

And the group goes on, telling me all sorts of *good* reasons why we must have jails. One fellow even suggested we've got to have jails so the police and prison guards can have jobs.

After about ten minutes of letting the group "prove" why we can't eliminate the need for jails, I say to them, "Now let me mention here that this question of eliminating jails is used to make a point.

"Each of you has come up with reasons why we can't eliminate the need for jails. Will you do me a favor? Will you try extra hard for a few minutes to believe we *can* eliminate jails?"

Joining in the spirit of the experiment, the group says, in effect, "Oh, well, but just for kicks." Then I ask, "Now, assuming we can eliminate jails, how could we begin?"

Suggestions come slowly at first. Someone hesitantly says something like, "Well, you might cut down crime if you established more youth centers."

Before long, the group, which ten minutes ago was solidly against the idea, now begins to work up real enthusiasm.

"Work to eliminate poverty. Most crime stems from the low income levels."

"Conduct research to spot potential criminals before they commit a crime."

"Develop surgical procedures to cure some kinds of criminals."

"Educate law enforcement personnel in positive methods of reform."

These are just samples of the seventy-eight specific ideas I've tabulated that could help accomplish the goal of eliminating jails.

WHEN YOU BELIEVE, YOUR MIND FINDS WAYS TO DO.

This experiment has just one point: *When you believe some-*