

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
January 21, 1964

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 1964. All members were present with the exception of Senator Glades. Also present were Senator Murray, Budget Director Mr. Bibb, Representative Ambrose Dempsey and Budget Analyst Edmund Ahrens.

Mr. Robert J. Kaiser, Director of Penal Institutions and Mr. Gary Riedel, Assistant Director, appeared before the committee in reference to the budget requests for this agency and other agencies under the control of the Director's office.

Mr. Kaiser made a general report to the committee on progress of the prison system during the past year. His complete remarks are contained in Attachment No. 1. In this report he noted that overcrowding of the institutions was still a major problem. He noted that farming operations had improved at Lansing and that some other new vocational education courses had been undertaken but that idleness was still a problem.

He reported that the honor camp program was working well at the Toronto and Tuttle Creek Reservoirs and that they hoped to expand that program in the future.

Mr. Kaiser made two general appeals to the committee--one for the forty-hour week at the institutions and for a new prison facility. In line with this he noted that Lansing had the particular recruitment problem in that they were close to Federal prison where officers were paid higher salaries and also had the shorter hours. He also stated he would like to see salary range of correctional officers raised from 25 to 30, but that the forty-hour work week would help this recruitment problem. He noted that it would take about \$6,000,000 for the new prison over a period of several years and that the Governor had recommended \$1,500,000 to get started on such a facility. Such a facility would be medium type security for some 600 young inmates with strong emphasis on counseling and vocational training for rehabilitation.

In answer to question regarding later use of the Women's Farm facility if the women were moved to Atchison as recommended by the Governor to relieve immediate problem of overcrowding, Mr. Kaiser stated it would be used for a pre-release facility to condition prisoners two to three months before actual release and that such a facility was needed badly.

Mr. George Clark, Superintendent of Prison Industries appeared before the committee to request restoration of 1 Accounting Clerk II position at \$3,363 and one posting machine at \$6,800. (See Att 2 for detailed supporting information.)

Mr. Kaiser appealed the following items which were cut from the budget of the Penal Director: \$400 for a typewriter replacement, \$410 for a dictating machine and \$397 for a transcribing machine.

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Mrs. Miriam Phillips, Superintendent of the Industrial Farm for Women appeared before the committee to request restoration of 5 custodial positions at about \$12,800 in order to go to the forty-hour week.

Warden Sherman Crous of the Kansas State Penitentiary appeared before the committee in reference to the budget requests for that agency. He requested restoration of 16 custodial positions, 1 power plant employee and 1 clerk at about \$84,000 in order to go to the forty-hour work week. They also requested \$65,000 for a new boiler for the power plant.

The afternoon session was called to order by Chairman Smith at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Christopher E. Barthel, Jr., Executive Director, and Dr. Nat C. Robertson and Dr. James A. McCain, Board Members of the Research Foundation appeared before the committee in reference to the budget of the agency.

The purpose of the meeting was primarily to introduce Dr. Barthel to the Committee and present general picture of the budget. The money was appropriated in lump sum of \$100,000 and no detailed budget is required. It was pointed out that the plan was to hire a second person in the field of information to encourage use of research, and that they thought all could be done within the \$100,000 budget. Dr. Barthel receives \$29,000 annually.

The meeting was recessed at 3:00 p.m.



Glee S. Smith, Chairman  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Jan 21

PENAL INSTITUTIONS

TO: Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Director of Penal Institutions

SUBJECT: Prison Progress 1963

DATE: January 21, 1964

1963 was a reasonably successful year by our measurements and we are thankful for some of the projects that were sponsored by the last legislature. In general, we performed our duty of protecting the public---had only a few escapes---all from outside work details. Lansing had six leave from the outside. All were apprehended. A couple pairs of girls went over the fence at the Women's Farm, but all were recaptured within hours. Hutchinson had two men leave from a farm job and were picked up within three hours. This is the lowest rate at Hutchinson in a number of years.

As the chart will show, overcrowding continues as the total population has remained near the 2,800 mark, and reached a peak of 2,943 last April for an all time high. I can assure you I had some very serious concerns for the hazardous conditions that existed then.

In another area of protection of the public, that of rehabilitation of the offender, we made some meager gains, but need your help in moving further ahead. Despite the increased intake and stepped up parole release activity, the violation rate appears quite level. A good sign.

Revamping of the large farm at Lansing and improved techniques there resulted in better training and a much more efficient farming operation, and a bumper crop in all divisions of farming. We have received considerable praise from those agricultural experts that have observed and advised on the farm throughout the years. Lansing has likewise inaugurated seven new vocational training courses in the past year and had them certified by the Department of Vocational Education. The Lansing state-use industry has not taken on any new line of products, but enjoyed a profitable and fruitful year, consolidating its gains and expanding employment slightly within the existing industries. Reflectorizing the license plates is one of the problems they met and overcame. Idleness at Lansing is still a serious and explosive threat. The medical situation is still with us and from time-to-time some group or other picks up the clamor that treatment is inadequate. The 1963 legislature provided funds for a part-time dentist, who was hired, and two medical technician positions. These we have been unable to fill. We cannot locate people with medical training willing to work at the Range 20 salary level. During the year, we met with K. U. Medical Center staff members and the architect's office regarding some long-range plans utilizing the Medical Center staff and building now housing the Children's Division. Such a prison ward appears feasible. The Hutchinson Reformatory has rendered yoeman's service in assimilating the increased

last year and this year to permit reduction of the work-week. We cannot arbitrarily set the forty-hour week without added positions. There are certain posts that must be filled 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Governor in his budget message, recognized our plight, but indicated other features of the program were more pressing. Personnel problems represent one of our greatest headaches. We need to recruit and retain a high caliber employee---one in good health, within certain age limits---intelligent, well educated and a good moral character. Prison work is trying and at best has many undesirable features. I feel that with a forty-hour week, both morale and efficiency would be much improved and result in our institutions performing a better service in retraining of the offenders under their care. We are especially vulnerable in the Lansing labor market, with 3,500 federal employees working within five miles of the state prison, some performing identical work, but all being recruited at wages superior to the state pay scales and with the other attractive fringe benefits---including the forty-hour week. Here is the salary comparison between correctional officers at the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary and the Kansas State Penitentiary. They live in the same town and perform identical duties.

|            | <u>At Recruitment</u> | <u>End of 1st Year</u> |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Federal    | \$5,235               | \$5,990                |
| State      | <u>3,528</u>          | <u>3,888</u>           |
| Difference | \$1,707               | \$2,102                |

The Reformatory, Penitentiary and Women's Farm requested 42 custodial positions to go on a forty-hour week, but I sat down with each of them and by cutting corners and taking chances, feel I could order a forty-hour week if this legislature would be willing to appropriate funds for 33 more correctional officer positions as follows:

|      |                     |               |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| WIF  | 5 positions         | \$ 13,010     |
| KSIR | 12 positions        | 46,104        |
| KSP  | <u>16 positions</u> | <u>61,472</u> |
|      | 33 positions        | \$120,586     |

I feel our correctional officers are underpaid and that we should take steps to raise the wage levels of this group. I am sure quality and efficiency of performance would result. They should be receiving a Range 30 pay scale. If the 328 officers were to be so compensated, it would cost the state an additional \$373,000 a year over their present Range 25. Going to the forty-hour week would have a start on an enlightened personnel program and cost only 1/3 the amount required by a general pay raise.

My next general appeal is for a new correctional institution! (I believe the papers have mentioned this once or twice.) There is a

need for one that would house about 600 inmates, be of the "telephone pole" design, and cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000. Such a modern structure is long overdue for the Kansas penal system and this is the year to make the start. The Governor has requested 1½ million and that could get it under way.

We have reached the saturation point in our existing structures which present more problems than just bed space. With a new institution and with a fresh concept and a selected population, we could perform a greater service in the salvaging of young lives.

During last winter and this winter, we have been able to house the increased population by the expansion of Hutchinson, the Reception Center, Tuttle Creek and Toronto. We may even get through next winter if parole releases and commitments remain at present levels, but most of this extra housing has been of minimum custody type, and we will eventually run out of trustys.

I am not a politician. I do not know the mechanics for getting a sizeable appropriation through the legislature, so we need your help in doing that. I do know that we face a critical and dangerous housing situation in our prison system, and I know that you cannot continue to sweep such problems under the rug and expect them to go away.

Budget Hearing  
January 21, 1964

|   |                      |        |                    |
|---|----------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | Accounting Clerk, II | Salary | \$3,363.00 per yr. |
| 1 | Posting Machine      | Cost   | \$6,800.00         |

It is felt that the above items are justifiable for retention in the Fiscal 1965 Budget as the Kansas Penal Industries represent a business of well over one (1) million dollars and involves the purchase of approximately one (1) million dollars in materials and the collection of over that amount. Presently most of the detailed work is performed by inmate clerks with one Accountant I as overall supervisor. While inmate labor is good, continuity is difficult because of the constant turnover of these clerks. It is pointed out that in addition to the administrative work involved in purchasing and collection this office also must maintain accounts receivable and accounts payable ledgers, cost records, ect. While the penitentiary does presently have a posting machine, it is impossible to program the industries accounts on that machine because of the number of activities already being programmed by the penitentiary.