

CORRECTIONS STUDY CONSENSUS - March 21 & 22, 1972

1. Do you feel that the bail bond law serves the purpose for which it was enacted? NO.

If not, what changes should be made in the law or in use of the law?

I-Bond should be used more.

There should be more time given to hearings on bond to assess the case and to give people an opportunity to get bond.

There should be more follow-up by court staff to prevent bail jumping and to insure appearance in court. This could be done by bail agencies or social agencies. (Efforts should be made to insure that the accused understands all aspects of the procedure and they could be given dates to report in or routine reminders through the mail. The idea was to shift some of the responsibility of follow-up to the accused.)

Some concern by a small group about crimes being committed while out on bail. It was felt however, that bail agency supervision could decrease this.

2. Should the courts make more use of release on recognizance?
YES

If yes, how can this be done?

A system of verification and follow-up is needed. (See question 3.)

3. What system or procedures should be used to help a judge make a decision on whether or not to grant release on recognizance?

A system of the Vera type with interviews, verification and follow-up.

Do you have any suggestions on the administration of this program?

It should be part of the court system - similar to the probation system, but with a separate staff and procedures. Could be civil service to eliminate patronage.

4. Do you feel that pre-trial release should be:
- a. dropped or reduced in use
 - b. used about as now
 - c. used more extensively
 - d. improved in administration
 - e. other

G. & D.

5. If you favor pre-trial release, do you feel the purpose would be better served by any or all of the following?

- a. Prompt trials
- b. Limited number of continuances
- c. Adequate number of public defenders
- d. Other

a. Yes.

b. It was felt that the number should not be set at a definite limit, but that care should be taken that the system was not abused by either party.

c. Yes. It was suggested that the staff of public defenders be increased so that the defendant would have a choice of attorneys; that the public defenders be adequately paid and work full time at the job; that they be strictly supervised to insure a good defense effort.

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5. c. contd. - (This might be achieved by consolidation of this service by some counties.)
d. Bail agencies.

6. Should victimless crimes be part of the criminal justice system? If answer is yes, what alternatives do you suggest for management and treatment of the above types of crime? If answer is no, do you suggest any changes in the present methods of management and treatment of these types of crime?

No consensus could be reached. There was a major division among members concerning this question. Those who favored leaving ~~victimless~~ victimless crimes in the criminal justice system were in a slight majority. These people suggested that there be a change in emphasis in the present system with more humane treatment by the courts.

Those who favored removing such crimes from the criminal justice system felt that education, information and treatment should be available to people in these categories but that it should not be mandatory.

Details of handling the separate types of crimes were not discussed because of the major division of opinion on this question.