

EIR Feature

America's prisons: slave labor for the New Age

by Marianna Wertz

With 1.3 million Americans in prisons and jails, the United States has the highest rate of incarceration of any "civilized" nation on earth. That rate—at 519 out of 100,000 people in 1992-93—is five to eight times that of Canada or western Europe. The rate at which we incarcerate black Americans (1,947 per 100,000) is more than six times the rate for whites (306 per 100,000), and is higher than the rate of South Africa under apartheid. More black males in America are incarcerated than are enrolled in higher education (583,000 versus 537,000).

What, in God's name, is going on?

The purpose of this report is to answer that question. We begin, however, by making clear what is *not* the cause.

The major culprit blamed by the growing chorus of prison advocates is violent crime. However, as prison administration expert Paul W. Keve makes clear in his interview below, incarceration does *not* affect the rate of crime, violent or otherwise. Only about 10% of all serious crime in the United States is ever prosecuted, so the threat of imprisonment—short of a police state—is not a deterrent. Indeed, while violent crime has not substantially increased over the past 10 years, the number of prison beds has tripled. In addition, as Keve and other experts have made clear, alternatives to imprisonment, particularly for non-violent offenders, are far cheaper and more effective.

Nathan McCall's account, as reviewed by Rochelle Ascher below, is also ample evidence of the efficacy of parole, as opposed to longer sentences, for rehabilitation of felons.

The second major cause often cited is the criminalization of youth in the drug culture. Murders are committed today by children as young as 10, and young offenders now comprise more than 50% of those behind bars. Many states now try 14-year-olds as "adults" in order to be able to get them off the streets. While the destruction of our youth is assuredly related to the crime problem, it doesn't explain why society has responded by locking up its children.



The Virginia General Assembly in session. Will Richmond lead the whole nation back to slavery?

The Virginia experiment

What is occurring in Virginia today, where the most far-reaching and brutal measures are being enacted by the new administration of Gov. George Allen (R), gives the only honest answer to the question. While Texas, California, and other states have also implemented brutal regimes, the Virginia case is outstanding in its *political* nature and the *rapidity* with which it has been accomplished.

George Allen was elected in November 1993 on a campaign pledge to eliminate parole for all felons and set mandatory, lengthy sentences for violent and repeat offenders. Since his election, achieving this has been his monomaniacal obsession, leading to a \$100,000 advertising effort, hundreds of hours of staff time put into rallies, hearings, and press conferences, and bully-pulpit tactics to force his "Proposal X" through an unwilling legislature. On Sept. 30, he succeeded; Proposal X is law in Virginia.

But George Allen did not accomplish this feat alone. From day one, he brought into Virginia virtually the entire Justice Department apparatus of the former Bush administration to implement Proposal X. Heading up his Commission on Parole Abolition and Sentencing Reform was William Barr, former Bush administration Attorney General (see Anton Chaitkin's exposé below). On July 28, 1992, then-Attorney General Barr held a press conference to announce a drive to establish a no-parole policy in every state of the nation; Virginia was to be his first case. Co-chairing the commission is Richard Cullen, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern Dis-

trict of Virginia under Bush, who was reportedly slated for an administration post had Bush been re-elected. Henry Hudson, also a former U.S. Attorney under Bush, is a prominent commission member and, not accidentally, the chief prosecutor of Lyndon LaRouche and six associates in the 1988-89 Alexandria, Virginia federal railroad trial. Nor is it by chance that five of LaRouche's top associates are still in Virginia's state prisons, serving decades-long sentences as Bush's political prisoners.

The Virginia "experiment," as its advocates have called it, is in fact a wholesale takeover of the state by the Anglo-Venetian drug-running mafia, who ran the administration of George Bush. That mafia's model is a combination of Confederate Virginia and Nazi Germany.

The answer is slavery

The deadly purpose of this mafia is to reinstitute *slavery*—the common economic underpinning of the Confederacy (whose capital was Richmond) and the Nazis, who modelled themselves in part on the Confederacy.

By ending parole and instituting long, fixed sentences, the Virginia authorities are creating an escape-proof pool of young labor, working virtually without wages, while budgets are shrinking. In addition, by introducing *privately run prisons* in the state, which is an integral part of their plan, that pool of convict labor is to be used increasingly for *profit-making* by the banking and investment firms that are turning prisons into America's leading growth industry.

In an Oct. 6 radio interview with "EIR Talks," Lyndon LaRouche, commenting on Proposal X, put this most succinctly: "There is no question but that those who are behind this kind of proposition—whether Barr or Hudson understands what they're doing or not, is irrelevant—those behind it, know that this proposition means a push for privatization of prisons.

"Now, I can tell them about two experiences with privatization of prisons. One was right after the Civil War, when imprisonment was used to replace black slavery, as a form of black slavery; and that was private prisons, largely. I can tell them of another case, which came to the fore in 1934 in Europe, under Adolf Hitler, when they created concentration camps, and they used the slaves in the concentration camps, the prisoners, as slave labor until they were worn to death by overwork and undernourishment and sent to die and to be buried.

"We've always suspected that George Bush, whose father helped directly to put Adolf Hitler into power in Germany in 1933, has shown more than once a tendency to think like Hitler; and one thinks that, perhaps, many of the enthusiastic supporters of George Bush also may tend to think like Hitler. And we know that some of those people are in the background, behind Barr and Hudson and company, in pushing this Proposal X in Virginia."

In thinking like Hitler, an ancillary purpose of these modern-day fascists, as it was in the Confederacy and Nazi Germany, is to achieve what many African-American leaders have publicly called genocide (see the interview below with Virginia State Sen. Benjamin Lambert). African-Americans constitute 70% of the inmate population in Virginia, and 80% of those in maximum security prisons, though they are only 17% of the state population. A conscious, though publicly unstated purpose of the Anglo-Venetian crowd is to achieve through their prison slave-labor programs what they lost in the Civil War.

As evidence of the brazenness of the effort, a new bumper sticker has begun to appear in Virginia, with the slogan, "Don't blame me, I voted for Jefferson Davis."

The drug connection

In his Oct. 6 interview, LaRouche also pointed to the role of drugs in this scheme. "One should remember that Barr, apart from being part of the Thornburgh Justice Department, which is already bad, was also *all over* some of Ollie North's and Bush's drug-running operations [see *EIR* Sept. 23, 1994], and he gave them a clean bill of health.

"Now, since most of the people who go to prison these days are going in on drug charges, why do we want drug-runners and their confederates, or their accomplices, advising us on how to deal with the crime problem?"

Indeed, drugs are an *integral* part of the control of the New Age slavery in prisons. The free flow of drugs, in combination with rock music, non-stop television, and homosexual

sex, has effectively replaced the lash and the attack dog as the primary means of "behavior modification" in controlling "modern prisons."

While it would seem that a tightly run maximum security prison should be relatively easy to keep free of drugs, there is in fact a constant and abundant supply of all types of psychotropic drugs within the Virginia prisons, according to eyewitness accounts. Marijuana is smoked openly within the cell blocs and in the recreation yards. Cocaine and heroin are available everywhere, generally injected with shared needles, contributing to the estimated 20-30% rate of HIV infection among inmates. And, of course, hundreds of inmates are officially kept on thiorazine and other depressants, which are usually taken *in addition* to other, illicit drugs.

The unwritten but official policy of the United States, as determined not so much by Washington as it is by the actual policymakers of the establishment think-tanks, the media, and Hollywood, is to allow a free flow of drugs. Similarly, the policy of the Virginia Department of Corrections—although not the written policy—is essentially to permit open access to drugs.

Despite this hideous environment, Governor Allen and the Bush crowd refer to the current prison regime as "coddling" prisoners. In fact, whatever remedial or rehabilitative programs did exist are now being squeezed or eliminated, including basic reading programs, high school equivalency classes, and access to in-house libraries. Waiting lists for such classes as electronics, which might lead to useful employment on completion of sentence, are two to three years long. Federal grants which paid for college classes, where they existed in Virginia, have just been eliminated by the new federal crime bill.

Finally, since the debate began over Proposal X, parole has been virtually eliminated in Virginia for all prisoners. As many as 15 prisons were rumored to be in lockdown (no visitors allowed the inmates, who are only let out of their cells to shower every third or fourth day), as a result of incidents associated with an attempt at a system-wide protest against Proposal X, and at least three prisons are now in indefinite lockdown.

Who profits?

The following section on prison privatization is an eye-opening revelation on the question of who is benefitting from this hideous policy. Beginning in the Reagan-Bush "free-enterprise" years, prison privatization has become one of America's strongest growth "industries." Behind the privatization drive are the major Anglo-American banking and investment houses.

Whether or not Virginia becomes the model for a return to barbarism in America is not just a question for Virginians. If this "experiment" in New Age slavery is allowed to stand unchallenged, a new Civil War will have to be fought to overturn it. Let us not allow it to come to that.