

Whereas, the Standing Committee on Minorities of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee has studied the Virginia State Crime Commission's First Report on Corrections, concerning the Virginia State Penitentiary (Dec. 1973) and found the conditions described in the report completely deplorable,

Whereas, we support certain Crime Commission recommendations concerning the Virginia State Penitentiary and the new Department of Corrections,

Be it resolved, that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee strongly urges the Governor and the General Assembly to close the Virginia State Penitentiary at Spring Street at the earliest feasible date. And until that time, the following Crime Commission recommendations should be adopted:

1. Proper classification procedures should be adopted. Teams made up of psychologists, counselors, members of the Corrections staff, and arbitrators should be utilized to classify the inmates. The system used in the State of Florida for classification could be adopted with necessary modifications as a model.
2. Institute meaningful vocational programs and eliminate vocational programs that are outmoded.

Be it further resolved, that we strongly recommend that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee support the following Crime Commission recommendations concerning the new Department of Corrections:

1. The function of the Probation and Parole Board should be adjudicatory; consideration should be given to assigning responsibility for the administration of probation and parole services to a division of the proposed Department of Corrections.
2. A school should be established for the proper training of correctional officers. This school should begin to function three months after enactment of the legislation.
3. Personnel who are not performing satisfactorily should not be retained in the system. Sufficient funds should be made available to hire outstanding administrators. The Virginia State Crime Commission recommends that the Commonwealth hire the best available men for the top administrative positions and offer salaries that will attract men of this caliber. It is false economy to hire high echelon personnel at a low salary.
4. Medium security institutions should be planned to offer true vocational and academic training, behavioral modification and rehabilitation. The program of the Fox Lake Institution of Wisconsin could be a possible model. This should be one facet of an overall plan.