



The Indianapolis Times

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Fair and continued warm tonight and tomorrow.

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INDIANA PENAL SYSTEM FACES SWEEPING QUIZ

Seven Famed Experts,
Headed by Warden Lawes,
to Conduct Probe.

FIRST SESSION JULY 6

Six-Point Reform Program
to Be Studied by
Investigators.

A sweeping investigation of Indiana penal institutions by a fact-finding commission of seven nationally known experts in the fields of penology and social reform was announced today.

Heading the commission invited by Governor Paul V. McNutt to pass upon an already tentatively drawn penal program is Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing prison. The personnel also includes:

Sanford Bates, director of the United States Bureau of prisons; Ernest N. Roselle, superintendent of Mooseheart school, Mooseheart, Ill.; Dr. F. Lovell Bixby, assistant director of the United States Bureau of prisons, department of justice; Miss Blanche LaDu, director Minnesota department of justice; Burdette Lewis, of the American Public Welfare Association, and Dean A. Potter, of the Purdue university engineering school.

First meeting of the commission will be held with Governor McNutt in the executive offices here July 6.

Coy Reveals Plans

Announcement of the commission and its members' willingness to advise on a penal reform program for Indiana was made this afternoon by Wayne Coy, undersecretary to Governor McNutt, in an address before the Central States Parole Conference at Chicago.

Tracing the career of John Dillinger, whose nation-wide depredations threw the Indiana penal system into the limelight, Mr. Coy admitted that he had little doubt that the state of Indiana made Dillinger Public Enemy No. 1.

Mr. Coy outlined the facts concerning Dillinger's sentence to the Indiana state reformatory, subsequent transfer to the state penitentiary and the parole which loosed him upon a defenseless public.

"There does not seem to me to be any escape from the fact that the state of Indiana made John Dillinger the Public Enemy No. 1 that he is today," Mr. Coy said. "The Indiana Constitution provides that our penal code shall be reformatory and not vindictive."

Indiana Is to Blame

Taking the case before us, we are forced to the conclusion that our penal institutions obviously failed of reformation, or that Dillinger was given too long a sentence for his first offense, or both. Instead of reforming this prisoner, our penal institutions provided him with an education in crime."

Mr. Coy referred to the fact that Dillinger pleaded guilty to robbery of a Mooresville merchant and ten days later was sentenced to ten to twenty years for assault and battery with intent to rob, while his partner, older and with a criminal record, stood trial and got only two to fourteen years.

Mr. Coy outlined the following six-point program which will be laid before the penal experts who have accepted Governor McNutt's invitation:

1. A more widespread use of probation in order that many first offenders may be returned to places of usefulness in society without the stigma of confinement in a penal institution.

Uniform Sentences Urged

2. Uniformity of sentences to those convicted of felonies, with power to a board of competent persons authorized to fix the length of sentence in each case.

Such sentences would be truly indeterminate with a low minimum. Reformable types could be released early and the nonreformable held for long maximum terms. No man would be released from prison, if such a release could not be made with safety.

On the other hand, many youthful and accidental offenders now serving long sentences would have opportunity to return to society; or the application of determinate sentences in all felony cases, with good time allowance for those who serve their time without marks on their record, with further good time allowance at the discretion of a competent board for those who make sufficient progress in the program of rehabilitation laid out for them.

A thorough pre-parole training.

3. Case Studies Recommended

4. An examination of the whole routine of prison life with particular regard to its effect on the reformation of the prisoner.

5. Case studies of each of the prisoners to the end that each case may receive the kind of training or treatment needed. Such information likewise is valuable to the prison official charged with parole supervision.

6. An adequate staff of properly trained parole supervisors and a close co-ordination of this work with the welfare work in the various counties.

7. Rioters Beat Up Conductor and Motorman: 40 Flee as Fire Breaks Out in Trolley.

'This Is a Habit,' Crown Point Man Tells Dillinger at Ball Game; 'Certainly Is,' Says John

By United Press

CROWN POINT, Ind., June 28.—John Dillinger has taken up baseball as a pastime to while away the hours spent in eluding the law enforcement agents of the nation, it appeared today.

Robert Volk, who is familiar with Dillinger's appearance, said today he saw the outlaw attending a baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago Tuesday.

Volk was among those in a Crown Point garage from which Dillinger stole the car in which

he made his sensational escape from jail here last March 3. He said he is positive that he not only saw but talked to Dillinger at the baseball game, but was too frightened to tell police until his disclosure to Lake county authorities in it appeared today.

Volk frankly was fidgety, since he recognized Dillinger at once. To make it worse, Dillinger seemed to recognize him, too. The Cubs were playing the Brooklyn Dodgers and it was a pretty good game, but Volk lost all interest in what was going on out on the diamond.

When finally he recovered himself sufficiently to find his voice Volk said he remarked to Dillinger as casually as possible:

"This is getting to be a habit."

"It certainly is," he quoted Dillinger as replying. Dillinger, it seemed, was not as nervous as Volk. In fact, Dillinger seemed to be paying little attention to the game, but kept his eyes glued on a building across the street from the

ball park as though he expected something to happen.

DILLINGER got up and moved away into the crowd, Volk said, during the seventh inning when every one got up to stretch. Volk couldn't do anything but sit there.

He said Dillinger was unshaved and wore a dark blue suit with the collar of his shirt open. Volk didn't see any pistols or machine guns on Dillinger's person.

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