

ATTITUDES TOWARD JEE... AR... EES,
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Attitudes toward Parole, Parolees,
and Volunteer Parole Work *

by

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and

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In view of the fact that a system of volunteer workers, called Man-to-Man, is beginning to develop in adult parole work in the State of Ohio, the Adult Parole Authority became interested in obtaining some perspective on the attitudes of the public toward adult parole, parolees, and volunteer work with parolees.

It was decided that a survey of attitudes of members of various men's organizations in Columbus, Ohio might give some interesting leads, especially in regard to the attitudes of socially-minded citizens toward parole and volunteer work with parolees. The Program for the Study of Crime and Delinquency of Ohio State University undertook to make the survey and to report its findings to the Adult Parole Authority.

A simple schedule was developed, consisting of seven questions. See the Schedule of Appendix A of this report. The first five questions of the schedule attempted to solicit the attitudes of the male respondents toward parole and parolees. The last two questions attempted to test the resistance of the respondents toward doing volunteer parole work. As will be noticed in the schedule (Appendix A), question 6 deals with the possibility that an average person would feel that volunteer work with parolees would take too much of his time, while question 7 deals with the possibility that the average citizen would think that volunteer work with parolees would be dangerous. The answers to these questions should give us a clue of the extent of willingness to do or the resistance toward doing volunteer work with ex-prisoners (parolees).

The schedule was administered to 250 adult male respondents in Columbus, Ohio: 65 males attending organization meetings, such as the Jaycees, the Lions Club, the Clintonville Human Resources Council, and a gathering of members of St. Vincent de Paul; 137 male members attending various meetings of organized labor groups in Columbus; and 48 black males attending meetings in predominantly black churches. The administration of the schedule took about 15 minutes. The foreword on the schedule was read, which gave the respondents the necessary information about parole and requested their help and cooperation. It should be

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noted that the instruction at the top of the schedule, "Please Do Not Sign Your Name" was stressed, so that every respondent would feel free to give his opinions.

The Findings

The responses to the first five questions on the schedule were scored in the favorable direction on a 1-2-3 basis, in which 3 was favorable, 2 was uncertain, and 1 was unfavorable. The reader will notice that for question 1, "Disagree" is the favorable answer and is scored 3, while "Not Sure" is uncertain and is scored 2 and "Agree" is unfavorable and is scored 1. For Question 2, the response of "Agree" is the favorable answer and is scored 3; for Question 3, "Disagree" is scored 3; for Question 4, "Agree" is scored 3; for Question 5, "Agree" is scored 3.

Hence, for the first five questions, it is possible for a respondent to receive a total score of 15 (5x3). The distribution of scores according to the three major men's groups contacted is presented in Table 1. Table 2 presents the percentage distribution of the total scores on the five questions according to the three types of men's groups contacted in the Columbus, Ohio area.

One notices in Table 1 that the responses are heavily concentrated in the favorable direction. Approximately two-thirds of each of the three men's groups responded in very favorable terms (with scores of 14 and 15 out of a total of 15 points for a favorable response on all five questions). The civic group of respondents had the smallest percentages of total scores in less favorable direction, namely in the bracket of 10-11 and 9 or below. See Table 2.

Questions 6 and 7 on the schedule were designed to sense the extent to which the Columbus male respondents projected a willingness or unwillingness to become volunteer workers with parolees. Question 6 as will be noted from the schedule in Appendix A was stated as follows: Would the average citizen think volunteer parole work would take too much of his time? Question 7 was stated: Would the average citizen work with ex-prisoners (parolees) would be too dangerous? Both questions 6 and 7 were scored in the favorable direction according to which the answer of "No" counted 3 (favorable), "Not Sure" counted 2 (uncertain), and "Yes" counted 1 (unfavorable).

In Tables 3 through 8 which follow, the distribution of the three sets of responses ("Yes"--unfavorable, "Not Sure"--uncertain, "No"--favorable) are given for both Question 6 (too much of your time) and Question 7 (dangerous).

Table 3 gives the breakdown of the responses to the two questions according to the three types of men's groups contacted in Columbus. One notices that 43 percent of the respondents felt that volunteer work with

TABLE 1

TOTAL SCORE OF RESPONSES TO FIVE QUESTIONS REGARDING ATTITUDES TOWARD PAROLEES BY THREE GROUPS OF ADULT MALES, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972).

Group	Distribution of Total Scores														
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	2	3	TOTAL: (n=250)
1. Civic (n=65)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	14	15	29				
2. Black Church (n=48)	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	5	14	21					
3. Organized Labor (n=137)	1	0	2	1	1	3	12	24	27	61					
TOTAL: (n=250)	2	0	2	1	3	5	17	43	56	111					

*(Favorable responses on each question = 3, Uncertain = 2, Unfavorable = 1; maximum total favorable score on the five questions = 15).

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL SCORES ON ATTITUDES TOWARD PAROLE (based on Table 1).

Group	Scores					
	9 or below	10-11	12-13	14	15	
	N	N	N	N	N	%
1. Civic (n=65)	2	2	17	15	29	44.5
	3.1	3.1	26.2	23.1		
2. Black Church (n=48)	1	5	7	14	21	43.7
	2.1	10.4	14.6	29.2		
3. Organized Labor (n=137)	4	15	30	27	61	44.5
	2.9	10.4	21.9	19.8		
TOTAL: (n=250)	7	22	54	56	111	44.4
	2.8	8.8	21.6	22.4		

parolees would take too much time, while 34 percent felt that it would be too dangerous. The (white) civic groups were much more unfavorable in their responses than the black church groups and the organized labor groups. If one notices the percentage distribution of the favorable responses to Question 6 (it would not take too much time), it will be seen the only 11 percent of the (white) civic group respondents responded favorably, whereas the black church members and the organized labor members had a percentage count of favorable responses almost twice the size of the (white) civic group members.

The overall responses of the three male groups in Columbus was considerably more favorably inclined toward volunteer work with ex-prisoners according to Question 7 (volunteer work with ex-prisoners could be dangerous) than they were in their responses to Question 6 (take too much time). Overall organized laborers appear to be more favorably inclined on Question 7 than the other two groups, while the (white) civic-group members were the least favorably inclined. See Table 3.

The responses of the 250 Columbus respondents on Questions 6 and 7 are broken down by race in Table 4. It should be realized that there were black respondents particularly in the organized labor group in addition to those just in the black church groups. Percentage-wise, the blacks were somewhat more favorably disposed toward volunteer work with parolees than the whites on both counts: too much time (Question 6) and too dangerous (Question 7). The difference was more obvious on Question 6 than on Question 7.

Table 5 presents the distribution of favorable-unfavorable answers of the respondents according to age level. The age group of 30 to 39 was the most unfavorable of the various age groups in their responses to Questions 6 and 7 (too much time and too dangerous), more so on Question 6 than Question 7. The older male respondents, those 50 to 59 and 60 and above, were favorably disposed on Question 6 (too much time) than were the younger age groups. This trend was not obvious in the favorable responses to Question 7 (too dangerous). The age group below 30 was clearly much less favorable than the older age groups in their responses to Question 7 (too dangerous).

The responses to the time and dangerous components (Questions 6 and 7) are broken down by educational level in Table 6. The respondents with a college experience (up through graduate degrees and professional degrees) are much more unfavorable in their attitude toward volunteer parole work than are the respondents with less than college experience. This trend seems to be more apparent in the responses to Question 6 than to Question 7.

When the respondents are classified according to occupational level, the business and professional men are much more unfavorable to volunteer parole work than the laborers as judged by the answers to Question 6 (too much time). See Table 7. The clerical and sales personnel of the

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 (VOLUNTEER PAROLE WORK WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH TIME) AND TO QUESTION 7 (WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS), ACCORDING TO THREE ADULT MALE GROUPS, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972).

Group	Responses											
	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Civic (n=65)	38	58.4	20	30.8	7	10.8	28	43.0	21	32.3	16	24.7
2. Black Church (n=48)	15	31.2	23	47.9	10	20.9	11	22.9	24	50.0	13	27.1
3. Organized Labor (n=137)	54	39.4	52	38.0	31	22.6	45	32.9	45	32.9	47	34.2
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.0	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONSES BY RACE TO QUESTION 6 (TOO MUCH TIME) AND QUESTION 7 (TOO DANGEROUS), COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972).

Race	Responses											
	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. White (n=175)	83	47.4	62	35.4	30	17.2	61	34.9	60	34.3	54	30.8
2. Black (n=72)	24	33.3	32	44.5	16	22.2	22	30.6	29	40.2	21	29.2
3. Other (n=3)	0	00.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	33.3	1	33.3
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.0	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 (TOO MUCH TIME) AND QUESTION 7 (TOO DANGEROUS), ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972).

Age Group	Responses											
	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Below 30 (n=29)	13	44.8	11	38.9	5	17.3	10	34.5	13	44.8	6	20.7
2. 30-39 (n=55)	30	54.5	20	36.4	5	9.1	21	38.2	18	32.7	16	29.1
3. 40-49 (n=75)	27	36.0	34	45.3	14	18.7	28	37.3	23	30.7	24	32.0
4. 50-59 (n=48)	23	47.9	14	29.2	11	22.9	11	22.9	21	43.8	16	33.3
5. 60 & above (n=43)	14	32.6	16	37.2	13	30.2	14	32.6	15	34.8	14	32.6
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.0	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

TABLE 6

DISTRICUTION OF RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 (TOO MUCH TIME) AND TO QUESTION 7 (TOO DANGEROUS), ACCORDING TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972)

Educational Level	Responses											
	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. 1-4 Primary, secondary trade or business (n=160)	67	41.9	57	35.6	36	22.5	49	30.6	61	38.2	50	31.2
2. 5-8 College (n 87)	38	43.6	37	42.5	12	13.9	35	40.2	28	32.2	24	27.6
3. Not given (n=3)	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	00.0	0	00.0	1	33.3	2	66.7
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.8	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

sample is also more disinclined (Question 6) than the labor sample but not as much as the business and professional respondents. The labor sample is less unfavorably inclined on Question 7 (too dangerous) than are the business-professional and clerical-sales groupings. The business and professional is much less favorably inclined on this question (volunteer work with parolees not dangerous) than are the other two groups. Consult Table 7.

Table 8 gives the distribution of answers to Questions 6 (too much time) and 7 (too dangerous) according to religious groupings. It will be noticed that the respondents were grouped Catholic; Episcopal, Church of God, and other or not given. The more secular Protestants (Baptists, Seven Day Adventists, etc.) appear to be less disinclined than the other two religious groups in their responses to Question 6-- (yes, volunteer parole work would take too much time). The Episcopal, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans have a very much lower percentage count on the favorable responses to Question 6 (no, it would not take too much of your time), than the other two religious groups: Catholics and the secular Protestants.

On the dangerous aspect of volunteer parole work (Question 7), it appears from Table 8 that the Episcopal, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans as a group are very much more disinclined than the Catholics and the other Protestants. Moreover, a much higher proportion of all three religious groupings responded favorably to the dangerous aspect of volunteer parole work (Question 7) than to the "too-much-of-your-time" aspect of volunteer work with parolees (Question 6).

Conclusion

The 250 Columbus, Ohio male respondents regarded parole work and the idea of volunteer assistance in parole work in a very favorable light, as judged from their answers to the first five questions on the schedule which was administered to them. But when volunteer parole work was brought "closer to home" in two questions (too much time involved and too dangerous for the average citizen), there was a very much less favorable response. The predominantly white civic groups contacted were much less favorably disposed than the black church members and the organized labor groups. Organized labor members responded somewhat more favorably than the other two male groups. Blacks appeared to be somewhat more favorably disposed than the other two male groups. The age level, 30-39 years of age, appeared to be more unfavorably inclined than the other age levels, while the age groups over 50 years of age appeared to be the most favorably inclined. Likewise, the respondents with college training were found to be the most unfavorable toward doing volunteer parole work, more unfavorable to the idea of doing volunteer parole work than the laborers. Finally, the Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutherans as a religious constellation were more disinclined than the Catholics and other Protestants.

TABLE 7

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 (TOO MUCH TIME) AND QUESTION 7 (TOO DANGEROUS), ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972)

Occupational Level	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Business/prof'l (n=70)	39	55.6	26	37.1	5	7.3	28	40.0	29	41.4	13	18.6
2. Clerical/sales (n=46)	22	47.8	16	34.8	8	17.4	18	39.1	11	23.9	17	37.0
3. Laborer (n=129)	44	34.1	51	39.5	34	26.4	38	29.5	46	35.7	45	34.8
4. Not given (n=5)	2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	0	00.0	4	80.0	1	20.0
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.0	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

TABLE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 (TOO MUCH TIME) AND QUESTION 7 (TOO DANGEROUS), ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS OF THE RESPONDENTS, COLUMBUS, OHIO (MAY-JUNE 1972).

Religious Grouping	Responses											
	Question 6						Question 7					
	Yes		Not Sure		No		Yes		Not Sure		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Catholic (n=54)	25	46.3	16	29.6	13	24.1	13	24.1	24	44.4	17	31.5
2. Epis., Meth., Pres., Luth. (n=56)	27	48.2	22	39.2	7	12.6	26	46.4	16	28.6	14	25.0
3. Baptist, 7th Day, Church of God (n=114)	42	36.8	48	42.1	24	21.1	37	32.5	42	36.8	35	30.7
4,5. Other, none, not given (n=26)	13	50.0	9	34.6	4	15.4	8	30.7	8	30.7	10	38.6
TOTAL: (n=250)	107	42.8	95	38.0	48	19.2	84	33.6	90	36.0	76	30.4

One might not be too far from reality if he contended from the Columbus sample that males in the business and professional circles of economic life plus those with college degrees plus those "on the make" economically (30-39 years of age) plus those in the more highly oriented Protestant faiths are putting personal endeavor and push for economic status foremost in their thinking and hence are less likely to embrace volunteer work which interferes with their upward mobility.

The Way I Look at Parolees

Please DO NOT Sign Your Name

As you know, the Ohio Parole Board by law can release prisoners before the end of their sentence, if the Parole Board thinks the prisoners deserve being let out ahead of time. The prisoners let out on parole are called parolees. They are supervised by state parole officers and they can be sent back to prison if they break the parole rules.

Because the number of parolees each parole officer must look after is very high, parole officers cannot work as closely, man-to-man, with their parolees as they would like. Many states have tried to increase the parole service by using volunteers.

The volunteers try to keep in close contact with the parolees turned over to them. They try to help the parolees and try to become a close friend. Some volunteers are assigned two or more parolees by the district parole office; some are assigned only one case at any time.

We would like to get your honest opinions about the use of volunteers for adult parolees who have just been released from prison and who must make a go of parole to keep from being sent back to prison.

PLEASE CIRCLE THE ANSWER WHICH BEST FITS YOUR WAY OF LOOKING AT PAROLE AND PAROLEES

1. The average prisoner released from prison on parole has got a good break. He should make it on his own without help from here on.
Agree Not Sure Disagree
2. The average prisoner released from prison on parole needs some help in making a go of his parole.
Agree Not Sure Disagree
3. A guy on parole should be left alone to work out things for himself and not be bugged by a parole officer.
Agree Not Sure Disagree

4. If the average parole officer had a smaller load of cases and had more time to help his parolees with their problems, this would be a good thing.
Agree Not Sure Disagree

5. If Ohio was able to get some volunteers to help parole officers with their parolees, this would be a good thing.
Agree Not Sure Disagree

6. Would the average citizen think volunteer parole work would take too much of his time?
Yes Not Sure No

7. Would the average citizen think volunteer work with ex-prisoners (parolees) would be dangerous?
Yes Not Sure No

Please DO NOT sign your name but give us a little bit of background on yourself.

Age to nearest birthday _____

Race _____

Type of work _____

Church you profess _____

How far did you get in school _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP