Our Judicial System. What's Right And Wrong With It.

By George A. Burns

Our Penal System

Nearly 20 years after Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the criminal justice systems in at least three states, including California, are not entirely colorblind, according to a study some 3 1/2 weeks ago.

In a report by the Santa Monica based Rand Corp., it was found among its other conclusions that in California, Texas and Michigan,

charges, the races have a roughly equal chance of being prosecuted on those charges and about an equal chance of being convicted. But after convictions, the system treats blacks and hispanics more severely than it does whites. If they are convicted of misdemeanor charges, blacks and hispanics are much more likely to go to jail, while whites are more likely to receive

pletely inconsistent with my own observation and experiences in 11 years of my sitting on the bench." California's Attorney General John Van De Kamp said that he would study the findings and comment later. Samuel Paz, president of the Board of Directors of Southern California's American Civil Liberties Union had a different view. He said, "For those of us who do a lot of

Superior Court sentences by race, Los Angeles County, 1980 Percent of arrested incarcerated at state level

	White	Black	Hispanic
Homicide	66	74	75
Rape	45	64	40
Robbery	37	45	38
Burglary	13	16	14
All felonies combined	28	33	35
Includes prison, Califo California Rehabilitatio hospitals.			
Time served in mo			tion
offense, race and	prior re	ecord	
Prior Record	White	Black	Hispanic
No prior prison	47	59	55
1 or more prior prison	56	77	62
Serious personal crime	e		
No prior prison	41	46	45
1 or more prior prison	46	59	66
Robbery			
No prior prison	44	42	47
1 or more prior prison	47	40	54
Property crime			
No prior prison	23	21	28
1 prior prison	22	21	25
2 or more prior prison	26	30	34
Miscellaneous			
No prior prison	37	16	13
1 prior prison	27	15	-

Blacks and Hispanics receive longer prison sentences and serve longer terms than whites convicted of similar crimes and with similar records.

Plea bargaining and probation reports were singled out as strongly contributing to the disparities noted in the Said report. criminologist Joan Petersilia in her report "Racial entitled. Disparities In The Justice Criminal System," "Once arraigned on felony probation."

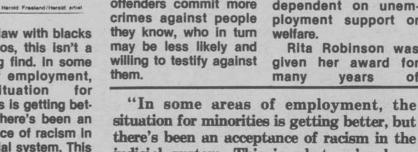
Petersilia goes on by saying that "if convicted of felony charges, blacks and hispanics are more likely than whites to recieve prison sentences. In either case, they are likely to recieve longer sentences."

What were the rebuttals to those findings on the part of judges and other legal officials and experts when they were asked their opinions? Ron George, Said presiding Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles County, "They're com-



criminal law with blacks and latinos, this isn't a surprising find. In some areas of employment, situation the minorities is getting better, but there's been an acceptance of racism in the judicial system. This is what we've been saying all along."

In the same study, it was found to be the case, that in some areas of our criminal justice system, non-whites are favored. For exampled, blacks are more likely to released before be arraignment for lack of



President of Southern California's

Sentencing In California, the average sentence is 6 1/2 months longer for hispanics than for



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Pitman

NEW YORK -- Time Inc. has named three employees as winners of its second annual Andrew Heiskell Awards for "exceptional contributions to equal opportunity and human rights" in their workplace and communities.

The awards, established by the diversified communications and forest products company in 1982, are named in honor of its former chairman who retired from the company in 1980 and continues a long career in public service.

The 1983 winners, selected from among the company's 25,000 employees, are Gerard R. Pitman assistant vice president and personnel director of Book-of-the-Month Club, Camp Hill, Pa.; Rita Robinson, special events manager for Time magazine in New York; and Donna Woodard, regional director for Home Box Office in Kansas City, Mo.

At a luncheon yesterday in the Time & Life **Building the winners** were saluted by Heiskell and by Ralph P. Davidson, chairman of the board of Time Inc. **Davidson** presented

one of the country's model self-help vocational training centers for the underemployed. Under his evidence. Also, it was guidance, Book-of-thefound that victims of all Month Club has conraces have difficulty sistently led all other making positive idencompanies in its region tifications of black in the hiring of OIC suspects. Also, minority trainees, people formerly offenders commit more dependent on unemployment support or

acceptable

fashionable to do so."

He is current chairman

of the Opportunities In-

dustrialization Center

(OIC) of Carlisle, Pa.,

Rita Robinson was given her award for of

judicial system. This is what we've been saying all along." Samuel Paz

American Civil Liberties Union.

of judges follow the recommendations of reports by probation officers in determining sentences.

Petersilia's conclusion was simply this: Government planners now need to look behind the scenes. They need to focus on the key actors and their decision making; what infor-mation they use; how accurate it is, and whether its imposition affects particularly racial groups unfairly."

"dedicated public service, particularly in the areas of human rights and education of the disadvantaged." A director of the New York Urban League for 12 years, she is currently a vice chairman and chairman of its public affairs committee. In the late '60s and early '70s she



was

Rita Robinson

or

helped establish a pilot program on education alternatives in Harlem. More recently she has helped raise funds for sports and scholarship programs at black colleges as co-chairman of the annual Whitney Young, Jr. Football Classic at Yankee Stadium. She also served as a regular recruiter for Time Inc. at black colleges across the country.

Donna Woodard was cited for "the dedication, inteligence and energy she brings to the improvement of living and work environments." Working through the international Institute of Cultural Affairs, she is currently involved in "Education Alive" and "Westport Alive," two related civic projects to improve Kansas City public education. "Westport Alive" is intended to turn a cluster of mid-city schools into a model of community involvement and self-**Improvement** for its district.

As designated by the three award winners, Time Inc. will make \$1.000 contributions to the Carlisle area Opportunities Industrialization Center of Carlisle, Pa. (Pitman), the New York Urban League (Robinson) and The Institute of Cultural Affairs, Chicago (Woodard).