NEED

A drive along the roads and highways of Tennessee is the best and most graphic demonstration of the tremendous litter and trash problems facing the state. On any given day on any given rural road or state highway, one can observe first-hand the result of carelessness on the part of many of us. Drink bottles, cans, fast-food containers and wrappers, even household trash strewn along the side of the road has become all too common. It is not necessary to quote statistics here - personal observation in this situation is sufficient to recognize the need.

Obviously, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, perhaps in their travel to and from the State Capitol, have recognized and responded to the need. In passing Public Chapter 290, legislators have provided some $2.4 million in the form of a Litter Grant Program to county governments in Tennessee. This program, laid out in the permissive legislation, states that the program is "for the purpose of funding programs for the collection of litter and trash along county, state, and interstate roads and highways within the respective counties."

In response to this legislation, Weakley County, Tennessee, is submitting this application for funding of a Litter Grant Program in our county.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Weakley County proposes to utilize prisoners housed in the county for the collection of litter and trash along 937 miles of county roads and 132 miles of state highways within the county boundaries. Roads, within specific areas, along which litter will be collected are shown on the area maintenance map included as a part of this application.

It is proposed that litter and trash collection will take place on an average of three days a week using an area rotation system. For example, litter will be collected in the Area 'A' of Weakley County during the first week of the month; litter will be collected in the Area 'B' of the county during the second week; collection in Area 'C' will take place during the third week; and collection in Area 'D' will be during the fourth week of each month. At the beginning of each month, the area of collection will rotate back to the original starting area. Using this system accomplishes two things: 1) it prevents excessive buildup of litter in any one area, and 2) it prevents the possibility of transporting prisoners to a "clean" area where there would be too much unproductive time and ineffective use of labor.

Prisoners will be transported to and from the work area by means of a bus. Each way there will be a driver and a guard on board in order to provide the necessary security. While a guard will always be stationed to monitor the prisoners during the work period away from the workhouse, it is not the intention of this county to place any prisoner who has committed a serious felony crime in a

prisoners to be used in this program will be those who have been sentenced to the county workhouse for less serious offenses, such as, public drunkeness, driving while intoxicated, etc. Prisoners will be transported to the work area in the morning and will be returned to the workhouse in the evening, with lunch being provided at the work area.

Prisoners and guards will be supplied with adequate safety colored vests and will be required to wear these vests at all times they are working on or near a roadway. In addition, prisoners will be supplied with the following:

1. Heavy work gloves
2. Adequate work boots
3. Adequate work clothing

An adequate supply of water will be provided during each work period and a well-stocked first-aid kit will be maintained and carried to each work area.

In addition to the safety equipment mentioned above, prisoners will be supplied with adequate work supplies such as: litter bags, pickup sticks, shovels, etc.

The work detail will proceed to fill litter bags, deposit them into a dump truck and/or trailer which will be used in each work area and/or place filled litter bags along the roadway after which the dump truck will follow behind with two prisoners collecting the filled bags and placing them into the truck. The work detail will

assist in the cleaning up of road side dumps by supporting a front loader and dump trucks.

Recyclying

As an adjunct to this program, the county plans to include a recyclying program involving aluminum drink cans and returnable glass bottles. Currently, there is an on-going aluminum can recycling program in Tennessee. An aluminum recycling pick up point is located in Dresden, TN, as of this date, paying .25¢ per lb.

The second area - returnable glass bottles - while not a recycling program in the same sense as aluminum cans, offers as much potential. In fact, because these glass drink bottles can be cashed in at any grocery store, service station, etc., this part of the recycling program will be an even more convenient method of recyclying litter.

Aluminum cans and returnable bottles will be separated from non-recyclable litter on-site. Recycling does not provide for the most rapid litter collection; however, the benefits for such a program are obvious and overriding - litter is collected and there is financial payback.

prisoners to be used in this program will be those who have been sentenced to the county workhouse for less serious offenses, such as, public drunkeness, driving while intoxicated, etc. Prisoners will be transported to the work area in the morning and will be returned to the workhouse in the evening, with lunch being provided at the work area.

Prisoners and guards will be supplied with adequate safety colored vests and will be required to wear these vests at all times they are working on or near a roadway. In addition, prisoners will be supplied with the following:

1. Heavy work gloves
2. Adequate work boots
3. Adequate work clothing

An adequate supply of water will be provided during each work period and a well-stocked first-aid kit will be maintained and carried to each work area.

In addition to the safety equipment mentioned above, prisoners will be supplied with adequate work supplies such as: litter bags, pickup sticks, shovels, etc.

The work detail will proceed to fill litter bags, deposit them into a dump truck and/or trailer which will be used in each work area and/or place filled litter bags along the roadway after which the dump truck will follow behind with two prisoners collecting the filled bags and placing them into the truck. The work detail will

assist in the cleaning up of road side dumps by supporting a front loader and dump trucks.

Recyclying

As an adjunct to this program, the county plans to include a recyclying program involving aluminum drink cans and returnable glass bottles. Currently, there is an on-going aluminum can recycling program in Tennessee. An aluminum recycling pick up point is located in Dresden, TN, as of this date, paying .25¢ per lb.

The second area - returnable glass bottles - while not a recycling program in the same sense as aluminum cans, offers as much potential. In fact, because these glass drink bottles can be cashed in at any grocery store, service station, etc., this part of the recycling program will be an even more convenient method of recyclying litter.

Aluminum cans and returnable bottles will be separated from non-recyclable litter on-site. Recycling does not provide for the most rapid litter collection; however, the benefits for such a program are obvious and overriding - litter is collected and there is financial payback.