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**CANDIDATE VISITS REFORMATORY:** Paul O'Dwyer, at left, aspirant to Democratic nomination for Senator, with George F. McGrath, Commissioner of Correction, on Rikers Island. Mr. O'Dwyer held a news conference on narcotics.

# O'Dwyer Calls for Giving Free Narcotics to Addicts

By CLAYTON KNOWLES

Paul O'Dwyer broke yesterday with the other three candidates for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate by urging establishment of government centers to administer free drugs to narcotics addicts.

Under Mr. O'Dwyer's plan, heroin addicts would get free heroin, and other addicts whatever they requested. None of the other candidates has gone this far. Instead they have asked for continued experimentation with substitutes, such as methadone, which may wean the addict away from more harmful drug use.

"Simply put," Mr. O'Dwyer said of his proposal, "the results must be the end of profit for the gangster and the pusher, and thus the end of the pusher salesman, and, therefore, a vast reduction in new young addicts."

His statement added:

"The simple expedient of giving an addict that which permits him to function will make it unnecessary for him to commit crime. The cost of the drug, now sold by the criminal element for \$15, can be obtained legitimately for less than 15 cents.

"The cost of administration by a government agency would be much less than the cost of any one of the major law-enforcing bodies now involved in the attempt to suppress addiction."

## Tours Rikers Island

The candidate released his position paper on narcotics addiction during a tour of the Rikers Island Reformatory and Prison, where roughly 4,000 of the 6,000 male inmates, many of them youths, are estimated to be drug users.

During his tour, on which he was accompanied by Correction Commissioner George F. McGrath, Mr. O'Dwyer decried the \$25-million being spent for the new Women's House of Detention as a waste of taxpayer money.

He said 70 to 80 per cent of the women inmates in the present institution were addicts who were sent there, time and time again, for crimes that produced the money to satisfy their habit. A narcotics-maintenance program such as he suggests, he said, would curb the demand for more and more prison facilities to house such prisoners.

The O'Dwyer proposal for free narcotics for addicts, recommended "under regulations and with safeguards attendant on the system in vogue in Great Britain," constituted only one feature of a seven-point program.

## U. S. Supervision Asked

In two other recommendations, he proposed that the Federal Government accept responsibility for dealing with the narcotics crisis and that the functions of the Bureau of Narcotics, now in the Justice Department, be transferred to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He also urged "an in-depth inquiry" on the causes of addiction and on "efforts made through teaching or psychiatry, or both, to discourage use by those not addicted."

Another proposal was that "present efforts of groups like **Odyssey House, Synanon** and others be encouraged and funded, and [the use of] methadone be considered and used."

As a last proposal, Mr. O'Dwyer urged that education efforts be enlarged to consider addiction to alcohol, "which, in fact, causes more deaths than drug addiction."

Still other benefits to be derived from his program, Mr. O'Dwyer said, would include these:

¶ "A 60 per cent reduction in crime and the release of policemen to attack other areas of crime."

¶ "Easing our budget for the building of new jails and courts. We then could turn such institutions as the Women's House of Detention to a local health center."

¶ "Assurances that people may leave their homes without losing the television set or being mugged on the street."

¶ "A return to normal life for the addict, who will no longer spend his day conniving how to obtain enough money to satisfy his craving."

Mr. O'Dwyer cited estimates that there were 150,000 to 200,000 addicts in New York City alone and that thefts to satisfy their habits came to \$2.5-billion a year.

As Mr. O'Dwyer campaigned in the city, his opponents—Theodore C. Sorensen and Representatives Richard L. Ottinger and Richard Max McCarthy—were seeking votes upstate.

Mr. McCarthy, stumping in Syracuse, toured the Veterans Administration Hospital there and called for more funds to properly equip these hospitals for the care and rehabilitation of patients.

"The Syracuse V.A. Hospital," he said, "reflects many of the ills which beset other facilities in New York State."

## 'Misrepresentation' Charged

He predicted there would be a "crisis in medical care" for the veteran if conditions were not improved. Many patients, he asserted, are "going without required intravenous feedings, catheter irrigations and breathing treatments."

At Rochester, Mr. Sorensen visited with workers at the gates of the Bond Clothes and Bausch-Lomb factories as his city headquarters here issued a statement contending that his views on the Vietnam war were being "misrepresented" by Mr. Ottinger.

His campaign manager, Glenn Van Bramer, denied as an "unvarnished lie" Mr. Ottinger's statement that he did "not know where he [Mr. Sorensen] stands on the war and other issues, and I don't think the public does."

"At public meetings in Ottinger's presence," Mr. Van Braemer said, "Sorensen has spoken repeatedly and strongly against the Vietnamese war, against the incursion into Cambodia, for the politics of reconciliation and on a host of other issues."

Mr. Ottinger, meantime, also in Rochester, deplored the failure of the state administration to set meaningful air-quality standards. The candidate toured the municipal garage in Midtown Plaza and said the results of air samples taken in the garage were "appalling."