

As We See It:

Parole Poorly Conceived

By MICHAEL JOHNSON

Is 25 years in prison long enough for someone who has been convicted of murder?

This question has been asked by many Logan County residents after learning that Earl Ralph Jacobs was due to be released from prison Nov. 20.

Jacobs was convicted of the June 28, 1962, murder of West Liberty Marshal Sherman Ricketts, but was given life imprisonment rather than being sentenced to death.

A spokesperson for the Adult Parole Board said Jacobs was paroled, "because he was eligible for parole...that is reason enough."

Being eligible for parole is not reason enough to free a convicted murderer, especially in the killing

of a law officer who was performing his duties protecting other citizens.

Jacobs was out on parole for auto theft a little over a month when he killed Marshal Ricketts.

What's to stop him from going out in another month and stealing another car, or even worse, killing someone else?

Some people might say that 25 years is long enough, or that life in prison still wouldn't bring Marshal Ricketts back. These arguments do not change the fact that the man is a confessed and convicted murderer who was sentenced to life in prison.

Although Jacobs has been granted parole, the parole board can review his case and still decide to keep him in prison.

The only way this will happen is if enough people contact the Adult Parole Authority in Columbus.

Letters should be addressed to:

RAYMOND E. CAPOTS,
Parole Board Chairman
Ohio Parole Authority
1050 Freeway Drive, North
Columbus, Ohio 43229

The telephone number for the parole board is (614) 431-2727. All inquiries should contain reference to Earl Ralph Jacobs, Institution Number 115-953.

Twenty-five years is not enough. Let's join together as a community and keep a criminal where he belongs — behind bars.

(Michael Johnson is an Examiner Staff Writer.)

Bellefontaine (Ohio) Examiner
1987