's office had been disqualified from prosecuting the case. As is the Deputy Director of Corrections heading the Iowa prison industries advisory board boasted Iowa will become one of the nation's leaders in private employment of prisoners. to keep in line with this prediction department of punishment already employees prisoners for such jobs including making package sandwiches for convenience stores, welding, manufacturing goods; mostly light-assembly work, woodworking, sewing graphic design and telemarketing. The wages these companies claim to pay prisoners varies significantly from the Iowa minimum wage of \$5.25 an hour to \$12 an hour, but after deductions are made from prisoners wages for state and federal taxes, child support, restitution, prison room and board, and prison work programs, they actually only receive around 25 to 50 cents an hour. This is about the same amount paid to prisoners working for state industries producing products like license plates and office furniture for state government agencies, or prisoners working for the upkeep of the institution where they reside like food preparation to janitorial work. To make matters worse the little pay received by prisoners is still not enough to afford the basic necessities of life including hygiene, writing and postage supplies needed most by those inside one reason such items are so hard to purchase is that each facility has strict limits on where you can buy items from and the one store that has the market totally covered is the institutional canteen which over-prices commodities at 20 percent or more then you'd purchase the item on the street. As it is these "canteens" are usually operated and owned by a private contractor who in return for allowing them to sell to the prison population.

While slave "employment" has increased in all areas, access to educational programs has declined, especially after the federal Pell grant program was modified in 1994 specifically eliminating federal funds for prisoners wanting a college education during their incarceration. With the money dried up, local community colleges which had a contract to provide college level courses to prisoners statewide stopped any further classes and now the only subjects taught to this day are GED and high school level curriculum which is limited to old text books and a few on loan teaching assistants to each facility.

To add to the madness all Iowa prisons are connected to a fiber optic network that stretches into all Iowa public schools, colleges and major universities. This real time, two way, digital video conference network is the most comprehensive in the nation designed to allow educational opportunities, but instead is used in the prison system for parole hearings and other bureaucratic business a sham to say the least.

In addition treatment or "Rehab" programs are very limited with prisoners access to such is not based on need but availability. Along with this prisoners who are recommended for such programming like TOW which is an extensive six month drug rehab program as stipulation to gain release from prison in most cases have to wait sometimes for years increasing the time a prisoner has to be incarcerated. Another great concern is the number of mentally ill persons within the prison system which there is no counseling and if they are not isolated then their usually mixed with the prison population and put on strong psychedelic medications.

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With the overcrowding and the lack of programs the number of hostilities between prisoners and the number of guards being assaulted has gone up to the degree that every day "incidents" are being reported through the newspapers or the prison grapevine some of these incidents can be caused by some of the most trivial matters to outright gang fights over territory which is becoming more common in this state. In return the department of punishment is abusing the use of isolation units throughout the state confining more prisoners to these units for periods lasting years. Not to mention the taking away of certain privileges such as full time yard usage whereas prisoncrats have split the yard times where only certain prisoners can go out at certain times of the day along with the lose of basic television cable and more disciplinary rules of which they seem to be creating on a monthly bases, even though the administration and correctional staff and guards have a personal mentality to break or design their own rules or policies at an immediate pace which benefits them!

And if this was not enough Governor Branstad and the new corrections director W. L. Kevtzky just recently got their wish list when legislators approved repressive measures against prisoners convicted of violent sexual crimes whereas parole officials now have the authority to force prisoners to undergo chemical castration and indefinite time in custody at a "special facility" at one of the prisons once they complete their original sentence. Lastly the state is now using an 85 percent law where prisoners convicted of a violent crime now have to do eighty-five percent of the sentence before they are eligible for a parole from the prison system. In all, it can pretty much be said the Iowa penal system is playing catch up with the rest of the America's criminal (in)justice system in this new era of keeping tighter control of the Proletarian class.

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WRITTEN ON: JUNE 1, 1998
WORD COUNT: 2,012

THE IOWA DUNGEON REPORT

DECEMBER 1998

As I reported in the last Iowa Dungeon Report about the elimination of tobacco products within Iowa's prisons, which has come to pass in part at one of it's facilities. This concentration camp, "Iowa Medical Classification Center" is the state's receiving facility for prisoners entering the Iowa penal system. A component of this joint is to evaluate these new prisoners through a battery of educational, psychological and medical test before they are transferred to one of Iowa's prisons. This is the perfect environment for prisoncrats to test the reaction of prisoners who will be forced to stop chewing and smoking tobacco products "Cold Turkey," while sadistically not providing stop smoking cession programs like counseling, chewing gum (which is not permitted at IMCC) and the nicotine patch. Shortly thereafter other joints throughout the state will more then likely be required to follow suit, one after the other, this after smoking was banned inside Iowa's prisons a few years ago, limited to puffing your "rollies" out on the prison yard. Overall the consequences of eliminating tobacco is only going to force prisoners to start a black market and find other things to smoke like coffee grounds and banana peels for instances.

Next with the Iowa system warehousing over 7,600 prisoners this number of souls could be the amount serving life sentences within a decade if the new Governor-elect Tom Vilsack gets approval of his outrageous scheme through the state legislature enacting life sentences for anyone caught dealing or manufacturing methamphetamine. Vilsack a Democrat promised during his campaign for governor that if elected he would direct his resources toward changing the way criminals are sentenced by using more community based correctional programs instead of the usual path of incarceration. Vilsack claiming because of the dramatic increase in the number of methamphetamine production labs being found in the mid-west and especially in Iowa, he feels he must get tough on the manufactures of this illegal substance, to say as he said it, "To protect our children." This has brought out criticism from state legislators and local pro-prisoners rights' groups that incarceration of these offenders for life will be a costly venture possibly taking away money for education, while ballooning an already overcapacity prison population on the verge of exploding.

On the local front here at the Clarinda Correctional Facility prisoncrats have taken it upon themselves to take out in-house video cassette movies out during the weekdays, while not permitting "R" rated motion pictures to be shown due to the fact we have a few underage (-17) prisoners, and though they have no problem convicting them as adults prisoncrats here seem worried about what these teenagers watch on their televisions. Also during the Christmas holiday the number of cell searches being conducted went up dramatically not to mention the numerous prisoners who have been placed in lock up, some for ridiculous reasons such as talking to loud in the dayroom or going into other prisoners cells. In all its been more then anything a continued string of harassment by administrators and guards. Also I might mention that since the extremely cold weather has arrived we have been limited to the time we prisoners can remain outside to only 15-30 minutes every hour, basically cutting the time we can be outside to less then half our original time we are usually allowed. The administration crying that we might catch pneumonia or something of that nature, though if this camp would provide us with warm proper clothing for this type of weather then there would be no excuse. As it stands the only thing they offer in outside cold temperature apparel is a thin cotton coat and a stocking cap. This standard issue of weather clothing is common practice throughout the Iowa system.

This time instead of devoting space to three prisoners to express their experiences in the Iowa penal system, I am giving the voice to one prisoner who told of his raw and dramatic troubles the last time he was doing time. This prisoner Ricki Laughman told of his experiences of rape harassment and isolation at three different Iowa prisons. He started by telling of his problems at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Ricki went on to say, "Back in June of 1993 after two months of being at Mount Pleasant three of my roommates was harassing me putting shaving cream in my shoes and other childish games, horse playing with me against my will, and so forth. I "kited" the counselor, warden and the security director for a room change, it was denied. About a month latter I ended up getting rapped by those three roommates which they ripped my cloths off using a razor they threaten to kill me if I told anyone and then sodomitically rapped me for a couple of minutes. The next day I called my mother and told her what happened. She then called the state ombudsmans office. The next day the warden told me I could have a transfer to any institution, though before that they placed me in lock up for three weeks at Mount Pleasant. When the three weeks were up they transferred me to the old Clarinda prison placing me in special needs. While there another prisoner in this special needs unit told me I could file a lawsuit against the administration and guards who failed to protect me from the brutal rape. Shortly after I had filed the \$1983 federal lawsuit the security director Steve Jenkins placed me

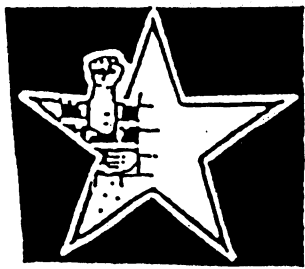
in isolation for two weeks until my mother again called the ombuds-
 mans office who convinced the administration to release me from
 isolation. Also I went up for reconsideration for my sentence about
 two months latter requesting a ninety day shock which they denied and
 believe this also was in retaliation to my lawsuit. Four months latter
 the security director went a step further stating I was 'A threat and
 security risk to the tranquility of this (Clarinda) correctional facili-
 ty," because I was helping other prisoners file lawsuits. It was then I
 was placed into lock up until I was moved to another more secure insti-
 tution the Iowa State Reformatory in Anomosa, Iowa. Once I was transfe-
 rred I was placed immediately into continued lock up for which I spent
 150 days. While in lock up a guard who worked the unit and knew I was
 filing lawsuits persistently harassed me by writing me up for the littl-
 est shit, no matter how trivia. These reports created an additional eigh-
 ty days in which I had to do in isolation. After this I was then placed
 into special needs at "Anni." Overall I was shocked at what happen to me
 in the Iowa prison system, because I did'nt believe things like this hap-
 pned to you in prison, that they took care of you. As a result of these
 experiences I have nightmares on a common bases. Also I don't have
 the same respect for the Iowa system as I did before coming to prison.
 My family even noticed when I was released after all this bad experienc-
 es, that I have an attitude and did'nt let things go like I use to. Fin-
 ally I feel that because of what happen last time and all the anger
 I have, this lead to my incarceration this time on assault charges."

To say the least a new year is fast approaching and the events
 of negativity within Iowa's Dungeons are predicted to increase,
 probably dramatically now that we have a new governor after sixteen
 years of putting up with Governor Terry Branstad's reactionary acti-
 ons against the prisoners here in Backwards Iowa. The new governor
 Tom Vilsack, even though a part of the Democrat party he is still
 a capitalist and thus obligated to follow the wishes of the ruling
 class and so I can see things only getting worse, this is supported
 by the simple fact that more then likely a change in whom is placed
 in administration positions at the department of punishment. As
 these pan-out I will keep the readers of this report of what
 happens fully informed.

As usual All groups and publications are welcomed to use any
 thing from this and past Iowa Dungeon Reports.

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WRITTEN ON: DECEMBER 31, 1998



JANUARY 1999

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During this juncture of unabated concentration camp expansion with two million under lack & key throughout Amerikkka, Iowa is in the forefront of confining it's poor and minority "citizens" in their dungeons of oppression and control. with a prison population of 7,600, double what it was a decade ago, and with the continually modified prediction by state prisoncrats of how many people will be warehoused in Iowa by 2008, state correctional officials are now saying, "We will need to build six to ten more 750-bed prisons to keep up with the rising prison populations." Along with this the Iowa Board of Corrections fiscal bureau reported it would cost \$175 million to construct these prisons, more then \$285 million if state officials were to borrow the money to finance the facilities. Though these "predictions" by corrections director W.L. "Kip" Kautzky on the construction boom, is nothing less then a fictional half-truth out of this prisoncrats mouth since factual estimates could be a lot higher. This can be supported by the current 400-bed expansion being constructed at the Fort Dodge State Prison, a new 750-bed medium security facility just recently opened. Along with state lawmakers considering to build a 400-bed expansion to the also recently opened 750-bed state prison in Newton, Iowa. So in reality as history is being made these six to ten new Iowa prisons would be more then likely become 1,150 bed warehouses which could hold any where from 6,900 to 11,500 extra prisoners by 2008. But if the 1990's over-capacity rate of 140 percent in Iowa's prison population continues unchanged then it could be truly "predicted" these additional prisons could contain a whopping 16,100 persons. That along with the 7,600 prisoners already in the Iowa Penal System it would not be surprising if by the start of 2009 we could see a total of 23,700 prisoners in Iowa's Dungeons, way above the 14,000 predicted by state correction officials! This would also lead to an annual fiscal budget of just over a half billion dollars, if you account in inflation, operation and construction cost.

While at the same time of these growth predictions, the new Governor, Tom Vilsack keeps proposing changes to avert the need for such large amount of new prison construction by significantly bolster the community correction programs by hiring more employees to supervise parolees and those on probation. Director Kautzky has also proposed providing more money to hold more offenders in residential facilities. Though I expect all area's of the Iowa Criminal (In)Justice System will expand no matter what proposals are legislated by state lawmakers since history is the true predictor of the future and reactionary politicians and their lackeys at the department have their own repressive interest to protect no matter the consequences to society at large. That those put on parole will not grow in comparison to the prison population since the chairman of the Iowa Board of Parole, Charles Lawson has said, "His group is in no hurry to increase the number of parolees." Lawson went on to say "Public safety is the No.1 concern, we can't risk public safety by taking a chance by sending somebody out on parole. We are not going to do that." Overall this only shows what direction Iowa is heading in with the treatment of it's so-called offenders, and as the employment of prisoners by private industries takes a grip we will see what the Iowa system is really all about.

Speaking on private industries, the Clarinda Correctional Facility where I reside will begin construction of an "Industrial Building" this spring as part of this prisons expansion of adding facilities for the private sector to exploit prisoners labor, a kitchen which this joint has not had since it opened back in April 1996 and an expanded visiting room which is just to small for the current population of nearly 1,000 prisoners. This is in line with Iowa's Department of Punishment goal of increasing the number of its captives slaving to the state so the prisoncrats have more money to spend toward it's warehouses, while these prisoncrats who will and do pocket profits, while owners will increase their own greed due to the benefits of employing prisoners labor. Other modifications being made here at the Clarinda Correctional Facility is close-circuit cameras

are currently being located in every nook and cranny of this high-tech dungeon, that from personal observation I have noticed at least twenty cameras in their re-enforced protective enclosures being attached to brick walls and metal ceilings, putting in jeopardy what little decency of privacy we prisoners had. This is all in part of the new design of prison where every aspect of the facility can be electronically controlled from control center "Bubbles" located on each wing of the prison, with one main control center bubble centered in the middle of this prison complex, which controls every part of this warehouse from all the electronically operated doors, lights, inmates phones, ventilation to access to all water outlets including showers, sinks and toilets. This type of set-up not only control the operations and movement of prisoners, but also reduces the number of guards needed to effectively manage such a high-tech dungeon of oppression thus frees more money to spend toward more prison beds.

Now its time to devote the space to three more prisoners to express what they see and the conditions that they face. In the November 1998 Dungen Report I reported on the new six percent surcharge enacted on Iowa's prisoners. Well since this surcharge went into effect on December 3, 1998 many problems have arisen on the confiscation of this money from prisoners accounts. To show the impact it has had I am reprinting a letter Rex E. Ellis wrote to a state-wide newspaper which is a powerful testimony to how it has made an impact on him and prisoners throughout the state. The letter goes on to say:

I'm writing to your office in hope of having this letter or parts of it published. I don't think the public knows what it cost inmates to be incarcerated on the inmates behalf. I'm sure the vast majority of the public thinks we have no burdens, worries or concerns, there are some that think being incarcerated is easy. I know prison is not supposed to be fun or maybe not even comfortable. Inmates in Iowa are not only paying the price with their freedom, the state has generated a wealthy revenue from their six thousand plus inmates. I'm a prisoner at the Clarinda Correctional facility. I work like all inmates are required to, the average pay is around 27¢ an hour or about 44 dollars a month. A good vast of the inmates pay child support, this child support comes out of the inmates pay 50% off the top, this 50% of pay is surcharged 6% for the state. Out of the rest of the inmates pay most have 20% taken for restitution and then 10% for gate fee, up until the gate fee savings has reached \$100.00. As of november 3, 1998 all inmates are required to pay 6% surcharge on all out going moneys and purchases. If an inmate sends money home to help out a loved one or to their children for their birthday or Christmas we will get charged 6%. The canteen is a monopoly. If we purchase any food items, soap, toothpaste and shampoo we pay 12%. The state no longer gives indigent inmates soap if the inmate has a job. If we need medical attention we pay 3 dollars each time we need to see a doctor or any medical staff. If we call a loved one the phone call cost around six dollars a call for only twelve minutes, the state gets the kick-back percentage for each call made. Inmates get to purchase pop tokens once a week from the pop machine pop here cost one dollar plus 6% surcharge, the state gets to keep the 5c on the bottles. The state rents T.V.'s to the inmates that can't afford to purchase one for twelve dollars a month plus 6% surcharge. If an inmate can afford a T.V., the T.V. cost is \$229.99 plus 6% tax = \$243.78 plus 6% surcharge on the total cost of \$258.42. Most canteen items are marked up considerable higher then what the general public pays, for example the 13" color T.V.'s. The canteen is not only a monopoly the state also generates 6% surcharge on food items, 12% on non-food items plus state receives a 2% kick-back from Easter's Food Store on all total purchases. If inmates would like to purchase winter clothing items, (long johns, socks and underwear). This correctional facility forces us to only purchase from J.C. Penneys with a total limit of only \$50 dollars per order plus 6% tax and 6% surcharge. The public only pays 5% tax If our loved one's sends money to us the state takes out 20% of all money coming in if the inmate has restitution to pay. The state is putting the burden on our loved one's to pay our restitution. An inmate received \$90,000.00 plus for a wrongful death suit and attempted to send out most of the money to his family who is in need of his financial su-

pport but the state was only interested in taking their six percent of his money. In closing the Director of the Department of Corrections has asked the new governor Tom Vilsack for a 10% increase in funding. I don't believe public and state officials realize the money generated by the 7,000 plus inmates and loved one's each month. If anything the director of the Department of Corrections should decrease funding due to the newly generated funds by inmates and their loved one's. The prison system is fraudulent from the top to the bottom. I hope the public can see how their tax dollars are being used, the state is charging the inmates for everything, why are the taxes going up not down?

Also you'll notice Rex showed just how corrupt the Iowa prisoncrats are and that the mighty dollar is more important then the people caught in this web of self-interest capitalism and that the need to change that system is something which needs to be focused on with full force. The next prisoner told me about disciplinary reports he received which were written only on "confidential information" and because of this he lost a level and his job as a chapel clerk. This prisoner who wishes to go by the initials R.F. told what happened starting December 1998. He went on to say, "I am sitting in the day room on East 4 watching TV, and c/o Hanson came on the unit and asked me for my institutional number and told me I was going to lock up. I asked him why I was going to lock up which the guard read the report after taking me to Ad-Seg in handcuffs. In reading the report this c/o said was written out by Marry Hildebrant the assistant treatment director which she charged me with "Threats and Intimidation" because of a prisoners confidential information. And even though I had not spoken to Hildebrant in over 8-10 months she wrote the disciplinary report based on non-existent evidence. Finally I went to the ALJ (Administrative Law Judge) January 12, thirteen days after being placed in administrative Segregation "holding." The ALJ looked at the report and said there was no evidence to support Mary Hildebrant's report which she dismissed. A few days latter I was released from Ad-Seg, and then called down to the shift captains office to talk to captain Ed Pruitt. He asked me what my nick name was, I said "Call everything but my last name and you'll get it." He then told me that a confidential informant said my nick name is "POPS." So he sends me back to the unit. At noon hour the same day at lunch time just as I had taken two bites out of my tray when c/o Morgan came to the unit with a pair of handcuffs which he placed on me behind my back and then escorted me back to the shift captains office and again Captain Pruitt said he's going to "Take me back to lock up for lying to him." He went on to say, "I lied to him by saying my name was not 'POPS'." I told him I did not lie and then explained to him that my name has been called "POPS" in the past and a few other names in the past, but not of my choice. So captain Pruitt responded by saying "So your name is pops?" I responded saying "I guess." Then captain Pruitt then advised me he was writing a major disciplinary report, because they found contraband in the chapel where I worked. I responded "Is this more confidential information?" Which he said, "Yes." Eventually the handcuffs were removed and I was sent back to the unit and given another major disciplinary report latter that night. This time the report said I was being charged with misuse of mail and telephone, that the contraband found was nine sheets of paper with something illegal written on them. This evidence was never shown to me by the shift captain or the ALJ. A few days latter I went to the ALJ to have the report heard. She found me guilty of the misuse of mail violation and then gave me three days of DD (Disciplinary Detention) the severest punishment a prisoner can receive in the Iowa system. The contraband that was found I was not aware of it being there and that there was no other way to connect me with these nine sheets of paper besides the confidential information, but yet I was found guilty of said report. Also my name was called "POPS" before 1997 not after this. So how can they find me guilty of a major disciplinary report when all the old guys at this concentration camp are also called "POPS." The contraband found in the chapel had a nick name of "POPS" on it and thus the reason also why I got fired from the clerk job. In addition I believe I was written the second report because the first one failed to stand up, and this is unfair to say the least. Finally Steve Ballard told of his "Beef" with how the canteen items are selected and the unfairness involved in the certain items based on how much is bought, whereas needed items that are less purchased get eliminated no matter if they are important to a few prisoners. Steve went on to say how this has effected him, "There has been certain items that I use to purchase on a regular bases as I needed them, from the canteen list, but are no longer available because they have been removed due to the lack of sales. I can understand the lack of sales on some items to the degree that somethings are

not really important should be removed to make space for merchandise prisoners want to purchase, but then there are hygiene products which are very limited and like in my case I am left to use a worse or slightly worse product then used previously to it being removed, and its not even taken into consideration that the product being removed is the only product an inmate can use' and now that its gone there is nothing I can use as a replacement. As an example of this I can not use strong deodorant soap because it causes body rashes all over my skin, so with the removal of the two light deodorant soaps I have no option to select light deodorant soap off the canteen, when I kited Easter's the company that is contracted to provide canteen items to this institution, and asked them if I could purchase light deodorant soap, they responded by saying "These products are no longer available and that I could not buy these items due to institution policy." I was then told to kite the officer in charge of commissary and ask him if I can purchase light deodorant soap and other items not on the canteen sheet. I did this and was denied the request which happens the majority of the time. This process takes such a long time that you wait weeks for an answer usually against the request. The end result is you go without and it's just a frustrating losing battle.

Finally I would like to speak further on the "War on Meth," as its now being called by politicians and the media. As I mention in the December Iowa Duneon Report about Governor Vilsack's proposal to state legislators to pass legislation mandating life sentences for those persons who deal or manufacture Methamphetamine. Well such legislation has been put on the house docket while the media is having a frenzy over the matter. This issue has gone to such a degree the Des Moines Register, the state's major propaganda newspaper has analyzed this meth problem in a series of front page essay's and on an one hour televised community debate discussing the different problems it has caused the state of Iowa. From the numerous meth labs being found within the states borders, to how school age children are effected and the highly debated issue of punishment verses treatment alternatives. Overall I see a situation where Iowan's are being encouraged to fight against this so-called problem, which is bent on finding a solution through a path of controlling an epidemic by blunt force. This is definitely a symptom of capitalism which is all for domination over it's citizens, and see this "War on Meth," promoted heavily by the state media as an underhanded approach toward making it more acceptable for Iowan's to be manipulated into allowing government agencies to have just that much more power and mastership over their lives. Now personally I am not a drug user and discourage others from putting such poison in their body, but I believe the use and the dealing of drugs should be the individuals choice, while the causes of wide spread drug problem is a result of capitalism to criminalize the youth and control other parts of society like black neighborhoods and this the reason I believe besides a change in our political system but that these people in such a situation should be offered unique humane alternatives which would lead them away from such a path. Though more then anything if you take away the stigma and illegability of these illegal substances the battle of this so-called nuisance could be more manageable. Either way this intense debate continues.

In ending I find it discouraging that I fail to receive any responses to these Iowa Duneon Reports. That since I started doing this monthly newsletter in July 1998, the response has been close to non-existent, along with none of the material in the reports are being printed in the publications which I send copies too. The purpose of the Iowa Duneon Report is to report the injustices of the Iowa Penal System, but if these reports are failing to make an impact why do I continue to research and write the Iowa Duneon Report, every month? It's up to you to help circulate and print sections of these reports, all I can do is report it from inside the walls of these Duneons. So Please help in developing this project into something more then a writing exercise in futility.

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WRITTEN ON: JANUARY 31, 1999

FEBRUARY 1999

To what degree does a person lose the right to redress their grievances against a repressive government, even though that government supposedly guarantees in it's constitution the right, "...to petition the government for a redress of grievances."? Well for the Iowa prisoner the basic fundamental, hard-earned accessible right to the courts has taken a hard step backwards when the Department of Punishments Director W.L. Kautzky ordered each and every law library located in all of Iowa's prisons to be eliminated over a two year period. This is in reaction to the 1997 U.S. Supreme court decision "Casey Vs. Lewis" which Arizona state prisoners won a class action lawsuit in the federal district court, on the issue of expanding legal library services to non-English speaking prisoners and access to law materials available on CD-ROM. Finally after Arizona prisoncrats filed an appeal to the ninth circuit court of appeals which the ruling was "affirmed," they went to the U.S. Supreme Court the majority of the reactionary justices reversed the lower courts ruling expanding their "opinion" to effect all previous rulings by this court in relation to prisoners access to law material. And thus our legal right to have access to a law library. In turn prisoncrats and a few states are now on the bandwagon to eliminate law libraries in their prisons. In the state of Iowa Director Kautzky told the media, the reason law libraries are being wipe-out is to many "frivolous" lawsuits were being filed by inmates and that the cost to keep the libraries up-dated cost the state \$500,000 a year. Already the Department of Punishment has stopped ordering new up-to-date law books, while request of legal materials from the state law library which are not available in the prison law library will have to be done at the inmates expense. In a further move by the state apparatus to demonstrate prisoners will still have access to the courts for all civil and criminal matters the Department of Punishment has hired an attorney from the state public defenders office. This is a poor excuse in offering legal advise to the prison population for numerous reasons, starting with the simple fact that this attorney works for the state, along with the poor representation they give to poor clients when they are appealing their criminal convictions to the state of Iowa Supreme Court and appellate Court. That the majority of the attorneys at the public defenders office are biased and are mostly just out of law school so they have little experience in the law of which they represent. Overall the real reason Director Kautzky ordered this repressive measure is to slow down prisoners especially jailhouse attorneys from filing lawsuits against the brutalities of this messed up system. As it stood prisoncrats were already being challenged from numerous avenues from the conditions of Administrative lock up to the poor medical care provided by the prison system. In all Director Kautzky hopes that in the long-run prisoners will lose the knowledge of civil law along with making it near to impossible for those jailhouse attorneys to continue to do thier research. This will surly effect the way prisoners are treated in the future as the prisoncrats go back to before the 1960's when prisoners started gaining some of their Civil Rights!

Finally I would like to up date you on the status of the proposed life sentences for those convicted of dealing or manufacturing Methamphetamine. Well Governor Tom Vilsack's proposal to the state legislature failed to pass the house, so in quick fashion Governor Vilsack proposed another sentencing guideline this time proposing a bill that would enact ninety-nine year sentences for those convicted for the first time dealing or manufacturing Meth, the second conviction would then guaranty a life sentence. Though in any case here in Iowa if you are given a long sentence usually over twenty-five

years then you as might as well be doing a life sentence since prisoners in this state end up doing around fifty percent or more of their sentence on average. In addition Iowa legislator leaders predict virtually unanimous approval of this legislation. This being the case by next time I draft out the Iowa Dungeon Report I expect that this new repressive measure will be on the law books effecting Iowan's. As usual I will keep the readers of this newsletter informed of what impact this legislation has.

In ending the reason this months Iowa Dungeon Report is so short is because of the lack of funds I have this month and I'm about out of typing paper and so until I find some funds from the outside this project could be delayed in the near future. As it stands the state takes almost all of my state pay leaving me around four or five dollars a month which quit frankly I barely afford hygiene supplies. So if anyone wants to help financially it would be most welcomed and helpful in the continuation of this project. Thank You.

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WRITTEN ON: FEBRUARY 28, 1999

This and other terrific prisoner zines are available through the South Chicago ABC Zine Distro. Dozens of zines dealing with anarchism, feminism, anti-racism and prisoner issues are available. This zine costs one 33 cent stamp. All zines are \$2.00 or less. Titles include, In the Trenches... Thought Bombs, Freedom Campaign/ Criminology 101, A Story That Must Be Told, Behind These Walls, Cyanide, Chain Reaction, The Kalifornia Department of Korrections and Pelican Bay State Prison, Off Our Knees and many, many others. Write for a complete list.

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