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This radio program today marks the start of a weekly program aimed at helping the people of Monterey County to better understand many of the diverse and complicated problems of state government. The inner workings between our state government, federal government, and county, city, and district government.

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As your state senator, I hope to bring to you reports that will be both interesting and informative. Today's broadcast is concerned with California corrections and youth agency under the direction of Richard A McGee. It may be of interest to you to know, there is more than 50,000 men, women, boys and girls in confinement or on parole under the supervision of the youth and correction agency.

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That one of four adults convicted of felonies in California is received and confined and maintained in the 11 major penal institutions and the 29 conservation camps. Prisoners in these institutions vary in age groups, education, emotional stability and what is even more important, in the ability to be salvaged so when they return to society they will be able to make the proper adjustment. One of the major Penal institutions in California

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Is located here in Monterey County. We are guarded here about this institution from Cletus Fitzharris, the superintendent of Soledad, in a tape interview which I had with Mr. Fitzharris at Soledad prison last Tuesday.

Senator: Cletus Fitzharris, the superintendent, we're glad to welcome back you were here in Monterey County some years ago and uh you were a man that gave much of your life to the uh field of correctional work.

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Senator: is that correct?

Fitzharris: It's been my good fortune to be here at Soledad for 7 years when the buildings were first being built. And uh now I'm back as superintendent after having been gone for nearly 9 years. It's a pleasure to be back in the valley and to again be a part of the community of Monterey County.

Senator: during those 9 years you served in the Aledol authority did you not?

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Fitzharris: that's right senator.

Senator: and the Soledad authority is meeting here today. Just what do they do?

Fitzharris: The Soledad authority is a parole board of California the ledol consists of 7 members assisted by 8 hearing representatives they visit each one of the 10 adult male institutions, penal institutions, for the purpose of interviewing inmates reviewing files and ultimately fixing release dates and setting terms of parole.

Senator:

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Senator: And they come here about once a month?

Fitzharris: They're here once a month, yes.

Senator: How old is Soledad institution?

Fitzharris: the original buildings of the barracks along the highway and the metal buildings were started in the spring of 1947 when I arrived here in July 1947 there were about 4 of the metal buildings there were no roads, no fences or no facilities of any kind. Except the housing units for inmates

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and one place where employees and inmates alike ate their meals.

Senator: Well super done Mr.Fitzharris, you really have 3 institutions you here now

Fitzharris: That's right from the original facility what we call then the barracks what is now called the south facility we have grown to encompass the next step which is call is the central facility this was the next building that was built along the highway invisible from the highway.

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Fitzharris: Which is built to house 1200 inmates and now houses 1600. A few years ago about 5 years ago another facility called the north facility was built just north of the main institution is almost invisible from the highway. It also holds about 1200 inmates so these three facilities operate almost independently but under my general direction.

Senator: What about the type of men that are in institution. Do they vary north facility

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to central facility, the south, and the barracks?

Fitzharris: Yes each facility has specialized purpose the barracks is a minimum security institution for the most part much as half of the men are so called trustees. Who are outside the fence during the daytime working in the fields and doing other out of custody assignments operating the dairy so forth.

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Fitzharris: The other half of them are kept within the institution to ope- within the south facility to operate the kitchen, the janitor service and some of the shops and so forth. These men are the most trusted of the group here at the training facility. In central we have an older more ah, I beg your pardon less old

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and a more rebellious kind of a person although not dangerously so. For the most part we uh keep most of these people within the compound and a very few of these people are assigned outside of the actual building. The shops, the educational department, the maintenance, the hospital, the bakery the kitchen so forth most of these work assignments other than the 3 factories the paper products, the clothing factory

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Fitzharris: and the juvenile products factory.

Senator: What about the north facility?

Fitzharris: North facility is a facility built for primarily for younger inmates. We now have 540 some youth authority wards which is nearly half of the population of this 1200 bed institution the youth authority wards remain under the jurisdiction of the youth authority but under our management.

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Fitzharris: balance of the beds are used by the dept of corrects commitments who are mostly of the younger group but fairly animable to treatment and not too terribly rebellious and who present some possibility of salvation

Senator: What is the average age of the inmate in this institution

Fitzharris: Well I'm not quite sure of the average age it varies from facility to facility, now the

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Senator: Just approximately.

Fitzharris: I would say the average age of the men at north would be someplace between 20-21 or 22 years old, the average age of those in central would run 24-25 and the south would run probably closer to 30 years.

Senator: what would you most of these men are going come out and go back into their community or some other community at the conclusion of their term or the period fixed

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by the aldol authority.

Fitzharris: That's right we figured that uh approximately 98 percent or more of the inmates committed to prison are going to be released to society some day or some way. Only those people that are executed, and who are committed to prison for life without the possibility of parole or who die in prison are the ones who are not released. Uh, comparatively few are condemned with the life without the possibility of parole and

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relatively few die. And I suppose the figure of those released will come higher than 98 percent

Senator: Well the men don't come directly to this prison from county jails do they, they go through some other process before they get in here

Fitzharris: Yes that's true they go to what we call a reception guidance center those north of the hachapees, are committed by the committing judge to the director of corrections and are delivered to the correctional facility out

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medical facility out in Vacaville where they have a reception guidance center. Those that are committed from southern California are taken to chino to the reception guidance center. Here they remain for some 6-8 weeks during which time they are studied by psychologists, sociologist psychiatrist, educational and vocational counselors and other staff people who interview them and test them and who compile information to be used later on by the institutions

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and by the aldol authority.

Senator: Do you operate forestry camps out of Soledad?

Fitzharris: yes yes we have five forestry camps. three of them in the high sierras one in Colunga and one in slack canyon

Senator: I see you really really want to get on the foresty detail don't they?

Fitzharris: Yes this the great uh trend they like to get out where there's comparative freedom. Where they have freedom (inaudible) and they have the feeling of being outside and working outside under the sun.

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and uh under the trees like it is vacation time.

Senator: Are these men screened pretty carefully before they go to camp?

Fitzharris: Oh yes indeed pardon me, men that are considered for camp are our very best risks and men who we are reasonably sure that are not commit any harm to society or to any people even if they should be tempted to escape.

Senator: I notice you call this a correctional institution rather than a prison.

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Senator: now what is the difference in designation

Fitzharris: well I suppose this is a question of semantics but the emphasis in the correctional training facility is training. We have 30 vocational training shops opportunities for men to learn a trade or to learn something of a trade but not it's not complete trade.

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We have a staff of 35 academic teachers, we have a librarian and we have an all matter of treatment programs including group counseling, psychotherapy, group therapy speaker club and various things like this geared to help the man and his self-improvement.

Senator: How many employees do you have up Soledad, (inaudible) or severed employees.

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Fitzharris: We have 716 in the payroll and I'm not quite sure at this moment I'm just having the figures checked but I believe this includes those teachers under contract to Salinas high school district and who are paid from state funds that we furnish.

Senator: And you have a large industry here today through the prison industry. I was amazed to see your large paper plant and your wood products plant. You have a number of industries here. Just what do these industries, what do they do other than transfine?

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What do you do with the products of these industries?

Fitzharris: The clothing factor, manufacturer hospital clothings garments