CSI VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

CSI recently produced two short videos as part of our promotional strategy for 1993-1994.

The first video, entitled "Working for the Community" was developed as an educational tool to build awareness about the vital social role played by CSI in rehabilitating inmates and reducing the burden on NSW taxpayers. Inmates featured in the video are shown facing the day to day challenges of the workplace and developing new skills through education and training.

The production is living testimony to the positive changes that are afoot in NSW Correctional Centres today and is highly recommended viewing.

The second video called "The Way to Total Customer Service" has a somewhat different focus. This video was created to illustrate the tremendous diversity of CSI products and services available throughout the state.

Highlighted on screen are the eight divisions through which CSI goods and services are manufactured and sold, as well as their everyday application and use.

The video represents CSI as a distinctly Australian enterprise, committed to quality and providing first-rate customer service.

Copies of both videos have been distributed to all Governors, Regional Commanders, CSI Regional Business Managers and CSI Operations Managers for use in the field. Should you require additional copies, simply contact Heather Vaile at the CSI Corporate Office on (02) 644-4966.
REGIONAL NEWS

NORTHERN REGION

Cessnock Correctional Centre recently participated in State Education Week by way of a vocational training display at the Cessnock Library. A selection of items from the CSI product range were featured in the display, and attracted great local interest. Approximately 55% of all education courses offered at Cessnock are vocationally based, assisting CSI in developing quality control and increased productivity.

CENTRAL REGION

A team of senior officers from the Central Region undertook a one week fact-finding tour of the South Australian correctional system. During their stay, the group visited Mobilong and Port Augusta Prisons, the Adelaide Remand Centre, the Cadell Training Centre as well as Yatala Labour Prison and the Northern Prison Complex. Discussions were held on industries, aboriginal programs and staff development and training.

SOUTH WEST REGION

Recent negotiations with the Department of Education have led to a new venture for Goulburn Correctional Centre in refurbishing demountable classrooms. Nine units have already been delivered to the site and the Gencor Business Unit is being upgraded for the project. Senior Overseer, Mark O’Neill, Acting Officer in Charge of the unit, recently spent a week on detached duty at Cessnock Correctional Centre to familiarise himself with demountable maintenance procedures and costings. Silverwater Correctional Centre will also be participating in the project by supplying Goulburn with refurbishing plant, equipment and machinery.

EASTERN REGION

The combined efforts of the three business divisions including Cortex, Corfu and Cornet in meeting an order from Wollongong Periodic Detention Centre has generated $36,000 in sales for CSI. The order called for a wide range of CSI products including desks, tables, chairs, beds, trolleys, mirrors, towel rails, sheets, blankets and pillow cases. Congratulations to the Training Centre at Long Bay, Cessnock, Parklea, Parramatta and Silverwater Correctional Centres.

New Faces

New CSI Regional Business Manager, Mr Hans Wesseling

A new CSI Business Manager has been appointed for the Eastern Region. Mr Hans Wesseling comes to CSI from the Department of Agriculture, where he was responsible for Training and Staff Development. He also has an impressive background in the private sector, including many years managerial experience at Esso. We welcome Hans to CSI and wish him every success in his new position.

CSI Operations Manager, Mr Ralph Pettitt

We also have a new Operations Manager at John Morony Correctional Centre, Mr Ralph Pettitt. Ralph has a strong engineering background in the private sector as well as considerable experience as a TAFE teacher. His management, organisational and training skills are expected to greatly benefit CSI in the development of industries at John Morony, and we welcome him on board.
Mexican prisons have received some notoriety recently because of the disturbance at the Matamoros Prison in 1991. A riot resulting from a conflict between two major drug dealers left 18 people dead and exposed the Mexican public sector to accusations of widespread corruption.

These issues were recently covered in the magazine "American Jails" and I thought it would be of interest to CSI staff to learn of some of the findings of the subsequent investigation.

It was subsequently discovered that those charged with the murder of a US Drug Enforcement Officer were allowed to live in luxury within the Mexican Prison System. The correspondent writes: "We expected that Prison Officials would respond to bribes and we were right. What was surprising was the extent to which the payment by inmates determines their quality of life while confined in a Mexican Prison."

In one particular Prison ..., "if inmates do not have enough money to pay the officials they are not allowed to live inside the building. A poor inmate is allowed to build a small shelter from scrap lumber on the verandah of the cell house. He is not allowed to live inside the building until he can pay for the privilege. A poor inmate can begin by making wood strips from shingles which are used by other inmates to make baskets, picture frames and furniture."

"After he has earned enough money, a poor inmate can move inside the building where he is given a bed in a large dormitory. Here he is allowed to create some privacy by hanging a sheet from the upper bunk."

Security is certainly different to what we know in Australia. Security in many cases is maintained by inmates who work for officials. The article indicates .. "These trusty guards are prisoners who have served over 10 years in the Prison and are considered to be reliable by the administration. Unless you know who the trusty guards are you would not be able to distinguish the guards from the inmates."

In the Victoria Prison, prisoners operate a furniture factory. "People from the community are allowed to visit the prison to pick out the furniture pieces they wish to buy. Inmate trustees are then allowed to leave the prison by truck to deliver the furniture to the purchaser. They are permitted to deliver furniture, large distances from the prison."

"The profits from the furniture factory are shared by the Prison Officials, Inmate Supervisors and Inmate Workers. Those at the top are paid much more than those at the bottom."

"There is no apparent restriction on the sale of prison made goods on the open economy."

"Many Mexican Prisons are overcrowded and under funded. As prisoners are not a political constituency they are not high on the list of priorities for public support. The Government provides only the barest necessities for inmates."

Finally, the report provides an interesting overview of accountability as we know it. "The idea that Government workers are public servants is not a universally held value. In many countries such as Mexico, a public office is viewed as a franchise."

"The official is expected to carry out the duties of the office, but he or she is also expected to use the office for personal enrichment."

"Public officials at all levels expect to be paid a gratuity for their actions on behalf of any person. Some times if the gratuity is not forthcoming, the official will extract the payment by a more direct means."

Mexican Police are used as a good example. The report suggests ......

"The "mordida" or the bite, refers to the payment extorted by an official from a person under his authority. The fact that public officials in Mexico expect to be paid and the public expects to pay or expects the prisoner to pay the official leads very quickly to the levels of corruption which allow the purchase of privilege by wealthy prisoners."
Please send your responses, along with your name and daytime phone number to:
Heather Vaile, Promotions Officer, CSI Corporate Office,
P.O. Box 116, Regents Park NSW 2143
Fax: (02) 644 4772
by Monday 1st November 1993. The first correct entry drawn on 2nd November will win a promotional gift from CSI.