PAROLE BOARD

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary

Official Business

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: ROCKY PLOTNICK

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 1979

SUBJECT: ALASKA BOARD OF PAROLE

The Alaska Board of Parole has been assigned to this committee for sunset review. I have started to gather information about the Parole Board and its duties and will share what I have with you. Please note these are preliminary findings and more specific information will be supplied to you.

Before I go any further, a distinction must be made between parole and probation. Parole is administered by the Executive Branch and must proceed sentenced time in prison. Probation is administered by the Judicial Branch in lieu of prison. The Alaska Statutes specify when a prisoner is eligible for parole. AS 33.15.080 says,

> "However, no prisoner may be released on parole who has not served at least one-third of the period of confinement to which he has been sentenced, or in the case of a life sentence, has not served at least 15 years." *

*Effective January 1, 1980, delete "or in the case of a life sentence, has not serv-d at least 15 years".

The Parole Board is a separate agency within the Department of Health & Social Services, and not within the Division of Corrections. It has an executive director with one clerical person. There are five part-time members on the Board serving without pay, though they do get travel costs. The Parole Board conducts hearings at least quarterly at state correctional institutions. At those hearings parole may be granted, denied, continued (pending), or revoked.

When parole is revoked it means some law or condition of parole has been violated. However, it is important to note that sometimes parole is revoked and then a person is reparoled, never going back to prison. So while Alaska's revocation rates are higher than the national average on the attached statistics, in reality not that many are returning to prison. Also, the revocations are mainly for technical violations or misdemeanors. An example would be a parolee getting stopped for having one marijuana joint, a misdemeanor in Alaska. That person could have parole revoked and be reparoled at the same time. So in some cases, the revocation serves as a warning.

The Corrections Master Plan makes several recommendations for the Parole Board. They include.

1. three full-time members
2. an increase and reorganization of staff
3. change hearing procedure
4. establish a formal appeals process
5. adopt a guideline or matrix system to aid decision making

6. prepare a manual of policy

7. introduce legislation to allow credit for "street time" when parole is revoked

8. introduce legislation to allow the release from parole after two years of successful parole

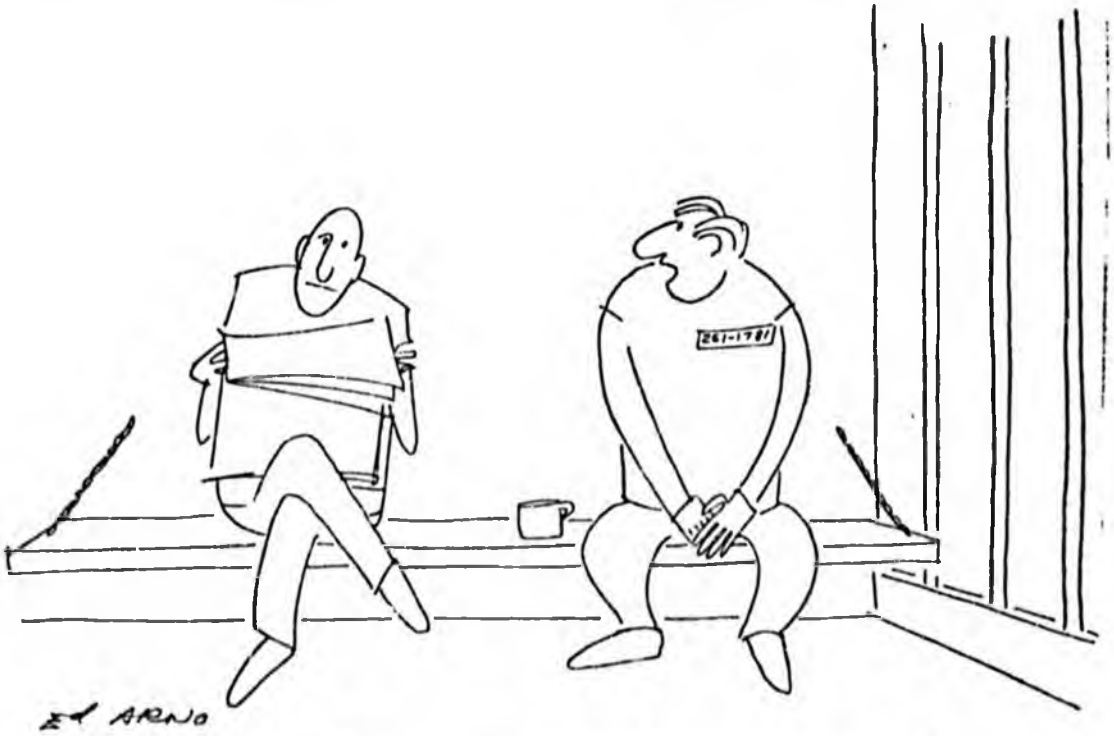
9. conduct hearings to determine presumptive release date

10. obtain a common philosophy between the Parole Board and the Division of Corrections

When I met with Sam Trivette, the executive director, he said he was already working on the recommendations. We went over each one of them and I plan to follow-up in the future.

As we look at the Division of Corrections, keep in mind these people effect a person applying for parole. They are responsible for getting the application to the Parole Board. They make a report of a person's conduct in prison. Indirectly, the Division of Corrections does play a very significant part in the parole process.

THE NEW YORKER JULY 30, 1979



"Which are you—a victim of society or a crook?"

ALASKA BOARD OF PAROLE

STATISTICS

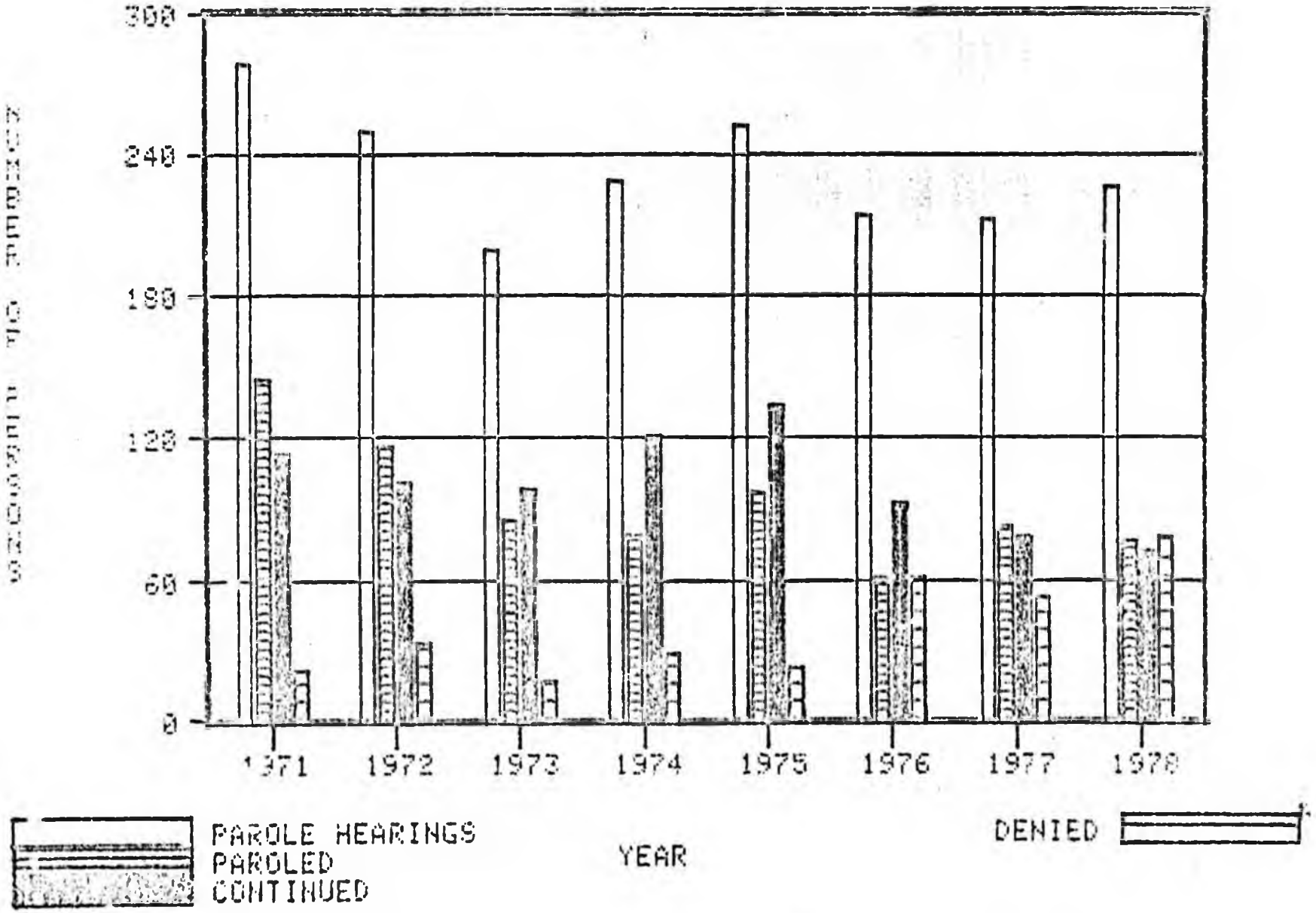
	1975		1976		1977		1978		1979 (First Half)
PAROLE HEARINGS	252		214		212		226		91
PAROLED	93		53		75		64		34
CONTINUED	133		92		78		72		30
DENIED	22		61		52		78		27
OTHER	4		8		7		12		
REVOCATIONS	TECH/FELONY		TECH/FELON		TECH/FELON		TECH/FELONY		TECH/FELONY
1-3 Months (on parole)	10	3	5	1	5		3	1	
4-6 Months	7		6		6	2	8		
7-12 Months	7		4	2	4		1		
13-18 Months	3				4	1			
19-24 Months	1								
25 Or More Months	2		1			1			
TOTAL	30	3	16	3	19	4	12	1	
AVERAGE PERIOD * OF SUPERVISION REMAINING	20.[illegible] Mo.		16.6 Mo.		17.4 Mo.		15.4 Mo.		18.1 Mo.
REVOCATION RATE (Total)	3 1/2 Yr. Follow Up to 4½ yr. 35%		2 1/2 Yr. Follow Up to 3½ yr. 36%		1 1/2 Yr. Follow Up to 2½ year 31%		6 Mo. Follow Up to 18 months 20%		
FELONY REVOCATION RATE	3.2%		5.6%		5.3%		1.6%		

(nat'l average @ 8% 1 yr. follow up -- 14% 2 yr.)

* IN EACH YEAR THE BOARD PAROLED A FEW INDIVIDUALS THAT HAD SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF SUPERVISION IT INFLATED THE AVERAGE. THIS FIGURE ONLY INCLUDES THE 90% WITH UNDER FOUR YEARS OF SUPERVISION LEFT.

PAROLE BOARD ACTIVITY

(Tektronix 4051 -- Data Graphing)



PAROLE BOARD ACTIVITY

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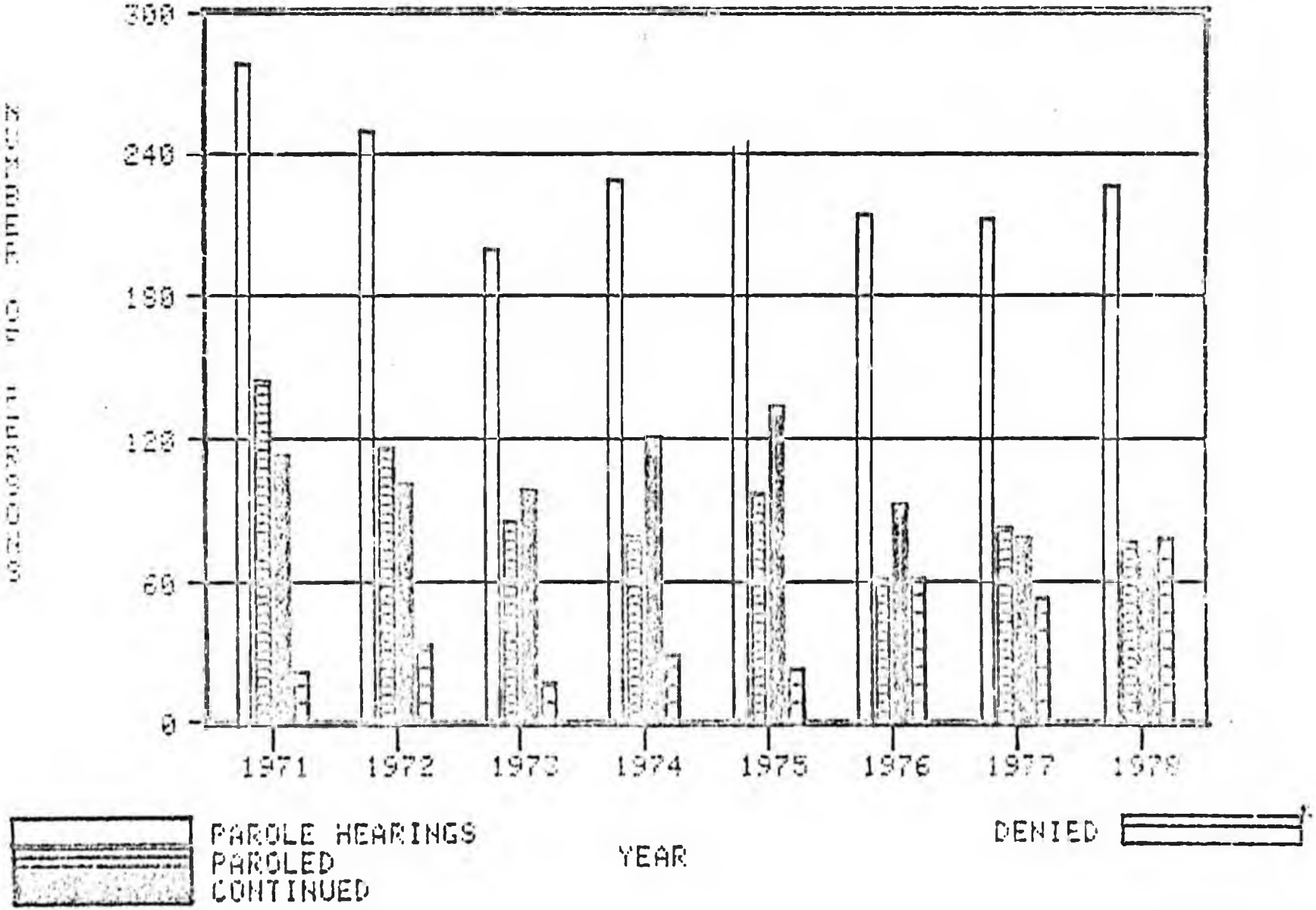

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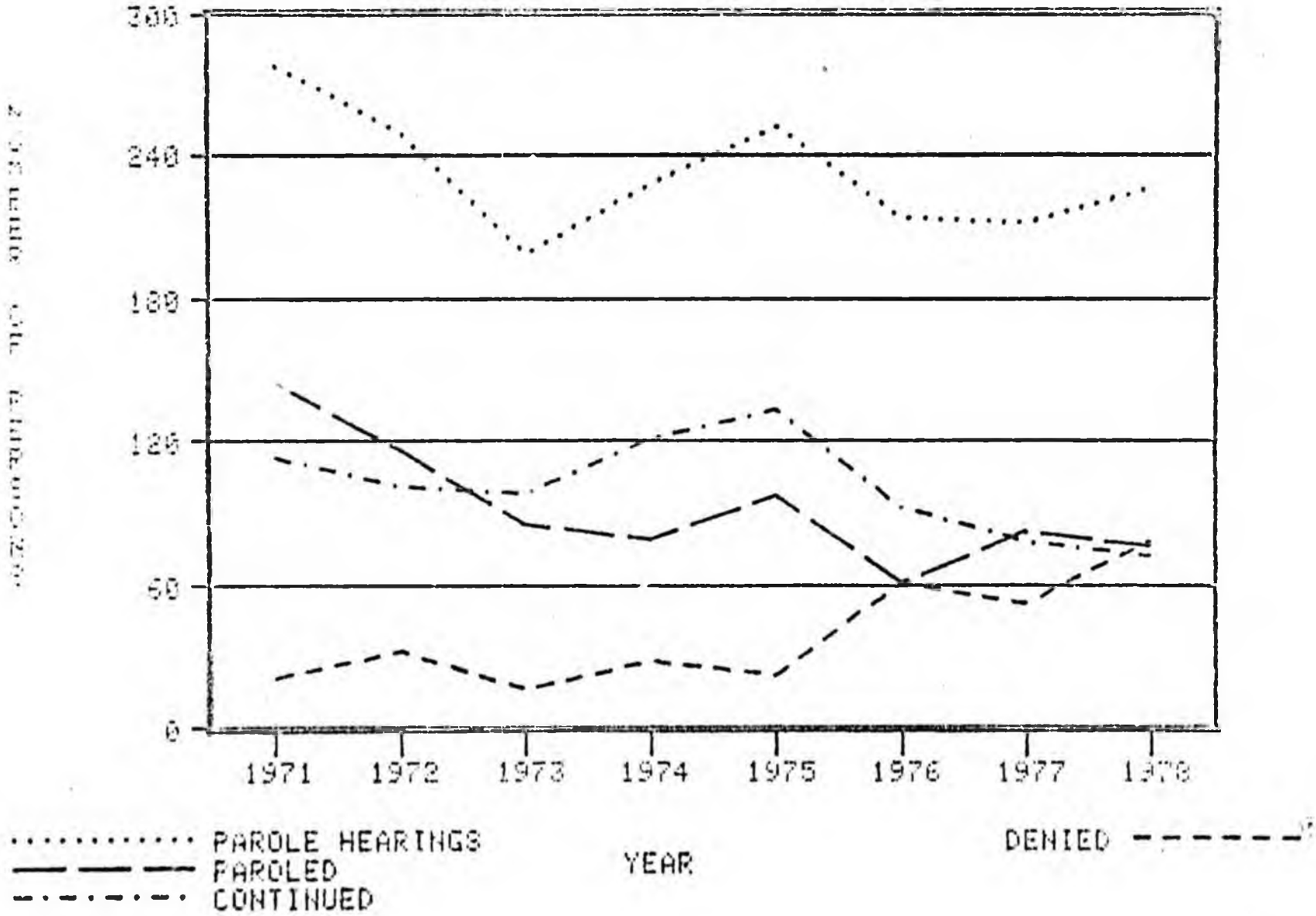

PAROLE STATISTICS

1979 (½ year)

PAROLE HEARINGS	91	
PAROLED	34	37%
CONTINUED	30	33%
DENIED	27	30%

PAROLE STATISTICS

1978

PAROLE HEARINGS	221	
PAROLED	64	29%
CONTINUED	72	33%
DENIED	78	35%
PAROLED (NOT RELEASED)	7	3%

*REVOCATIONS:

	Technical Violations Misdemeanors		Felonies	
1-3 Months	3		(1) 1	
4-6 Months	8			
7-12 Months	1			
13-18 Months				
19-24 Months				
25 of More				
TOTAL	12	19%	1	1%

(1) Rape committed in Juneau.

*As of May 1, 1979, short, inconclusive, Follow up.

PAROLE STATITICS

1977

PAROLE HEARINGS	210	
PAROLED	73	35%
CONTINUED	78	37%
DENIED	52	25%
PAROLED (NOT RELEASED)	7	3%

*REVOCATIONS:

	Technical Violations Midemeanors		Felonies		
1-3 Months	5				
4-6 Months	6		(1)(2)	2	
7-12 Months	4				
13-18 Months	4		(3)	1	
19-24 Months					
25 or More			(4)	1	
TOTAL 31%	19	25%		4	5%

(1) Armed Robbery Committed in Anchcrage.

(2) Burglary (Interstate) Committed in Washington.

(3) Burglarv (Interstate) Committed in Texas.

(4) Assault (Interstate) Committed in Louisiana.

*As of May 1, 1979, 6 months to 18 months Follow up.

PAROLE STATISTICS

1976

PAROLE HEARINGS	219	
PAROLE	49	22%
CONTINUED	92	42%
DENIED	61	28%
PAROLED (NOT RELEASED)	17	8%

*REVOCATIONS:	Technical Violations Misdemeanors		Felonies	
1-3 Months	5		(1) 1	
4-6 Months	6			
7-12 Months	4		(2)(3) 2	
13-18 Months				
19-24 Months				
25 or More	1			
TOTAL 39%	16	33%	3	6%

(1) Possession of Stolen Property (Interstate) Committed in New York.

(2) Armed Robbery, Committed in Anchorage.

(3) Robbery, (Interstate) committed in New Mexico.

*As of May 1, 1979, 18 months to 30 months Follow up.