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Will Wran act on the Nagle report

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THE REAL BRUTES



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Warders 'protected'

The worst conspiracy by the establishment since the slaughter of the blacks. This was revealed by Justice Nagle in his report on the Royal Commission into Prisons last week.

The conspiracy involves hundreds of people including ministers, heads of departments, magistrates, departmental lawyers, doctors, journalists and media bosses and all the prison employees.

However the report while making a public attack on the N.S.W. prisons, continues the conspiracy by its failure to recommend prosecutions or sacking of prison officers and others involved.

Similarly the media who have for years hidden the truth continue their cover-up. In an unprecedented front page, the *Daily Telegraph* on Thurs. 6th April, presented a slanderous, false and savage attack on prisoners in Katingal.

Underneath mug shots giving an unreal impression of the appearance of the men, and designed to frighten the public, were highly emotive descriptions of the men, nicknames and their original convictions but not the reasons for their being in Katingal, rather than in other sections of the jail.

It was insinuated that these men were psychopathic, child molesters, etc. The kind of monster character societies needs to be protected from. They were described as 'brutes' with use of the word 'perform' they compare up animals rather than people.

Warders' Brutality

Whereas the total emphasis of Nagle's report was on the brutality of prisons and the Britishness of the prison officers, papers like the *Telegraph* have turned the emphasis upside down for the

Complaints Ignored

While the prison officers, who are organised, have the right to strike and the means to convey their grievances, the prisoners have no such means.

Their only way of voicing their complaints, apart from an outside public support group taking them up, is actions which are depicted as insane and senseless acts of violence, leading to further convictions against them.

For example, last Friday, four days after the Commission report, four Katingal prisoners were defending charges of setting fire to Katingal.

One of the prisoners is alleged to have said, 'We crims have got to stick together. People have to know what's happening in this electronic zoo.'

Abolish Jails?

While the report exposes the brutality of prisons, and makes recommendations for possible improvement, these improvements will be ineffective as long as the real brutes remain in the prison system to thwart any changes.

More importantly the report does not even question whether prisoners perform the function intended of them - to deter and prevent crime

Neville Wran during his term as Premier, has always backed-down in the face of opposition, like any true opportunist. With the rumour of an election in September and a shift to the right in the Labor Party, it is unlikely that Wran will make any controversial changes in the prison system - there are no votes in prisons.

Unless pressure is put on him by the public, he may implement none of the Report's recommendations. He may even postpone or back down from his promise to 'close Katingal within a month.'

Demands

The Prisoners Action Group, Women Behind Bars, and numbers of ex-prisoners today made the following demands:

- It is not enough to close Katingal down it must be demolished so that it cannot be used later on.
- Katingal's closure should not be used as an excuse to build small Katingals in other prisons.
- The sacking of all warders who the Royal Commission has found to have, generally assumed prisoners - any thing less is justice to lynch.
- The pardon of any prisoner convicted of incidents connected with the 1974 Bathurst riot.
- The payment of compensation to all prisoners

continued overleaf

them dispirited, Jack, I want them dejected, I want them tired and I want them fretful. I want them to lose interest in this'. Always out to protect his own skin, he was no more specific.

McGeegan told many lies to the Royal Commission. He is instinctively dishonest.



J. C. MADDISON lied to Parliament about the 1970 bashing. If he was ignorant, he wntonly chose to remain that way to ease the way for the cover-up.

Maddison also stopped police investigations of assaults by prison officers in 1974.

He sent letters to psychologist and others who questioned the wisdom of Katingal. The letters stated that Katingal had been carefully planned with the involvement of many highly specialised people (a lie). In the concluding paragraph of these form letters, he stated his opinion that prisoners would find Katingal more pleasant than Grafton - a particularly cynical comment given his knowledge of Grafton.

Maddison has said Katingal should be given a 10 year trial. Perhaps he might care to offer himself for the experiment.

The Brutes: a profile

The following brief biographical sketches are taken from Mr. Justice Nagle's report. Considerations of space prevent us from referring to all those Prison Officers involved.

PALLOT. Nicknamed *Crystal* because he is clear between the ears. Superintendent of Bathurst jail in both 1970 and 1974. As the Royal Commission found 'not only did Mr Pallot by his instructions invite officers under his command to act unlawfully, by his example he encourage them to do so'.

The Prison Officers Branch of the P.S.A. has admitted that in 1970 he led the systematic flogging of two hundred prisoners. He got in for his bit too — as Prisoner Bowen left his cell peacefully, he was struck in the face by Pallot.

The Department have said that even though Pallot was regarded as incompetent, it was impossible to move him sideways — so he was still around, and indeed his inability to listen to prisoners or officers, partly created, the 1974 riot. Once again he led screws in to bash prisoners, with a warning in one case, 'Be careful, they are old men'. After the prisoners surrendered, he was heard shrieking several times 'Shoot the bastards'. Many shots were fired and prisoners wounded.

Pallot, a Bathurst boy, joined the jail in 1940. Retired Jan 1977. He owns at least two houses in the area and is living off a \$12,000 a year Governmental Superannuation Pension. Apparently this is not enough for Pallot, who was last seen, (for interested readers) packing crushed ice at Frigatec in Bathurst.

MILTON

Scouterboots Milton told the Royal Commission

MILLER

The Dog or The Thing

Miller was involved with screw gunning in a brutal assault on Prisoner Van Hethysen. While Miller rests up in an afforestation camp Van Hethysen is doing extra time in the Metropolitan Training Centre, Long Bay.

KIERNAN

There is less violence in Women's jail. There the screws go in for petty rules and nagging. When ever a course is offered which interests the women, they do their best to get rid of it by threatening industrial action. One of the prime movers in this is Kiernan, an active unionist.

She has been at Mulawa since the women moved there in 1970, and was at the Bay before that.

Kiernan is also one screw at Mulawa who is prone to violence. Michele House gave evidence at the Commission that Kiernan had kneeed her in the stomach, while she was pregnant.

She encouraged two prisoners to make statements about Pearl North, a nurse who was collecting material on the hospital for the Commission as well as providing gynaecological treatment. Pearl North was not allowed into the jail after that.

Kiernan told the Parole Board, Sandra Willson had threatened to kill her which helped keep her in jail for another two years.

She is at present up on an assault charge laid by a prisoner.

ATKINS

The 'Angry Ant' — red complexion, brownish reddish hair, medium build.

He is a union man, member of the ALP and now spokesman for the Parramatta Screws, so he obviously has the trust of his fellow workers.

This seems surprising considering his role in the Royal Commission. He gave detailed evidence against a number of his fellow prison officers including Klok, Deorey and Aitken. He described a series of bashing which he stood by and watched.

Atkins portrayed himself in the unlikely role of an innocent bystander.

The legal representative for the Department put forward the obvious conclusion that he had made these allegations to divert attention from allegations made by prisoners against himself.

MUTTON

Mutton was the Chief Prison Officer in Bathurst in 1970. He helped assault Baldwin for not surrendering his toilet brush. Involved in group bashing of prisoners Morrison and Kelly. Struck first blow in group bashing of Bobak by splitting his head with a baton.

Mutton must bear a large share of responsibility for the 1974 riot. On December 31st, with two other screws, he searched Hiley for a message. He did not find one but they bashed Hiley breaking two ribs.

On 15th January 1974, when 37 boys refused to go to their cells, Mutton promised them if they returned no-one would be charged. They returned and were all charged. The 37 boys received 3 days pound. The fire which burnt down the jail occurred Feb 2 1974.

Shooting occurred throughout the afternoon of the riot. At 6 pm, Mutton said there had been 'enough' — implying his consent to the shooting of the afternoon. He was also involved in the supervision of the floggings which then occurred.

He has now been retired on medical grounds and is on a government pension.

DRAPER

Seems to prefer group bashing.

In 1970 was involved in group bashing of near naked Kelly and Morrison (with his mate, Klok). In 1974, Draper struck prisoner Harris on the head with a baton. Harris was then stripped and spread-eagled against the fence and hit by a group of screws. Last heard of he was head of the prison farm at Bathurst.

OTHER SCREWS

ROBINSON

The Major. Last seen by one ex-prisoner in a tower the day after the riot holding a rifle on prisoners while they were flogged. Nice stuff. He also hit one prisoner, Saunders, over the buttocks. You'd find Robinson at Parramatta jail.

GUNNING

Quite a few prisoners were shot in 1974 while surrendering. However in the absence of other evidence, the prize for the single most cowardly, malicious act must go to Gunning. While two prisoners were assisting critically injured, Bugg (now a paraplegic) to the hospital, he shot at them.

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named as having been bashed by screws.

• The dropping of all charges against prisoners in Katigai for internal incidents — i.e. mes, assaults, etc.

• In Nagle's report there are lots of recommendations about what would go towards improving the conditions of life for many prisoners. However unless the above demands are met, any attempts to implement those recommendations will be thwarted by the warders' still confident that their tyrannous and repressive rule can withstand any attack.

JUDICIAL PROTECTION

Magistrate Berman

Berman, renowned for his condescending manner, refused to allow any evidence of assault in the committal hearing of prisoners charged following the 1974 riot. Barrister Staples walked out of the case. Berman's only response was to report him to the Bar Association. The transcript of the case was falsified and the most likely culprit must be Berman. Berman can be seen any day at Central Court applying the same 'legal principles' in less publicised cases.

Magistrate Rice was the Visiting Justice at Bathurst Jail. Rice sen-

He and Mason were the two screws who bashed Billy Kennedy. It was Kennedy's screams and the exit of all screws from the inside of the jail that sparked off the riot. Milton called out, as he left C wing "Come on you weak bastards, riot" The only clear evidence of anyone inciting a riot. Like Pallot, he was also heard to yell out 'Shoot, the bastards'.

Since 1974, Milton has been having it easy at the Kirkonell afforestation prison camp.

AITKEN

Particularly nasty. Seems to have a dangerous preference for the head. Helped Klok and Atkins bash Baker in 1970.

He broke a baton on prisoner Clarke's head during a group bashing. Asked for and was given a new baton which he used on Clark's spine. This evidence was verified at the Commission. He also hit Castle on the head with a wooden baton for no reason.

Involved in group bashing of sweepers an 'utterly unjustifiable use of force' says the Commission.

Aitken seems to have no caution when bashing. He is the dangerous sort who could inflict fatal injuries.

KLOK

Klok is a 6'5", 19½ stone dangerous brute.

1970 Involved in group bashing of Baker. Found by Royal Commission to have applied 'unnecessary force'. Took part in bashing of near-naked Morrison who had to be hospitalised. Found by Commission, to have been in group bashing of Bobak. Bashed to floor with bleeding head wound, kicked, thrown against the wall and beaten with batons.

1974: There is not so much specific evidence in the report on the 1974 bashing and shooting but Klok could not escape notice. Klok hit a prisoner, Bloomfield, 5'8" tall and weighed less than 10 stone. Klok's denial of this incident is not accepted. This is a disgraceful assault.

After performing so well in 1970 and 1974, Klok was transferred to the Special Operation Division, which Nagle recommends should be disbanded. The SOD squad does transfers and is called in when there is 'trouble'.

Klok is a basher. He expressed his size through violence. Anyone who suggests he will heed the words of the Commission is either naive or dishonest.

use his baton on an un-named prisoner. Later on Atkins watched Aitken bash Brian Castle with a wooden baton and then observed Klok finish the job on the semi-conscious Brian, opening up a bad scalp wound. Atkins was still looking on when Aitken and Klok bashed a spokesman for the prisoners Errol Baker. Errol's screams were heard by another prisoner, Boyle.

By 1974 Atkins had left behind his passive watching role and he was ready to take part in the floggings. No doubt this explains how he now has the trust of his fellow officers.

In 1974 he told the prisoners 'There are two of youse dead already You've had your turn, and now it's our turn and a few more of you are going to die too.'

Later on he struck the first blow with his baton on Baldry's head. Baldry was then hit repeatedly by 8 officers.

MORGAN

Morgan has been described as a Big Heap of Shit.

He was involved in the group bashing of prisoners Morrison, Kelly, Clark and Meaney. Morgan is a very large man. Meaney, was 5'3". All prisoners were beaten senseless.

In 1974, Morgan was most upset that his Engineer's Shop was destroyed and took out his frustration on prisoner Allen by bashing him to the ground, punching and kicking him. The Royal Commission found Morgan had 'lost control of himself and hit Allen in disgust' Morgan's explanation was that Allen had been a 'source of irritation for a long time'.

Morgan was promoted to being Head Engineer of the Western Region. He has a brother who was also a screw, but has recently joined the police force - watch out for him.

Gunning denied this but did not call Paget. Gunning is now at Emu Plains Prison Farm where we hear the screws are knocking off social security cheques.

HAHN & SILAS

Who both made the trip from Long Bay to help in 1974 bashing. Silas has since been promoted to Head P. O. at Long Bay - for service beyond the call of duty?

All Grafton screws employed from 1943 - 76. that is 34 each employed on 3 year terms, so that is an awful lot of screws. The Royal Commission reports, 'the arduous' duties required of these officers largely consisted of inflicting brutal, savage and sometimes sadistic physical violence on the hapless group of intractables who were sent to Grafton.' Totally illegal 'reception bribes' and bashing of any prisoner who 'breached the rules' has been admitted at the Commission.

In particular, we mention Superintendent Frame, the essence of the 'tactful' officer who right to the end tried to cover-up. Penning, his Deputy since 1972 as prisoners testified, was always active with the baton.

Also Nash, the 'Slime'. Nash was a screw at Grafton from 1952 - 1964. He lied to the Commission when he said he knew of no brutal treatment at Grafton. For his contribution to NSW prisons, he is now Director of Establishments. A man like him must be got rid of if any of the Commission's recommendations are to be implemented.

Of the rest, we can't help but mention 'The Hun' (Wenzel) and Buckley who are remembered with fear and hatred by men who have spent time in Grafton.

plaint in writing. A day later, in 1959, Haley was charged with making a false statement. He was found guilty by Rice and given three more days 'solitary' confinement.

Berman and Rice were really only following in the tradition of Magistrate Teece who, in 1959, was appointed to make an inquiry into allegations by a prisoner Moffatt that he had been bashed while at Grafton. Teece found no truth in the allegations. At the time Teece was Visiting Magistrate at Grafton Jail and Moffatt was serving fourteen days after Teece has found him guilty on a charge.

Quin a lawyer who made a Departmental Inquiry into the 1970 bashing. He later viewed prisoners in the presence of Pallot and reminded them the false complaint charge could be laid. Even McGeehan admitted Quin's approach was 'heavy-handed'. The Commission referred to the inquiry as just 'big cover-up' Quin is now on the country circuit as a magistrate - he is notorious for his harsh attitude to blacks. We demand that Quin be dismissed for incompetence, dishonesty and total unfitness to be in a position where he can affect the lives of others.

STOP PRESS

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The conspiracy continued this week, when two screws, Holloway and Green, fearing the closure of the punishment block, Katingal, persuaded four prisoners to paint placards and write letters saying that they wanted to stay in Katingal. Two of the prisoners, Baker and Middleton are on protection. The other two, Kerr and Luttwite, were recent arrivals from Morrisset Psychiatric Hospital. The four were told they would 'get on side' if they did what the screws wanted.