THE NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

Parole, probation warrants not important

A Maryland parole official said this week that law enforcement agencies' low priority on parole and probation warrants could be a factor in a faliure to issue warrants for the thousands of persons with parole and probation violations

Donald Atkinson, executive assistant director for the Division of Parole and Probation, said there could be many reasons why almost 8,400 warrants have not been issued for violators.

"It is my opinion that law enforcement agencies don't take them at a high enough priority. They don't consider them to be important enough. That may be the reason why. I don't know. The agencies have to speak for themselves," he said.

Atkinson said he thought overcrowding in state correctional facilities could also be a factor.

The state's correction facilites would be "utterly destroyed" if all the outstanding warrants were enforced," he said. "The state just couldn't physically do it.

"It's reasonable to conclude that there are 8,000 probation warrants outstanding. That may be true but you have to recognize the fact that they are probation warrants and not parole warrants," he said.

Atkinson said the division is handling some 36,000 criminal cases.

"When you look at that, 8,000 isn't bad," he said.

Atkinson said he would like the enforcement of warrants placed under the jurisdiction of his division "where it belongs."

The state correctional system houses 7,400 inmates — about 2,000 more than the intended population. The City Jail has taken an additional 2,000 prisoners — twice as many inmates as the jail was designed to hold.

Unarmed parole officers have been victims of assaults, robberies and stabbing during routine checks of parolees and probationers, the officials said. According to sources, the parolees and probation offenders have not always been charged in connection with the incidents.

Henry Tanner, chairman of the Parole Commission, defended his commission, saying that, based on a comparison of the rate of receidivism of Maryland inmates compared to other states, Maryland should parole more inmates.

Turner said about 50% prisoners are paroled each month and the rate of recidivism among the parolees is within the national average, "only 6 per cent," he said.

"This indicates we are not running out enough people. We should have paroled more people," Turner said.

"We are paroling those we feel we can safely put on the street," he said.

"Athough we are speeding up parole to relieve the prisons, we are not going to people on the streets that are dangerous."

Decoys may tempt residents

There is no telling who will be posing as a police officer in Baltimore now that the police department has instituted its new "Decoy Squad."

Telephone repairmen, middle-aged shoppers, gargagemen and what even looks like a mugger's victim may slip out a police badge and handcuffs and call the paddy wagon.

Thirty-six policemen whose duties began Nov. 21, will pose as the decoys.

"The concept of the decoy squad is to create the impression that anyone out there is a potential law enforcement officer—a middle-aged woman—just someone hanging around the neighborhood or a worker," said Capt. John C. Schmitt.

Some officers will probably set themselves up as possible victims, said Dennis Hill, a police spokesman. If purse-snatching has been prevalent in one area of town, a police officer may become "bait" to lure the criminal, Hill said.

Although on the surface, it seems like a good move for the police department, the decoy squad could result in more arrests of citizens who did not originally want to commit a crime, but because of the temptation they will.

TV's can now print in color

Amid video recording machines, cable television, and home computers, a major Japan-based television company has introduced a television that will print a letter sized page in full color.

The set has capabilities of receiving your newspaper, complete with local and national news, recipes, sports and theater schedules. For consumers it could receive information on how to tune your car. For businessmen, it could be a way of distributing information about products and services.

The only thing preventing the television set from being introduced into the American mainstream of commercialism is government and industry agreements on new broadcasting systems and regulations.

One of the strange labor laws

It is legal sometimes for employee-benefit plans to provide unequal payments for men and women, even if they and the employer contribute equally to the plans.

Using life-expectancy tables showing that women live longer than men, one firm's retirement annuity plan paid women lower monthly benefits than men. Its insurance plan paid lower death benefits to survivors of male workers than women's. A U.S. district court held that this was not sex discrimination under federal law.

Mitchell gets on Md. courts

Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., Tuesday voiced his disapproval of the judicial selection process in Maryland and asked Attorney General Griffin Bell to examine the way judges are selected in the state.

In a letter to Bell, Mitchell said blacks are denied an equal opportunity to serve on state courts.

"I am convinced that a pattern has evolved in Maryland which has the effect of either denying blacks an equal opportunity to serve as judges in the state of Maryland, or limiting the number of blacks who can serve in the state's judicial system," Mitchell said in the letter.

Acting Gov. Blair Lee recently appointed Judge Harry A. Cole as the first black on the state Court of Appeals, the highest court in Maryland. The court has been in existence for 200 years.

Maryland judges are selected through a two-part process. A judicial nominating commission recommends a list of qualified candidates to the governor, whose choice must be one of those recommended to him.

Mitchell said a study of the judicial selection process would document his claim that blacks are systematically excluded from the system.

Legislators raise proposed

The General Assembly Compensation Commission has recommended that legislators receive increases in daily expense account allowances and annual pay raises to bring salaries up to $8,500 by 1982.

Under the four-year pay raise package, which must be approved by the General Assembly, the current $12,500-a-year salary would increase to $16,000 in January, 1979, $16,750 in 1980, $17,600 in 1981 and $18,500 in 1982.

The increase, approved Monday, would take Maryland's 188 Delegates and senators, who are considered part-time, from their present salary standing as 18th in the nation to about fifth, according to commission documents.

The expense account proposal would increase the $35-a-day room and board stipend to $50.

However, the commission set a $20-a-day limit on meals, which is tighter than existing requirements that allow legislators to spend as much as they want on meals as long as they stay within the $35-a-day total.

The new salary and expense pacakage would take effect in January, 1979.

Willieford Gragg, who has chaired the committee since 1970, said he believes the Legislature is far better today than four years ago when the commission voted toraise the salaries from $11,000 a year to $12,500.

Commission member H. Vernon Eney said he felt "a subtantial increase is justified.

"I think the commission's past policy on salaries has led to a vast improvement in the legislature," he said.

Commission member George S. Wills said he hopes the higher salaries will result in better participation by legislators when the annual 90-season are not meeting.

Dock strike costs city $26 million

The two-month dock strike at the Baltimore port resulted in an economic loss of $26 million— $34 million less than predicted, according to the Maryland Port Administration.

The agency had expected a $2 million a day loss, which would have totaled $60 million.

"The impact was less than we anticipated. The selective strike made it difficult for us to estimate (losses), said W. Gregory Halpin, acting port administrator.

Cargo tonnage figures computed during October and November showed the port handled more tonnage than the agency had projected for the duration of the strike.

However, agency spokesmen said the partial work-stoppage did substantial damage to jobs, corporate income and tax revenues.

The international Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) strike, aimed primarily at containerized cargoes, also affected the movements of break-bulk freight — cargo not shipped in metal vans.

The agency said the strike cost the port of Baltimore about 700,000 tons of containerized cargo and 120,000 tons of break-bulk cargo.

Break-bulk cargo requires more time and manpower to be moved and, therefore, caused the greater finacial loss when left on the dock.

Halpin said it is unlikely the Port will reach the cargo levels attained last year.

He estimated that the volumes of containerized cargo at the state-owned Dundalk terminal would fall about 500,000 tons short of the expected 2.8 million tons.

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Chest Piece	Floating	Floating	Floating	Floating
Flap	Double with double piping	Single with lined back	Double, no piping	Double, no piping
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Christmas SHOPPER'S GUIDE

Baltimoreans in the armed forces

Away from home

U.S. Army

COMPLETED TRAINING

PFC Ronald Byran, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bryan, 1412 N. Eden St., tank gunnery qualification test, Fratenwohr, West Germany. He is a 1976 graduate of Northern High School.

Pvt. Billy R. Brock, son of Mrs. Rita Still, 213A Garden Ridge Road, missile course, Fort Benning, Ga.

PFC James R. Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Adams, 7962 Saint Claire Lane, training exercise, Elgin Air Force Base, Fla.

Pvt. John J. Wilson, son of Mrs. Dorothy Hoyt, 3311 Lawnview Ave., missile course, Fort Benning, Ga.

Pvt. Walter Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delray Jones, 1516 E. Madison St., missile course, Fort Benning, Ga. He is a 1977 graduate of Dunbar High School.

ASSIGNED

Spec. 5 Joseph E. Stewart Sr., son of the Rev. and Mrs. Joseph P. Stewart, 3756 Dolfield Ave., first cook, with the 53rd Air Defense Artillery, Wurzburg, West Germany. His wife, Jeanette, lives at 3802 Dolfield Ave.

Pvt. Melvin L. Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin C. Griffin, 2617 Woodland Ave., medical specialist with the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He is a 1977 graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

Pvt. Gary Lance Dupree, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleaven Dupree, at Edgewood Arsenal.

Pvt. Inez K. Young, whose husband Thomas lives at 2431 Westport St., material supply clerk with the 3rd Support Command, Manau, West Germany. Her mother, Mrs. Carmelle Cradle, lives at 2431 Westport St., Her father, Kid Cradle, lives in Kenbridge, Va. She is a 1971 graduate of Western High School.

Sgt. Nay R. Smith, son of Mr and Mrs. Nathan Smith, 1716 Lanvale St., squad leader, 533rd Transportation Company, Fort Benning, Ga.

PROMOTED

Mark T. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Wilson Jr., 1912 Haselmere Road, to private first class, 87th Maintenance Battalion, West Germany.

Charles H. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Miller, 2426 St. Paul St., to private first class, 1st Infantry Division, Crailsheim, West Germany. His wife Sharon lives at 3005 Ellerslie Ave.

Pvt. Gary Dupree

U.S. Marines

COMPLETED TRAINING

Pvt. Tyrone Lloyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Erashmond Lloyd, 2109 Windsor Ave., motor vehicle operator's course, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is a 1977 graduate of Douglass High School.

Lance Cpl. Gordon D. Ridgeway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Ridgeway, 1304 Marshall St., desert training. He is a 1977 graduate of Southern High School.

Pvt. Jetile L. Clark, daughter of Doctor O. Clark, 1301 Poplar Grove St. and Mrs. Leonia M. Clark, 1912 N. Monroe St., recruit training, Parris Island, S.C.

Pvt. Eric C. McKee, son of Mrs. Claudia K. McKee, 1822 W. Fayette St., infantry combat training, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He is a 1977 graduate of Southwestern High School.

Pvt. Judy J. Burton, daughter of Bernard I. Berry of 3000 Woodbine Road and Ms. Betty M. Berry, 4918 Palmer Ave., recruit training, Parris Island, S.C. She is a 1977 graduate of Western High School.

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