

## Canoeing Costs

Sir,

It seems to me to be a remarkable state of affairs that we should learn that Messrs. Campbell and Pye of North Sea Camp have been selected to represent England only when it is realised that it will cost money for them to get to Spain for the European Canoeing Championships. The "public image" of the Prison Service could surely be enhanced in some small measure by an announcement of this kind to the Press, especially if some background information could be released at the same time. An examination of the results of the racing activities of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Pye and of Mr. Campbell's former partner, Mr. Barr, will reveal that borstal trainees take part in the same event and perform well. It seems likely that personal successes are achieved in spite of the added responsibility of supervising inmate teams, but no fanfares are blown to herald such work.

While training boys, these men have reached international status themselves and the reward for their efforts is that they have to beg

for money to help them on their way. Surely there is some way in which their own Service could pay their expenses. It seems that the Service just does not want to know, for even the branch which is supposed to specialise in physical activities remains silent in the appeal for funds and leaves the job to Governor T. Hayes.

There's probably a Chinese proverb which fits this situation: there are certainly several quotations from *Alice in Wonderland* which could be suitably modified: you will pardon me if I claim the privilege of the outsider to pass the comment that somebody, or some bodies, are too idle to bother to maintain good communications within the Service and good relations with the world outside... it probably comes as a shock to some of these people to be reminded that there is a world outside.

Yours etc.,

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