



SANFORD BATES

Sanford Bates was born July 17, 1884, in Boston, Massachusetts. After being recognized as a capable administrator, Bates was appointed the first commissioner

of the Massachusetts Department of Correction by Governor Calvin Coolidge in 1919. After almost 10 years as commissioner, Bates helped establish two new juvenile delinquent institutions and sponsored progressive legislation. He also was influential in the establishment of the largest Massachusetts prison colony at Norfolk.

In 1929, Bates accepted a job in Washington, D.C., as superintendent of federal prisons. With the establishment of the federal Bureau of Prisons in 1930, Bates's title was changed to director. As director of the Bureau of Prisons, Bates supported prisoner rehabilitation and penal reform. Fifteen new federal prison institutions became part of the bureau under Bates, and he worked to establish social work facilities and prison libraries.

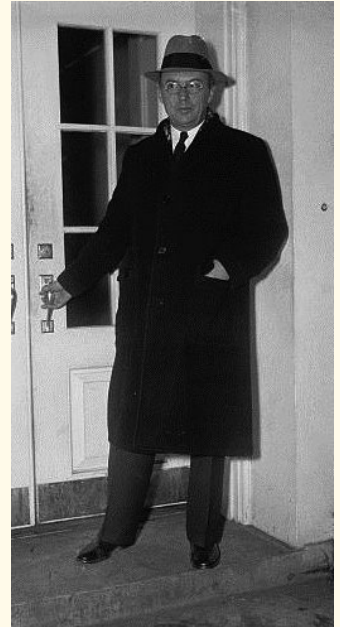
In 1936, Bates wrote *Prisons and Beyond*, which was a detailed framework on prison reform and administrative technique. By 1940, he had become the head of the New York state parole system, and then in 1945 he became commissioner of institutions and agencies for New Jersey. While in New Jersey, he oversaw construction of a state mental hospital and a nursery for special needs children, and he introduced plans for a new 1,200-bed penitentiary.

Significantly, Bates was involved with international corrections and was a liaison on behalf of the United States at several foreign conferences. He was

appointed as delegate to the International Prison Congress in 1925 and represented the United States on the International Prison Commission in 1932. From 1946 to 1951, Bates served as president of the International Penal and Penitentiary Congress, and in 1951, he was a member of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention. He was appointed official delegate to the UN Conference on Crime held in London in 1960.

Bates retired in 1954 but continued working as a corrections consultant for many state and federal correctional agencies. He worked as special consultant to the War Department, the American Bar Association, and the American Law Institute. Bates became special assistant to the President's Commission on Crime and Law Enforcement in 1966.

With his extensive knowledge and experience in criminal justice, Bates became known as the "Dean of American Corrections." From prisoner rehabilitation to progressive juvenile delinquent treatment, Sanford Bates helped frame the modern correctional field.



Sanford Bates was the first director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

© Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division