

As signed into law,

State penitentiary "reform" bill. ~~Introduced~~ House bill # 227, ~~the~~
~~newxxxx~~ enables local communities to come to agreement with the gov
to send overflow prisoners to Parchman state prison even upon convic
tion on municipal charges such as traffic violations. The bill also
reduces the number of lashes which may be given a prisoner for infraction
of prison rules from ten to seven.

This law, coupled with the new highway patrol expansion bill,
allows Governor Johnson to keep control of prisoners from the time
they are arrested (by the patrol) to their incarceration at the state
pen- where pr ison labor is used to grow cotton.

Parchman is considered by state officials as a model of the
ante-bellum plantation, according to Miss newspapers. It receives one
of the largest federal cotton subsidy allotments in the state.