

## "THE SECOND MILE"

A Public Awareness Project  
on the Criminal Justice System

### FACT SHEET

#### Introduction

The Center for Human Organization in Changing Environments (CHOICE) at Pacific Lutheran University is a member of the Puget Sound Coalition. The Coalition also includes Seattle University and Western Washington State College. This group, which operated the public awareness program on the environment entitled, "The Eighth Day" during 1971-72, has been awarded an LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) grant for another public awareness project on the Criminal Justice system.

The goal of the project is to achieve a higher level of awareness among citizens of the Puget Sound counties in the operation and problems of our criminal justice system and to provide opportunities for on-going citizen involvement in the review and/or reform of that system.

Many local organizations such as education institutions, fraternal organizations, clubs, etc. are serving as local co-sponsoring groups.

#### Methods

To accomplish this, the following program has been developed:

1. Six television broadcasts dealing with problems of the criminal justice system are being developed. KING Broadcasting Company is producing the shows as a public service project. The members of the Coalition have spent the past several months performing research and program design for the shows;
2. Several hundred discussion/action groups are being organized to view the television shows, use discussion material and perform task assignments during April and May;
3. Following the six week broadcast/discussion/action effort, 16 mm color film copies of the six broadcasts and appropriate discussion material will be provided to community organizations as an on-going educational resource;
4. Group participants will be assisted in continuing their involvement following the six week series through community-based and community-oriented organizations.

#### Implementation

While these shows are being produced, the Puget Sound Coalition, is contacting organizations, schools and private citizens to recruit leaders for the discussion/

action groups. By mid-March, two weeks before the series goes on the air, at least 100 group leaders in Pierce, Kitsap and Thurston Counties will have been identified. (Seattle University and Western Washington State College are also recruiting group leaders in the Central and North Puget Sound areas.)

The discussion/action groups will meet on the night of the television broadcasts. Members will view the program and discuss it, as well as discuss the background material. Discussion material including selective informational pieces and task assignments will be provided to each group participant. Each member will be asked to perform a task assignment each week which relates to the subject of the following week's broadcast.

### Group Leader and Staff Responsibilities

Those citizens wishing to lead a group of 8-15 citizens will assume the following responsibilities:

1. Participation in a two-hour training session, in mid-March, conducted by the Coalition;
2. Recruitment of 8-15 citizens for their group. These may be neighbors, friends or members of their organization;
3. Leadership of their group which includes keeping the discussion going, and seeing that each member has the discussion material and has selected a task assignment to accomplish each week.

To maintain communication with the groups, CHOICE will mail newsletters periodically to each of the participants previous to and during the six week series. CHOICE will also provide staff assistance to groups and their leaders if needed to facilitate the discussion/action process.

### Sponsoring Groups

Sponsoring groups provide a great deal of help through activities intended to:

1. Publicize and promote the project,
2. Provide viewing places for viewers
3. Recruit
  - viewers
  - group leaders
  - group leader coordinators

PHILOSOPHY

The broadcast series will deal with causes of crime, theory and operations of corrections, methods of crime prevention, the impact of crime on society, and the responsibility of individual citizens both to obey the law and to protect themselves and their property from criminal activity.

Only by understanding the criminal justice system will the individual citizen be able to meet adequately the responsibilities of citizenship. Only by knowing how the system works and why it doesn't will the citizen understand his role, both to support the law and support measures which make the law just, and to discover how he can involve himself in improving it.

All of these concerns are listed as objectives in the Comprehensive Plan for Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice and will be addressed by the television broadcasts and by the materials prepared for the discussion groups.

If you, or people you know in your organization or community, are interested in being participants or discussion group leaders, please contact CHOICE Center in Tacoma, LE1-6900, ext. 397/398.

The subjects and a sample of the questions which will be explored by the television shows and accompanying discussion material are outlined below:

I. Deliver Us From Evil  
(Crime and the Criminal)

1. Who and what is a criminal?
2. What is a crime?
3. What effect does crime have on society?
4. What is being done to ameliorate and combat crime?
5. How effective is the present criminal justice system?
6. What is a citizen's role in crime prevention?

III. The Lady Is Blind  
(Courts)

1. What factors determine the type of sentence?
2. What is the process of plea negotiation?
3. How does the bail system operate?
4. How can a citizen become involved in the courts?

V. Why Johnny Can't Right  
(Juvenile Crime)

1. Who is the "juvenile delinquent?"
2. What causes juvenile delinquency?
3. How have law enforcement agencies and personnel dealt with juvenile crime?
4. What methods of delinquency prevention can citizens support?

II. The Blue Minority  
(Law Enforcement)

1. What do we as a society ask law enforcement to do?
2. How well are laws enforced?
3. What pressure are law enforcement personnel under?
4. What is a citizen's role in law enforcement?

IV. Sentenced to Fail  
(Corrections)

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of incarceration?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of community-based corrections?
3. What avenues are open to citizens who wish to get directly involved in corrections?

VI. With Liberty and Justice For All  
(The Criminal Justice Non-System)

1. What is the relationship between the enforcement, judicial and correctional sub-systems?
2. What are the responsibilities of each sub-system?
3. What kind of accountability can the citizens request from the criminal justice system?
4. How can the citizen become involved in reform?

## THE SECOND MILE

"If Your Neighbor Asks You To Go One Mile With Him...Go With Him Two Miles."

A public education television series by the Puget Sound Coalition.

### I. Points of Departure

#### A. "Deliver Us From Evil"

The Nature of Crime: in spite of areas of agreement, there exists, in the popular mind, confusion over the nature of a "crime." (WWSC)

#### B. "The Blue Minority"

Law Enforcement: in spite of areas of agreement, there exists, in the popular mind, confusion over the role the police should play. (S.U.)

#### C. "The Lady Is Blind"

Courts: there exists in the popular mind not so much confusion as profound ignorance of the process by which justice is administered. (S.U.)

#### D. "Sentenced To Fail"

Corrections: there exists in the popular mind confusion over the reason for incarceration and hence failure to appreciate the need for alternatives to it. (S.U.)

#### E. "Why Johnnie Can't Right"

Juvenile Delinquency: there exists in the popular mind confusion over the causes of and hence responsibility for juvenile crime. (PLU)

#### F. "Justice For All"

The Nonsystem: the sum of all these confusions, misconceptions and areas of ignorance is the belief, in the popular mind, in the existence of a "system" when in fact there is none. (PLU)

### II. Common Purpose

A. To give order to the confusion and to dispell the ignorance.

B. On this basis, to provide the viewers of the television programs with specific topics for discussion and specific activities in which to participate.