Editors' Introduction
Lisa Morgan and Little Rock Reed

As the guest editors of this special edition of the *Journal*, we have taken the liberty to ignore some of the standing policies of the *Journal*, but with good cause. First, we have included an essay by Fay Dowker and Glenn Good, neither of whom are prisoners or former prisoners. However, no one in the country, to our knowledge, has written as comprehensively as they have on the proliferation of control unit prisons in the United States – the subject of their essay – and the subject matter is critical to this edition of the *Journal*. Moreover, as representatives of the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, their voice represents the voice of prisoners.

The second policy we have ignored is the one that precludes poetry from being considered for publication in the *Journal*. This edition contains two poems, but they are not merely poems. They are political statements which are quite relevant to the subject matter of this edition. This is the journal of *prisoners* on prisons. Accordingly, policies concerning content should not be too rigid. They should be such that they provide the flexibility needed for prisoners to convey the messages that must be conveyed to the readers in order to achieve the desired result. Little Rock is a man who has paid his dues of extended imprisonment for his political activities, and in consultation with many of our comrades who have earned the right (through the sacrifices they have made in the struggle for prisoners' rights) to give their input, we have made these decisions, and we stand by them. Let the rigidity of policy remain with the bureaucracies we resist.

This edition of the *Journal* also differs from other editions in that it contains no "Prisoners' Struggles" section. An extended one, prepared by Bill Dunne, will appear in the next edition of the Journal. In this edition, we have substituted the "Prisoners' Struggles" section with an exchange of correspondence between Robert Ratner and Robert Gaucher which resulted from an essay Gaucher published in a previous edition of the *Journal*. This exchange of correspondence is particularly appropriate here because it serves to illustrate the way in which some criminologists and social scientists who are self-proclaimed sympathizers of prisoners' struggles denigrate prisoner politics in the course of their work. Ultimately, these types can be the most dangerous 'friends' prisoners have, and in the politicization of prisoners and their supporters – something we attempt to accomplish in this edition – it is important that we understand this. And just as Robert Ratner has responded to Gaucher's previous essay, so too, we encourage our readers to

respond – negatively or positively – to the contents of this and future editions of the *Journal*.

SOME ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We want to thank Hal Pepinsky, a retired attorney and current chairman of the Division on Critical Criminology, American Society of Criminology, for critically reviewing the essays in this edition of the *Journal*. You are a true friend and comrade, Hal.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Bill Dunne for assisting us with the editing of some of the material, and to all of the contributing authors for working with us to make this edition of the *Journal* one cohesive piece of work.

We are impelled, also, to extend an apology to our brother and comrade, John Perotti, who produced an excellent essay about the 'Marionization' of the Ohio prison system and the torture and murder of prisoner activists by prison officials in that system. The essay could not be included in this edition due to the lack of space. However, it will appear in the next edition.

A WORD ABOUT THIS EDITION

In the mid-1980s, while held captive in Ohio's maximum security prison, Little Rock sent letters to all the major newspapers in Ohio to inform them that he was initiating a hunger strike as a means of protesting the failure of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to allow American Indian prisoners to practice their traditional spiritual ways. His captors responded, not by considering the validity of his claim of religious deprivation – for even now, in January of 1993, the warden of that prison refuses to allow any American Indian spiritual leaders or elders to enter the walls of his prison. Their response, rather, was to place Little Rock in a control unit designed after the brainwashing chambers used on American POWs in North Korean and Chinese prisoner of war camps during the Korean War.

While confined in the control unit, a friend of Little Rock's smuggled him a book, *From Genesis to Genocide*, by Dr. Stephen Chorover (Chorover, 1979). Chorover wrote the book after having served for many years on the board of directors of the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH). He wrote it, in part, to expose some experimentation and activities funded by the NIMH that he felt violated fundamental human rights. For example: the performance of lobotomies on leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and other political dissidents, and the chemical destruction of the brains of prisoners and others who actively challenge the legitimacy of government policies and practices.

One particular project of the NIMH, that has probably had more

influence on the design of contemporary prison systems than any single activity in history, is a conference the NIMH organized for the US Bureau of Prisons in the 1960s. The purpose of the conference was to educate prison administrators and officials about the development of behavior modification technology and its application to the prison system. A key speaker at the conference was Dr. Edgar H. Schein, a professor of organizational psychology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His presentation encouraged the development and implementation of brainwashing methodology employed on American POWs in North Korean and Chinese prisoner of war camps. Said Schein to the prison officials:

> These Chinese methods are not so mysterious, not so different and not so awful, once we separate the awfulness of the Communist ideology and look simply at the methods used (quoted in Chorover, 1979).

Following Schein's presentation, James V. Bennett, then-director of the Bureau of Prisons, stood before the prison officials and stated that the Federal Bureau of Prisons provides a 'tremendous opportunity to carry on some of the experimenting to which the various panelists have alluded.' He said: 'We can perhaps undertake some of the techniques Dr. Schein discussed.' And he assured his subordinates that Bureau headquarters in Washington are 'anxious to have you undertake some of these things: do things perhaps on your own – undertake a little experiment of what you can do with the Muslims, what you can do with some of the psychopath individuals (sic)' (quoted in Chorover, 1979).

In the following essays you will read about Dr. Schein's presentation and its overwhelming influence on the prison systems of today. You will see the workings of brainwashing methodology as it is employed in all North American prisons today. But moreover, you will see that prisoners are not the only people affected. Society at large is being brainwashed – manipulated by a power elite that is out of control – and the criminal justice system is the primary instrument of that process.

The key to change lies in our hands. It begins with knowledge – the greatest weapon. To win a battle against any predatory empire, the oppressed must know their enemy. Just as Dr. Stephen Chorover can be credited for a substantial amount of Little Rock's politicization, enabling him to place the actions of his repressive captors into their proper context within the overall political, social, and economic structure of the United States, so too, those of us who have worked on this edition of the *Journal* hope that this edition will wake *you* up. This edition of the *Journal* is a weapon. It is a key to liberation. *Use* it.

REFERENCES

Chorover, S.L. 1979. *From Genesis to Genocide: The Meaning of Human Nature and the Power of Behavior Control*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press