

Probe Urged At Jordonia

CHATTANOOGA (P) — Mrs. Norman E. Soper, a member of the Chattanooga Juvenile Commission, urged yesterday an "immediate investigation by qualified citizens" of conditions at the state reformatory at Jordonia.

Mrs. Soper, who said she was speaking "as a citizen and not as a commission member," said her own view is that the boys at Jordonia are subjected to inhuman treatment under a medieval system.

C. O. Jett, superintendent of the institution said last night he would welcome any investigation, but he declined to comment on Mrs. Soper's remarks.

Her comment to a newsman was prompted by the death of a 15-year-old boy in one of Jordonia's isolation cells. At the time Jett said the boy asked to be confined in the cell and apparently hanged himself with a bedsheet.

It was the first such incident in the institution's 50-year history.

Mrs. Soper, who said she had visited all four state reformatories as a commission member, called Jordonia "worse beyond words" than the others.

"It is run like Alcatraz and they are only children," she said.

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