

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL DETENTION HOME SURVEY

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During May Mr. Frederick Ward, Jr. of the National Probation and Parole Association carried on the field work which will become the basis for a survey to determine the need for a Juvenile Detention Home in the Northern Virginia Region.

This is the first time in Virginia's history that a joint project of this kind has been undertaken and one of the first in the country where local jurisdictions have approached this problem cooperatively. Mr. Ward was assisted greatly in his field work by Mr. Herbert Krueger, Chief, Bureau of Juvenile Probation and Detention of the State Department of Welfare and Institutions.

The survey included the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church and was undertaken at the request of the Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission whose member jurisdictions had agreed to participate financially in this study.

The Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission's Committee on Detention Home, co-chaired by Mrs. Charles Pickett of Fairfax and Mrs. Kathryn Stone of Arlington appointed an Advisory Committee composed of interested citizens from the various jurisdictions to assist Mr. Ward on the local level in making the people in their own communities aware of the problem which exists in the detention of juvenile delinquents.

The Advisory Committee consists of the following:

- ALEXANDRIA: Mrs. George L. White, Mr. Oliver Maechtle, Mr. Albert Bryan, Jr., Father Edward Merrow and Miss Barbara Watkins.
- ARLINGTON: Mrs. R. Gordon Arneson, Mrs. Leone B. Buckholz, Mr. John G. Howell, Mr. Haskell C. Jacobs and Mrs. William A. Wildhack.
- FAIRFAX: Mrs. Donald Mitchell, Mr. Harold R. Whitmore, Rev. James F. Lundquist, Mrs. F. B. Northrup and Tr. James J. Thorp.
- FALLS CHURCH: Mrs. David Persinger, Mr. D. V. Stapleton and Mrs. T. Dabney Wellford.
- LOUDOUN: Mrs. Howard Cady and Mrs. J. Stewart Smith.

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This group met with Mr. Ward shortly after he began his field work, and again at its conclusion and were of inestimable help in acquainting him with local conditions and in paving the way for him to see all those with a vital stake in this matter.

Mr. Ward concluded his field work on May 22 and will now analyze the data gathered and prepare his report and recommendations. A preliminary report will be prepared in collaboration with the various members of the Probation and Parole Association staff and will be submitted about September 15 to the Northern Virginia Commission and its Advisory Committee for digest and comment.

The survey report in final form will be available on or about October 1.

The Regional Planning Commission is grateful to those Mr. Ward interviewed and with whom he discussed this problem, especially the public officials in each jurisdiction, without whose assistance this survey would not have been possible.

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