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Clinton Prison Diagnostic and Treatment Center

Dannemora, New York



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STATE OF NEW YORK
Nelson A. Rockefeller
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
Paul D. Mc Ginnis
Commissioner

Ludwig Fink, M.D.
Director
Clinton Prison
Diagnostic and Treatment Center

J. Edwin LaVallee
Warden
Clinton Prison

Governor's Special Committee
on
Criminal Offenders
Co-chairmen:

Paul D. Mc Ginnis, Commissioner of Correction
Russell G. Oswald, Chairman, Board of Parole

Peter Preiser, Executive Director



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Both as Commissioner of Correction and Co-chairman of Governor Rockefeller's Special Committee on Criminal Offenders, I have planned, supported and encouraged the development of the Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Dannemora.

All of the programs of the Department of Correction are designed for the rehabilitation of the offender and thus are aimed at preventing the offender from returning to crime after his release. In announcing the establishment of the Center, Governor Rockefeller emphasized this aspect of its goal when he pointed out that "this program is an important contribution to the reduction of the number of criminal repeaters."

In a broad sense the mission of the Center is to conduct a diagnostic and treatment program for persistent offenders convicted of felonies, and to conduct research related to the causes of crime. Very careful criteria have been set up for transferring inmates from our other correctional institutions to the Center.

We permit the diagnostic and treatment functions to be carried out in a setting in which the fewest possible restrictions are imposed upon the inmate. By this means the inmate's behavior can be observed in a wide variety of situations where he is free to act with a minimum of constraints. Within this relatively free environment -- unlike that of a conventional prison -- a wide variety of activities are conducted which provide the opportunity for both diagnosis and treatment of the individual.

It is my sincere hope that this pilot project at the Diagnostic and Treatment Center will truly develop as a laboratory for new effective treatment methods that might be used in all or many of our institutions in the Department of Correction.

Paul D. Mc Ginnis
Commissioner of Correction

The Clinton Prison Diagnostic and Treatment Center functions under the directorship of Ludwig Fink, M.D., assisted by a resident staff consisting of psychiatrists, psychologists, a research scientist, a service unit supervisor and a security captain. A parole representative is assigned full time by the Division of Parole.

Dr. Bruno Cormier, Director of the Forensic Psychiatry Clinic of McGill University, serves as principal consultant. A team of psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers from the clinic provide, on a part-time basis, research and clinical services to supplement the resident staff.

In addition, the State University College at Plattsburgh provides part-time staff for additional consulting services to the center.



Director and Chief Consultant
with two Correctional Officers

INMATE ARRIVING

The men treated at the center are selected from the felony institutions (or maximum-security prisons) throughout New York State.

These men are of average or above-average intelligence, usually between the ages of 21 and 40, free from narcotic addiction and, most important, they are chronic offenders.

In addition, the men selected should have six to 18 months to serve before Parole Board appearance and an expectation of at least 18 months on parole.

After six weeks each man is given the opportunity of returning to his respective institution--if he doesn't think he is suitable for the program.

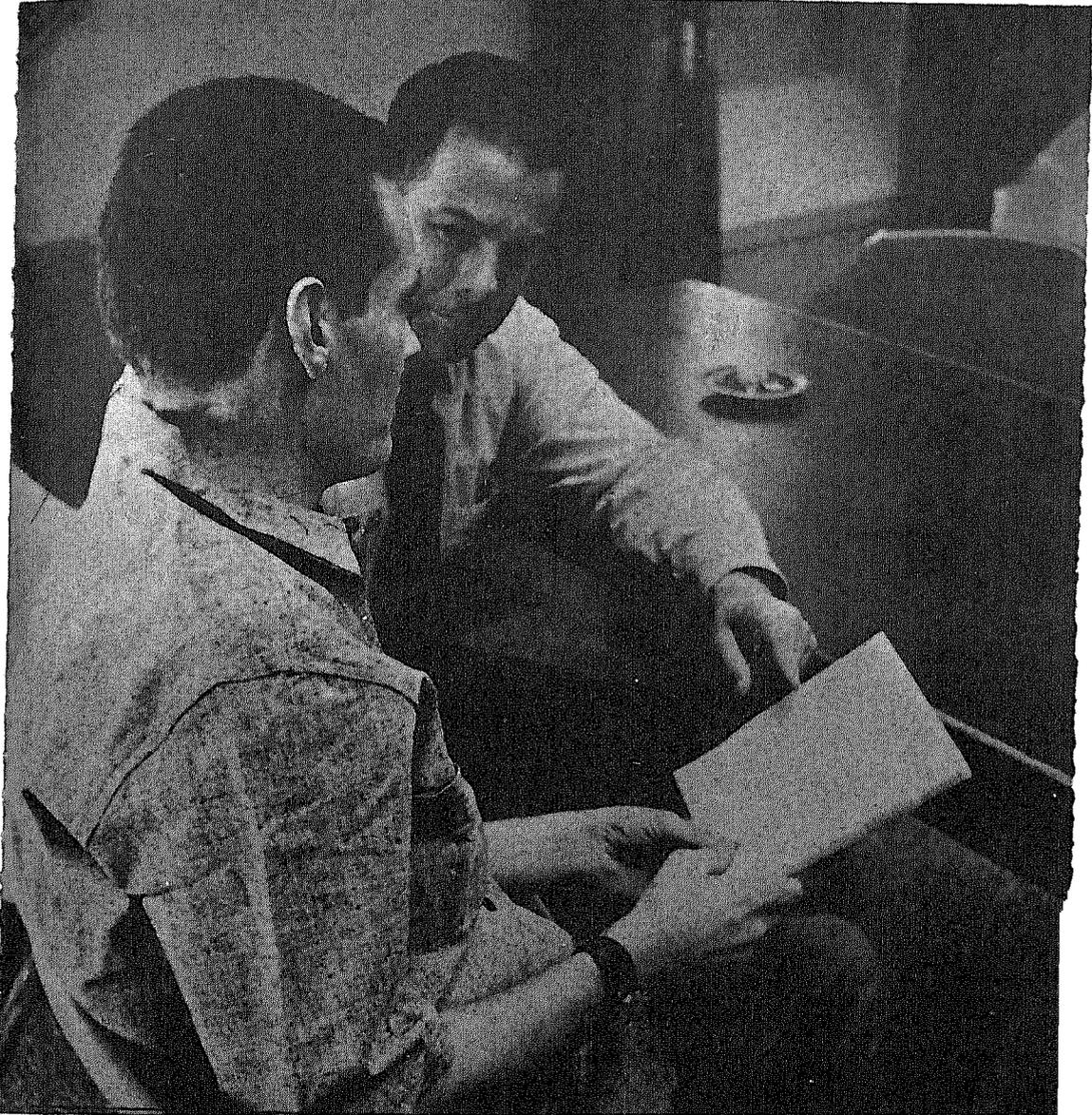
THE MISSION

The mission of the center is to conduct a diagnostic and treatment program for inmates convicted of felonies and to conduct research related to the causes of crime. The current program is directed at the development of methods for rehabilitation of the persistent offender, the prediction of post-release behavior, research into the causes of criminal behavior and the training of correctional personnel.

The center was established in October, 1966, on the recommendation of Governor Rockefeller's Special Committee on Criminal Offenders. The center opened that month with a capacity for fifty-one inmates. One year later the second unit was opened with an additional capacity of fifty-four inmates.

Although located in and receiving logistic support from Dannemora State Hospital, the center is legally a part of Clinton Prison.

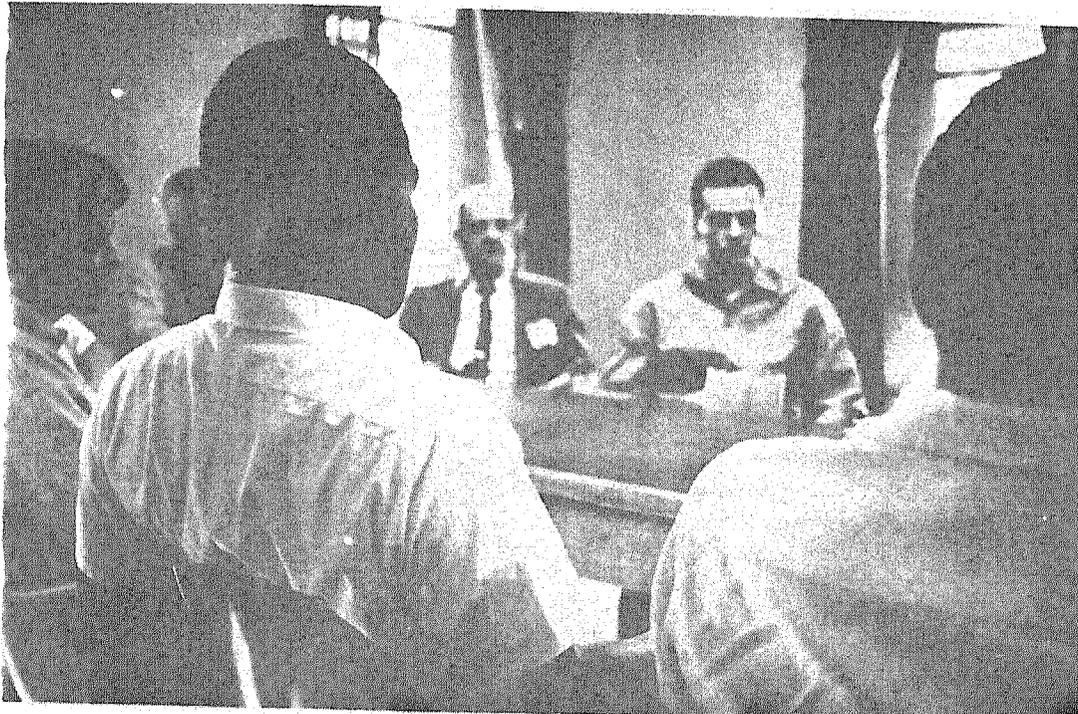
WELCOME



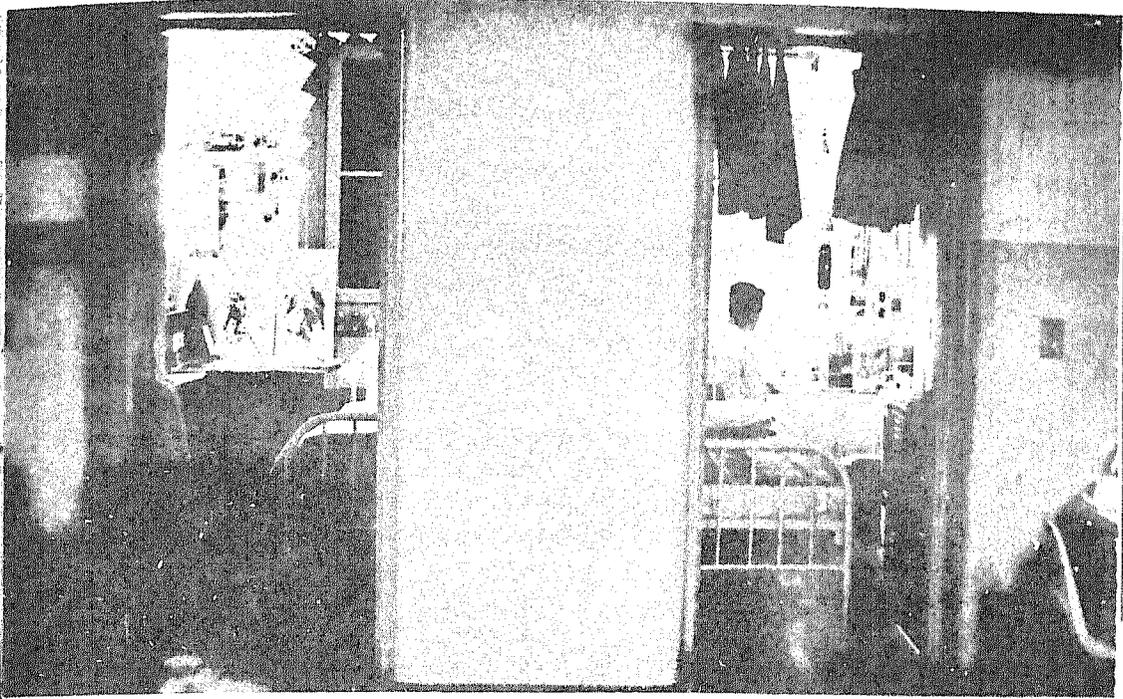
The functions of the officer at the center go far beyond the basic security duties. He is an essential element in the therapeutic community. The officer is in constant contact with the inmate and therefore plays a key role in the production of a constructive citizen.

Arriving at a new institution is a disturbing occurrence and at the Diagnostic Center it perhaps is more upsetting. Each new man is greeted by a relaxed welcoming committee of inmates and staff who explain the program, its aims, goals and methods.

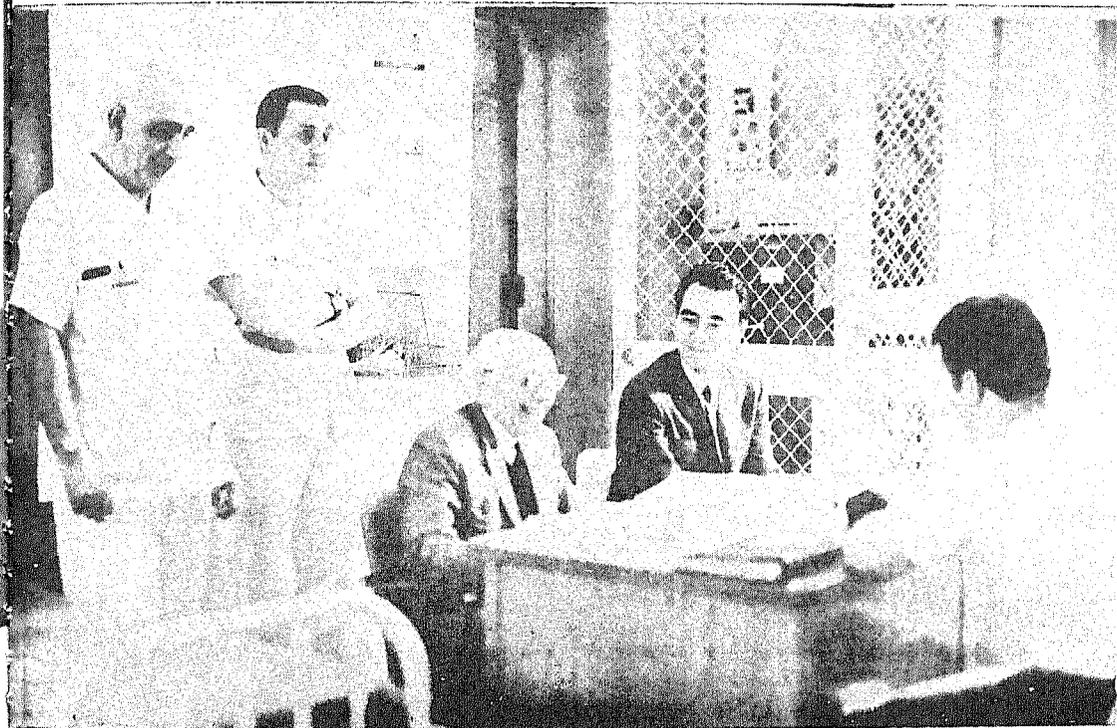
The easy atmosphere, absence of many formal rules, the obviously friendly manner of the officers and the relationship between inmates and staff is often viewed with obvious disbelief and skepticism. Following the introductory meeting, the new man is shown his room and introduced to the other men. That afternoon or the following morning he receives his medical examination and, after initial psychological testing, is introduced to the shop and begins both his functioning as a member of the therapeutic community and the process of his assimilation into the center.



Welcoming Committee



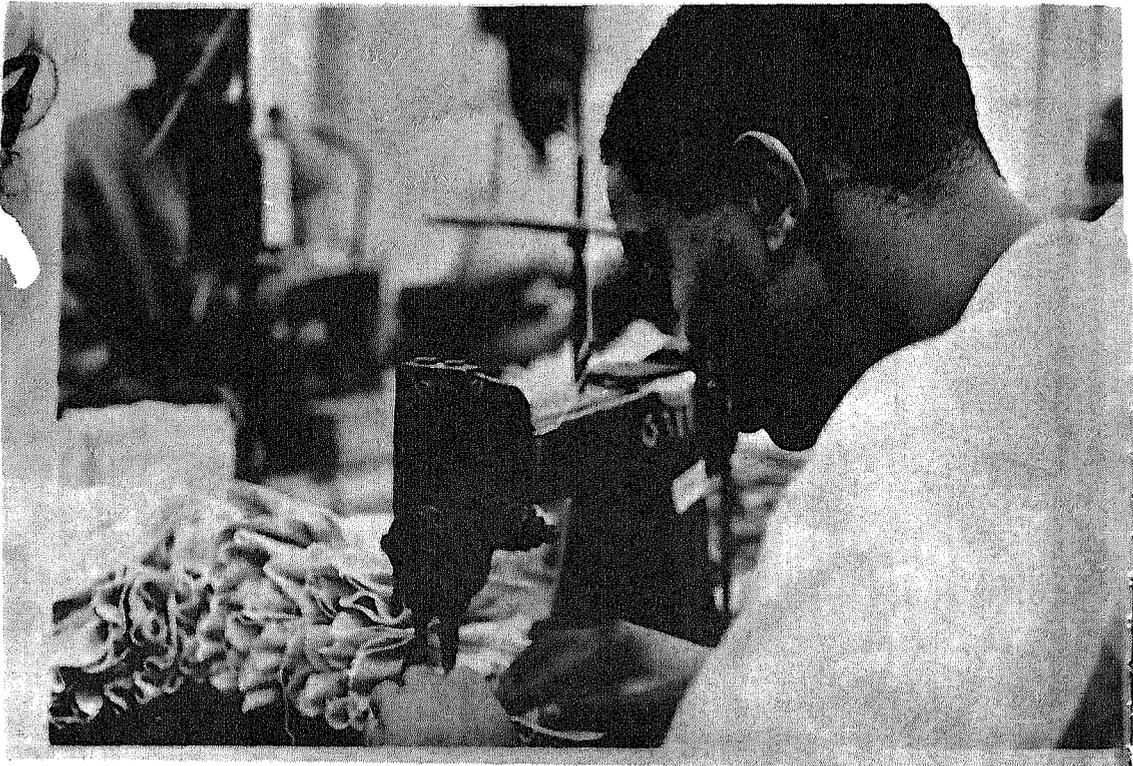
Living Quarters



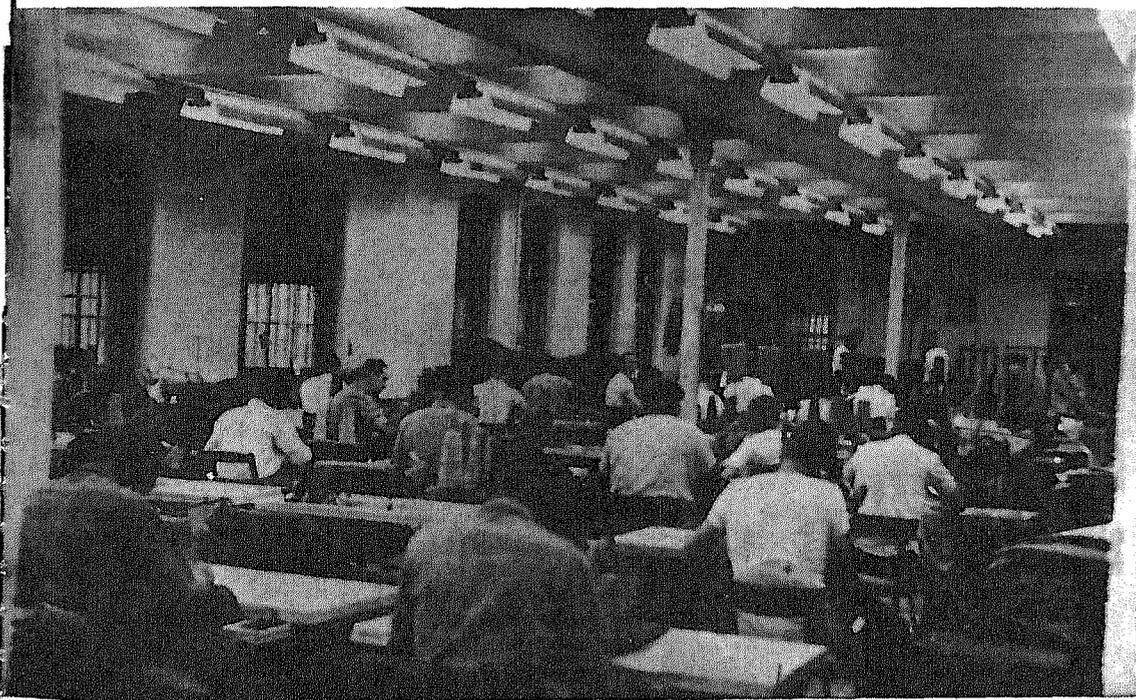
Infirmary

DAILY ROUTINE

The inmates work a four and one-half day week in either the garment or glove shop. The men are expected to be at work at 8 A.M. They are not forced to work; however, absences are noted. All employees are paid at the same rate, thirty cents per day. Employees are dismissed from work for causes on occasion. Good performance is praised and promotions are to higher status jobs. The accent is upon developing sound work habits, such as dependability, punctuality and reliability. The responsibility for work rests upon the men themselves.



Glove Shop

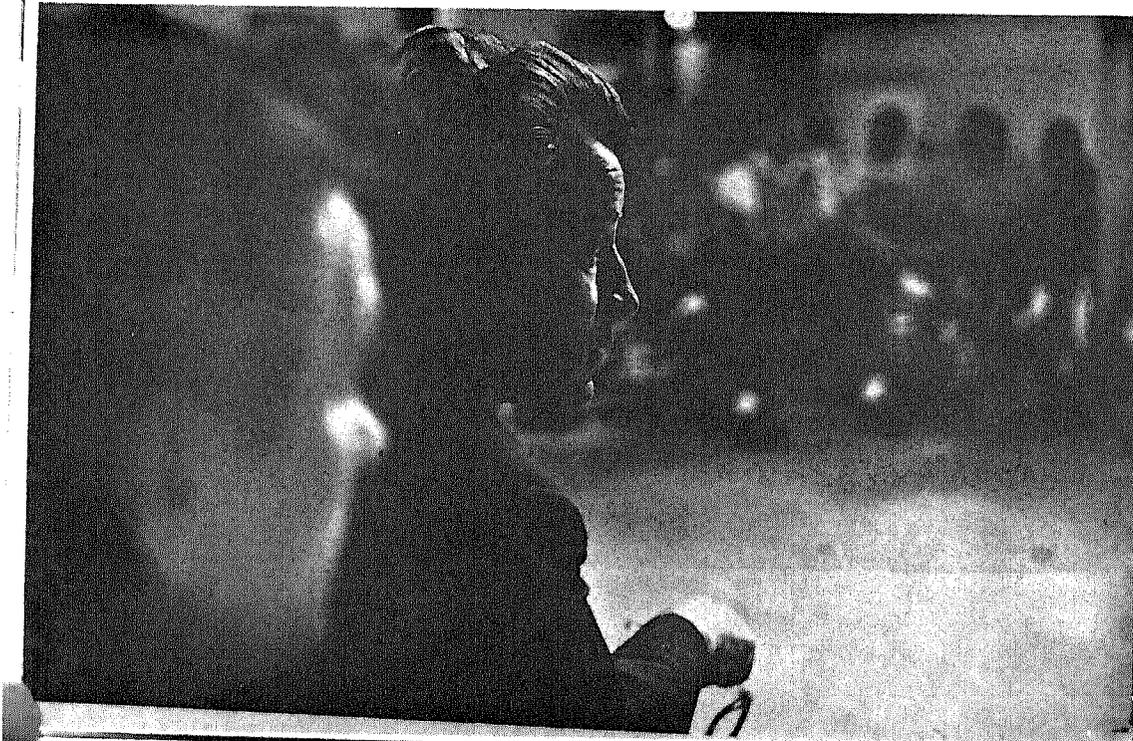


Garment Shop

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Each day there is a community meeting which lasts for 45 minutes, during which time personal, employment and/or community problems are discussed. The community as a group attempts to develop means of dealing with individual and group problems.

One of the unique features of the therapeutic community at the center is the wide latitude each individual is given in expressing himself in an atmosphere of freedom without recrimination. Any topic is grist for the mill, since the community structure is oriented democratically.

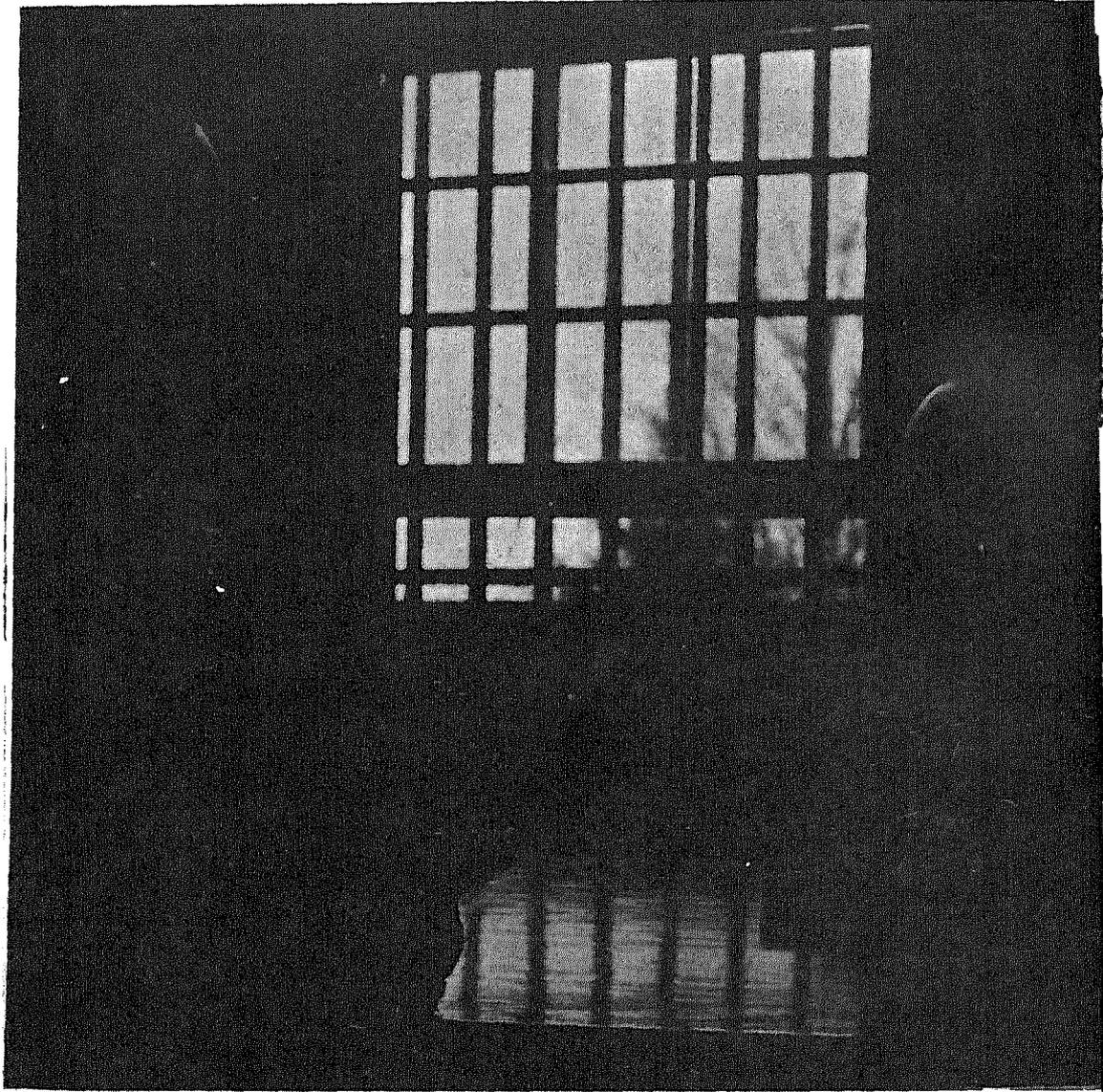




SOCIO-DRAMA

Each Saturday morning, there are two-hour sessions under the direction of a professional group worker from McGill University-- where actual or possible problems are acted out in the form of a drama.

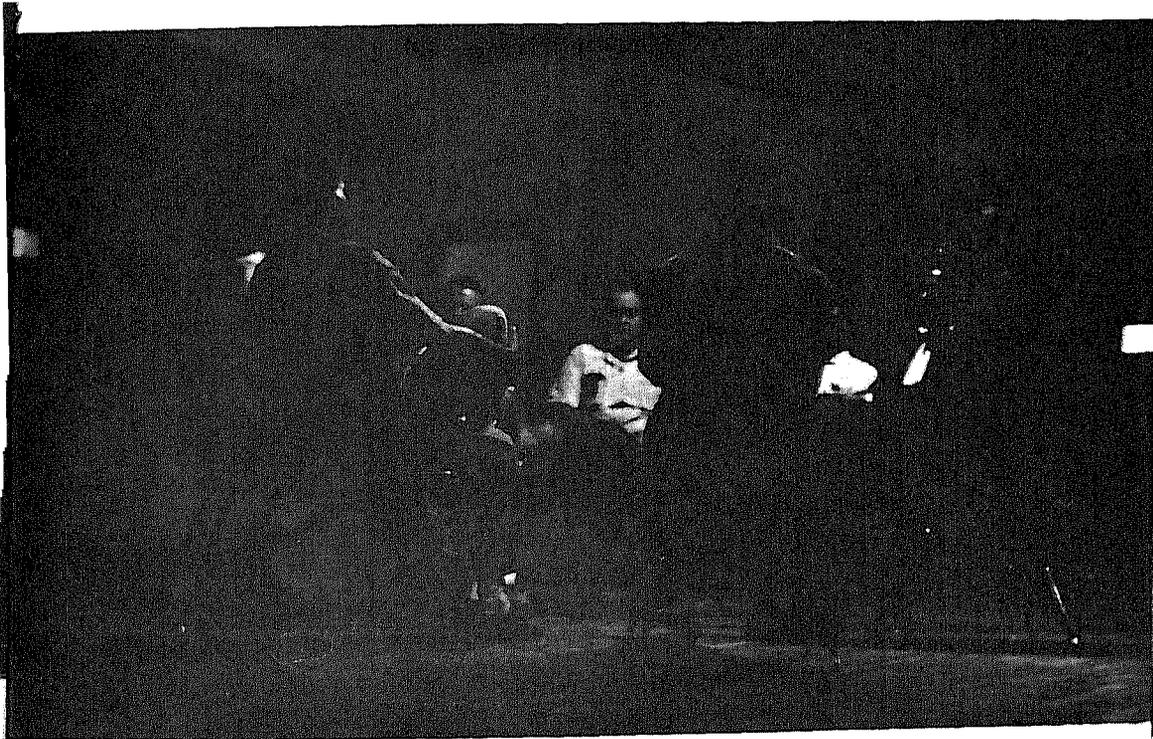




Individual Therapy

THERAPY

Psychotherapy provides the key to understanding the dynamics of the individual: his emotions, his thoughts, his attitudes, and how he handles the stresses of life. In individual and group psychotherapy each inmate works to unravel the past patterns of his life in order to understand the facts which led to his difficulties in living and to prison. He explores his present relationships with people in order to gain a deeper understanding of himself. Little by little, as he gains insight, he is able to test out new ways of living in the therapeutic community. Thus, there is a continuing, reciprocal process between daily living in the community and the shaping of new feelings and attitudes in psychotherapy.



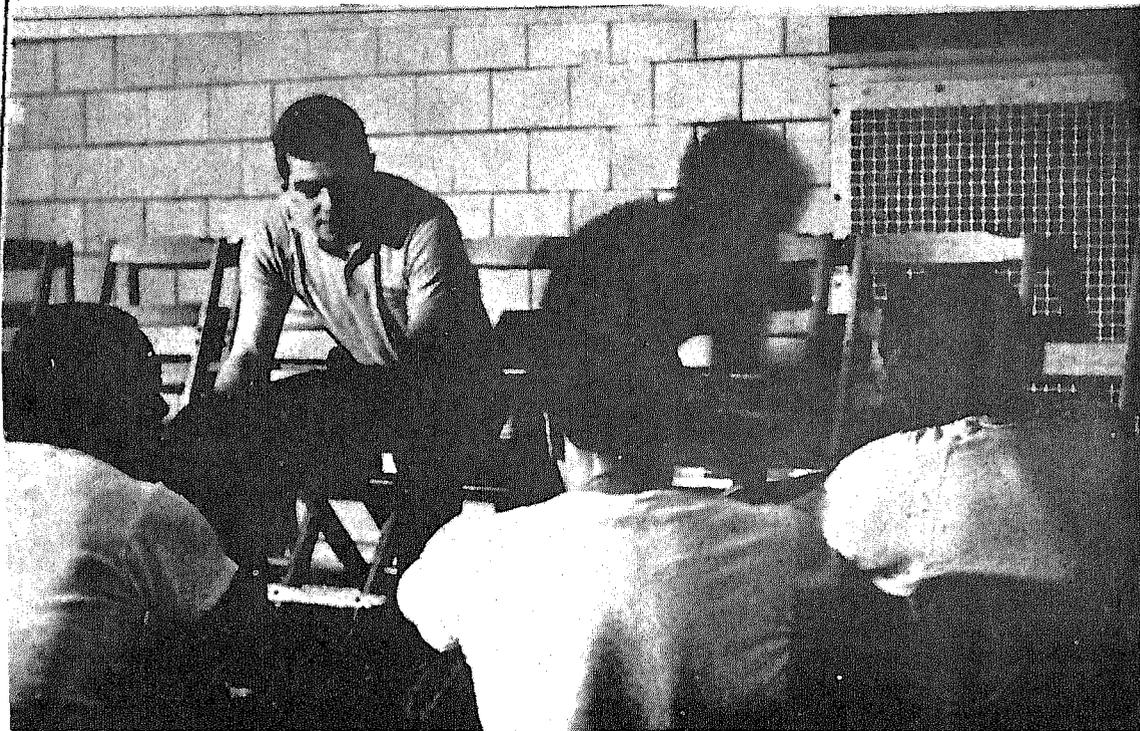
Group Therapy

LEISURE TIME

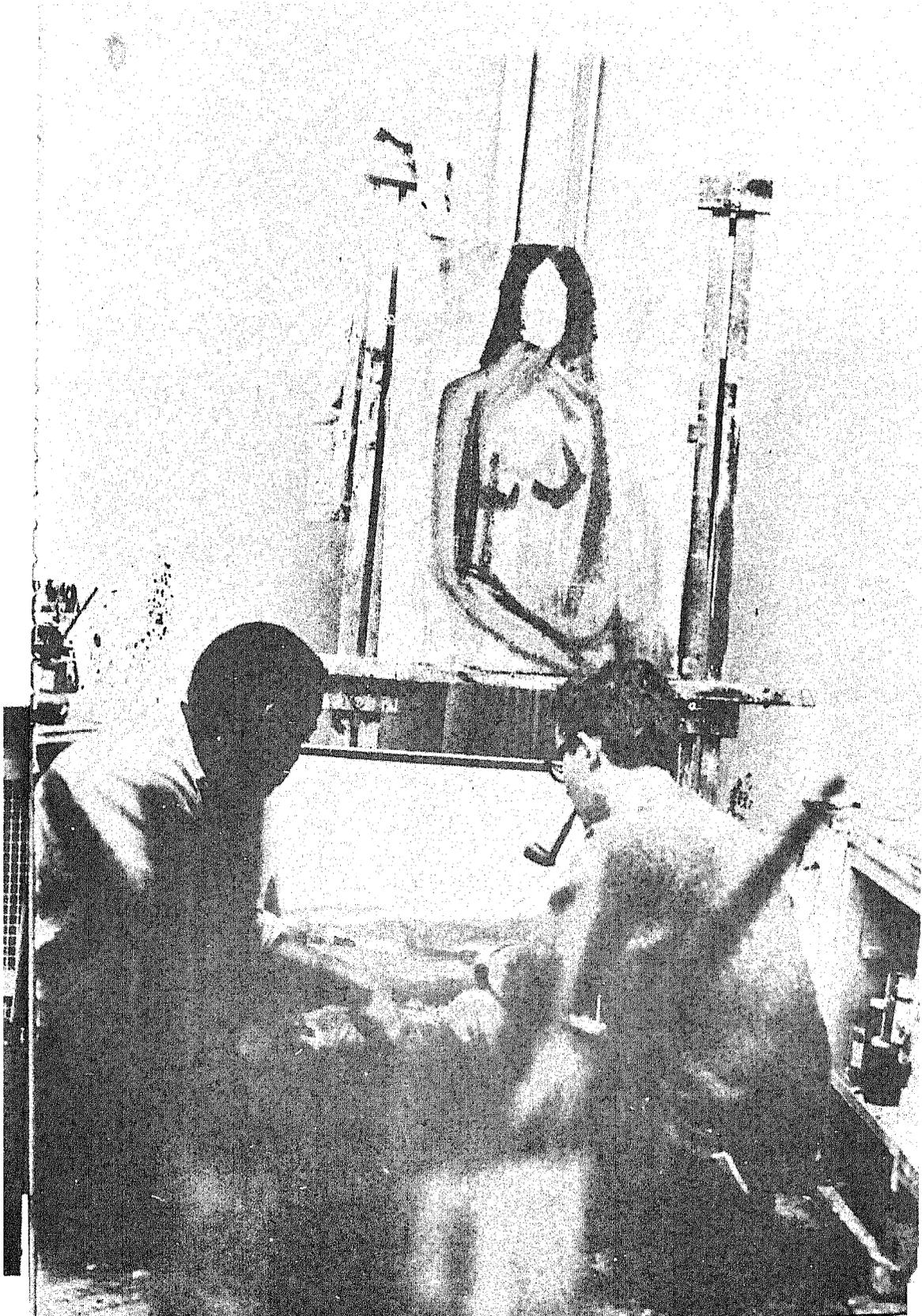
There are many activities in the evenings and weekends, including educational, recreational, as well as vocational activities to familiarize the man with using his time productively.

Participation in music, art and drama is on a voluntary basis and is under the guidance of a professional instructor provided by the State University College at Plattsburgh.

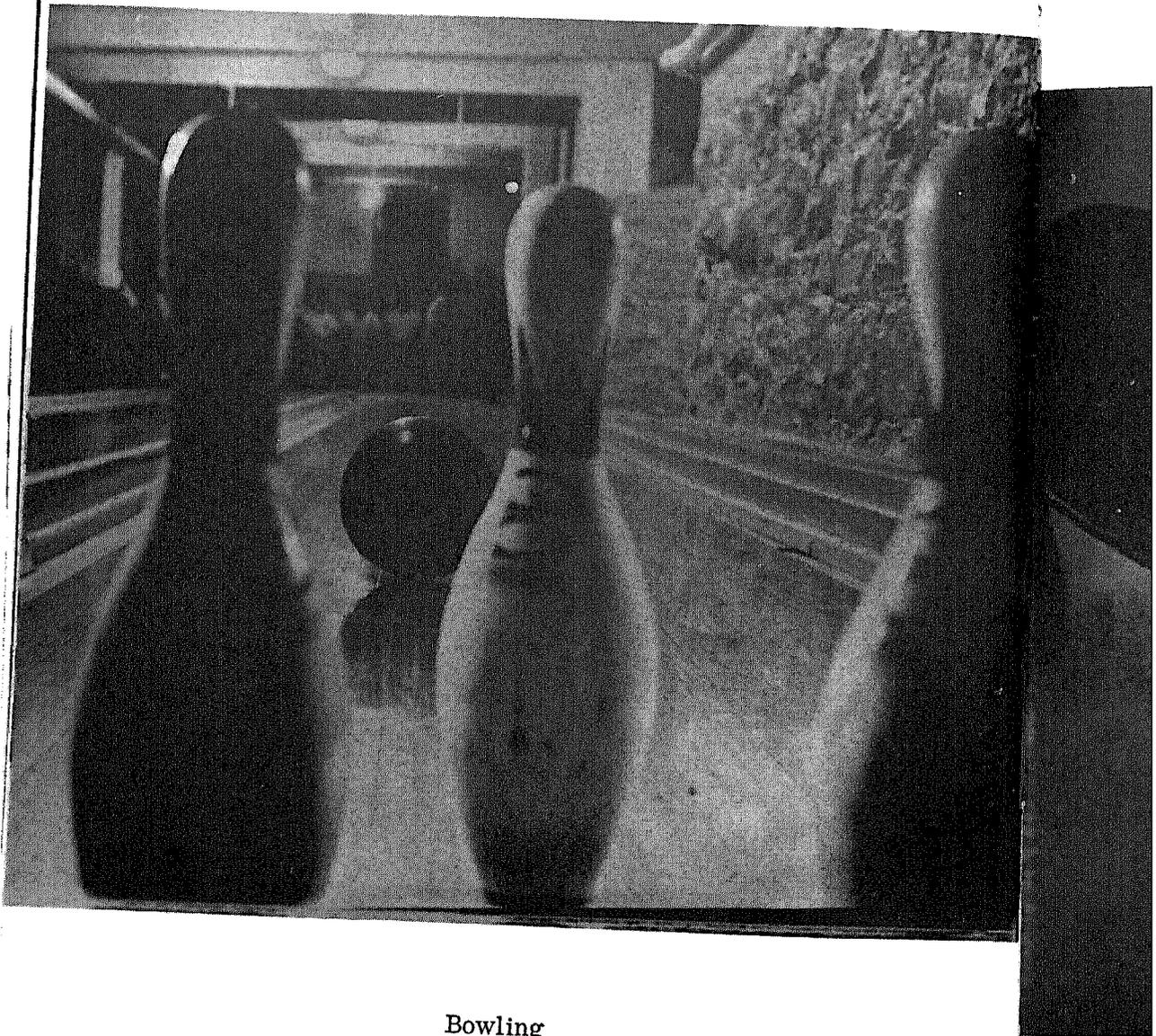
In addition to the formal evening programs, there is television, ping pong, cards and chess. The men are expected to return to their individual rooms at 11 P.M. The accent at the center is upon personal responsibility and the development of interpersonal relations.



Basketball



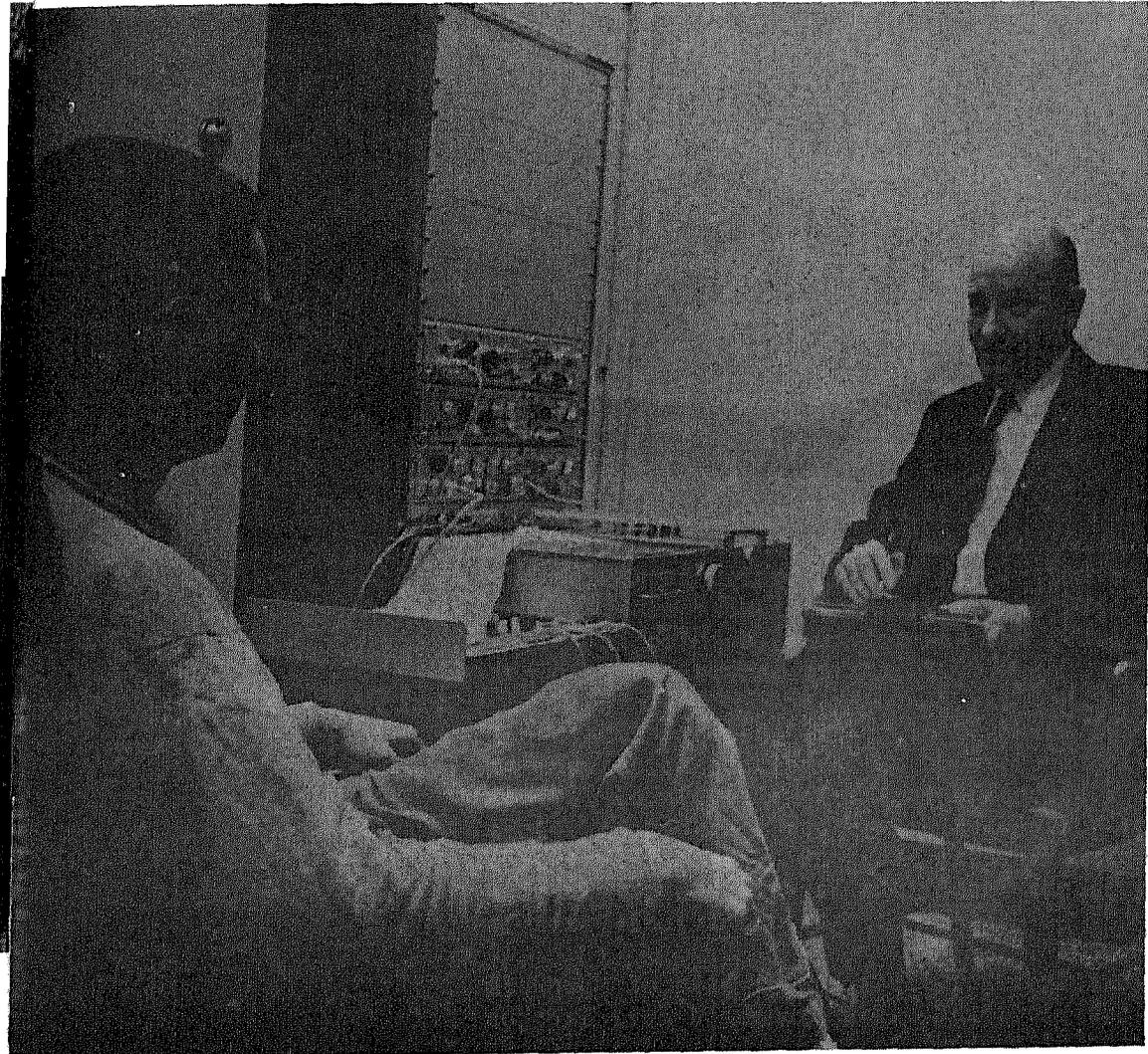
A very active recreational-physical education program involving competitive and individual sports in season (basketball, softball, handball and bowling) is also under professional guidance--the Physical Education Department of the State University College at Plattsburgh.



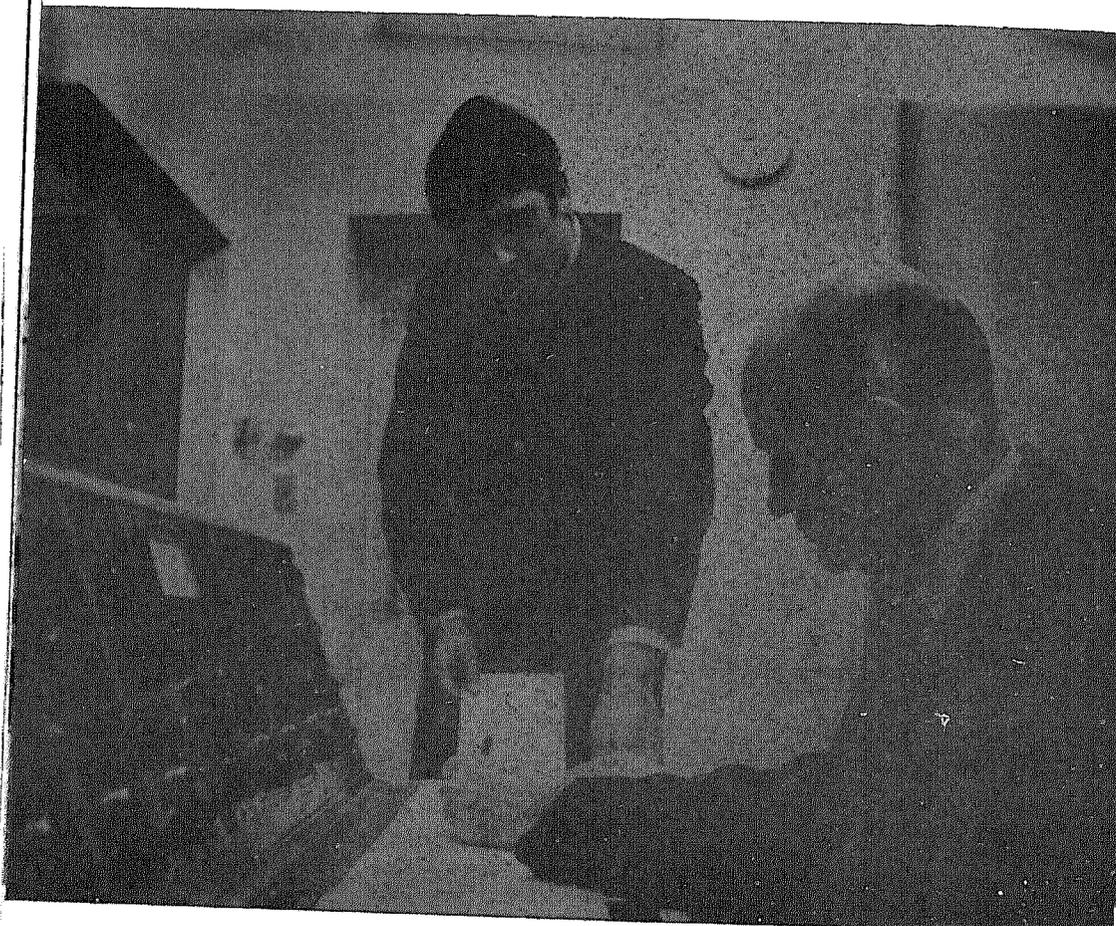
Bowling

RESEARCH

Research into causes and treatment of criminality is one of the important missions of the center. Data from basic research is obtained from psychological testing, clinical interviews and biographical records.



Experimental studies of various aspects of criminal behavior and its treatment are conducted in the psychological laboratory. In addition to basic research, evaluative research is also carried out to determine the effectiveness of the center's therapeutic program.





The following is a letter received from a man who was paroled March 27, 1968. It is typical of the kind of communication the center receives by mail and phone and exemplifies the men's attitude toward the center.

"I write this few words to let you and the rest of the Center know how I am doing.

"The first two days were busy for me cause I had a lot of things to do, but the third and fourth days were real lonely for if it hadn't been for my sister, I think I either would have gone nuts or gone out for some action. But I have my sister who is very understanding, and I was able to talk to her.

"About my job the only thing I can say is that it is a job. But I am looking forward to better things. The only thing I can say is that the fellows better get in shape cause work is not as easy as I thought it would be. I started to work on Thursday the 11th of April, and I was so tired that the only thing I wanted to do was sit at home and rest.

"I have been home almost two weeks and it has been hell. Nothing has been easy, everything that you want is out here, but you have to work for it and it is not going to be a bed of roses.

"I also realize that if it hadn't been for the program and the people in it, I don't think I could have put up with the frustration. So from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you wonderful people for the help that I got there, officers, staff, and inmates.

"I will never forget any of you cause from everyone there I learned something that I have to put into practice out here. So thanks...

"P.S. I have some good news about my job. I got a raise from \$1.75 an hour to \$1.87½ an hour and this week I am going to get a promotion to dispatcher, with more money, so I did learn good work habits while I was up there and it is good. It goes to show you what a person can do if he puts his mind to it."
