

with thousands of dollars sticking out of your pockets, you can bribe yourself out of most trouble."

When R.B. was first imprisoned, he was required to take part in a drug course.

R.B. explained that "some guy just sat around, talking. I had gotten busted for cocaine, yet in the folder of literature he gave me, I could only find coke mentioned twice. Some of it wasn't even in complete sentences.

"I don't think the literature was particularly persuasive and I think the guy knew less about drugs than the pamphlets," R.B. said.

Even though he doesn't think the literature contained many

My roommate brought home this guy who turned out to be a narcotics agent. This gave the cops something to get a flakey sort of search warrant on, and pretty soon they came and busted down our door."

factual descriptions, some of the evaluation questions "really pissed me off," R.B. said.

"One of those damned questions was 'How do you feel drugs have helped you adjust to society and set goals for yourself? If you know anything, you know that 95 per cent of the people out there don't give a shit about society and its problems.'"

R.B. said a parole officer suggested that he take part in a service in which he would talk to student groups about drugs and getting busted.

"If it turned out to be the sort of thing where I just told them how to be careful with drugs and getting busted, I don't think I'd have any strenuous objections.

"I wouldn't want to get into one of those things where I'd have to explain the dangers of marijuana or something like that," he said.

"Just think about the harm in telling some kid that marijuana is dangerous, and then telling him that heroin is dangerous. Hell, if the kid's been smoking for a couple of years, he'll know you're lying about the marijuana. What's he supposed to think about the heroin?"

R.B. had been kept in the Reception Diagnostic Center (RDC), "sort of orientation to prison life, he said, until this week, when he was turned out into the general population of the prison.

"I don't expect much harassment from other prisoners because I happen to be a drug criminal," R.B. said. "I think most of the other inmates are pretty sympathetic. Hell, there's probably more drug usage in a prison than there is in any age group. They're just really a bunch of loose people."

There may truly be loose people in the penitentiary, but one who is not so loose is another drug criminal, who will be identified as C.N.

C.N., a 27-year-old black, convicted for selling marijuana and sentenced to one to three years, said he's never smoked marijuana or taken any drugs and probably never will.

"I've never taken or sold any drugs," he said. "I only drink booze."

C.N. said he was busted because he brought a person home to buy some marijuana from his roommate. The person turned out to be an agent and C.N. was subsequently arrested.

"My mother and two priests came and tried to plead my innocence, but the judge said my record was so messed up . . . well, he thought prison might be good for me, I guess.

"A lot of my friends did drugs, but I just couldn't relate to the drug trip. I stuck to my own trip—alcohol. My friends kidded me and made fun of alcohol, but I held out," C.N. said.

C.N., who has been enrolled in the skills training school at the prison said he hopes to be on work release in about four months. He also said he tried to get his friends and younger brother to quit drugs.

"My brother is 24 years old. He just came out to the prison for felonious entry. He tells me now that his downfall and his being here is because he was so burned out on cocaine. He's in here for five to seven now," he said.

Although C.N. said he couldn't really say what they should do about hard drugs, he added that "if they sell alcohol, they should sell marijuana."

