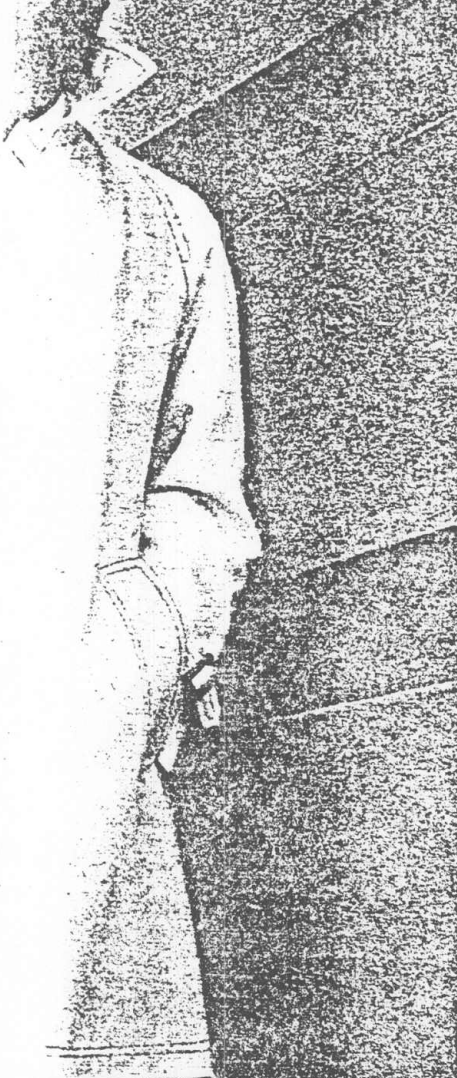


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A patient at Bronx State Hospital, where a recent director "went about doing, as a matter of medical policy, precisely what the lawyers demand be done as a matter of law."

and found it sadly wanting. Here, to use the restrained language of the court rather than the more chilling descriptions of George Dean, was the situation: "... the dormitories are barnlike structures with no privacy for the patients. For most patients there is not even a space provided which he can think of as his own. The toilets in rest rooms seldom have partitions between them. . . . Also contributing to the poor psychological environment are the shoddy wearing apparel furnished the patients, the nontherapeutic work assigned to patients (mostly compulsory, uncompensated housekeeping chores) and the degrading and humiliating admissions procedure which creates in the patient an impression of the hospital as a prison or as a 'crazy house.' . . . The nonprofessional staff is poorly trained; nurses, for example, are required to have only a 10th grade education. . . . The nonprofessionals are spread very thinly; thus, they are overworked, creating not only an inadequate situation for the patients but extreme stresses for individual aides. . . . Bryce's own consultant advises that treatment is geared primarily toward housekeeping functions. . . ." The description fits state hospitals in many places outside Alabama.

proved helpful in gathering evidence. In addition, several interested organizations—the American Psychological Association, the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the American Association on Mental Deficiency—were permitted to pitch in, and they played an unusually active role. (The American Psychiatric Association, the National Association for Retarded Citizens and the National Association for Mental Health joined them at a later stage.)

Among the lawyers representing these amici were Charles Halpern, who in 1966 had been instrumental in setting up the Center for Law and Social Policy, designed to give "systematic attention" to subjects that public-interest lawyers were treating on a hit-and-miss basis; Paul Friedman, a Yale Law School graduate whom Halpern had recruited for the center with a view to enhancing its efforts in the mental health field; and Bruce Ennis, a University of Chicago Law School graduate who had left a Wall Street law firm in 1968 to head up a mental health law effort being started by the New York Civil Liberties Union.

These three young lawyers