

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

July 24, 1975

Senator Winter presided. Other members in attendance included Representatives Lindahl, Sutter, Jones, Reeves, Wingert and Senators Mulich and Meyers. Also attending were Representative Ambrose Dempsey and Senator Edward Reilly.

Staff members included John Schott and Carl Tramel of the Legislative Research Department and Bill Edds of the Revisor of Statutes' Office.

Morning Session

Conferees

Mr. Raymond Maynard, Superintendent, Kansas State Penitentiary
Mrs. Mariam Phillips, Superintendent, Kansas Correctional
Institution for Women.

Kansas State Penitentiary

Mr. Raymond Maynard, Superintendent of the Kansas State Penitentiary, began the meeting with an assessment of KSP. He stated that KSP is an old facility which is expensive to run and exceptionally difficult to manage.

Discussion of KSP management centered on the problems in the medical services section of the penitentiary which Mr. Maynard described as atrocious. He indicated that not only was maintaining the facility (hospital) difficult, but also recruiting and keeping qualified hospital staff. The new full-time KSP physician, Dr. Villar, has been there for approximately two days and is practicing under a fellowship license. Mr. Maynard noted that there is a great deal of competition with the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth in recruiting qualified persons for the hospital as well as other areas of the penitentiary. Recruiting problems center primarily on pay, which Mr. Maynard felt was

quite low. He pointed out that the State of Georgia pays a higher salary to correctional officers than does Kansas at this time.

In the area of vocational trade instruction, there are currently five areas being implemented at KSP, including welding, body and fender work, refrigeration and air conditioning repair, tool and dye and building maintenance. Superintendent Maynard told the Committee that the farm is being closed and that the above five programs do not cover all inmates at KSP. Approximately 75 to 80 inmates are currently in these programs, which Mr. Maynard felt was an inadequate number in an inadequate program. He added that the license tag operation and laundry at KSP have been closed.

In responding to Committee questions concerning food preparation at KSP, Mr. Maynard stated that there are now 13 staff members working in the kitchen and that certain renovations and improvements have been made. Approximately 80 inmates are working in the kitchen and that number is being reduced.

In responding to Committee comments concerning the type of prisoner at KSP, Mr. Maynard related that the inmates at KSP are those which have had extreme difficulty in reorienting and readjusting themselves to society outside the penitentiary. Within the inmate population there is a core of convicts who are not particularly anxiety prone and who seem to have a negative attitude toward treatment efforts. As a result, these inmates are difficult to train and have no interest in the treatment program at KSP.

In response to a direct question from the Chairman, Mr. Maynard indicated that the highest structural priority at the institution includes the renovation of "A" cellhouse and the tearing down of the hospital. While noting that improvements have been made in the kitchen at KSP, Mr. Maynard felt that progress has been slow in the State Architects office.

Also in response to a direct question from the Chairman, Mr. Maynard indicated that the greatest single need at KSP is the development of a qualified treatment staff, including counselors, psychiatrists and psychologists. He stated that, in his opinion, the improved psychological services would do much to relieve the stress and tension of prison life. In response to a question from a Committee member, Mr. Maynard indicated that it would be helpful if the treatment staff would be provided for specifically by statute.

Following these statements there was considerable Committee discussion concerning the true effect of a qualified and competent treatment staff within institutional settings such as KSP. Mr. Maynard explained that the State of California has had problems with its treatment program and although its narcotic addiction treatment program has been successful, the California

inmate treatment program is primarily "window dressing". Mr. Maynard cited the prison at Soledad, California, noting that its treatment staff was large, but that statistics relative to inmate treatment do not indicate a particularly successful program.

In relation to specific problems at KSP, the Chairman asked Mr. Maynard a question concerning allegations which have been lodged against the medical staff, and specifically against the former physician at KSP. Mr. Maynard replied that it would not be proper for him to comment at this time. He did say that a study was being conducted by the Department of Corrections as well as federal authorities, and that he is currently satisfied with the handling of prescription drugs.

In dealing with matters relating to retirement of correctional personnel, Mr. Maynard felt that a career within corrections was of such a nature that correctional personnel should be able to retire after 20 years of service.

In response to a question, Mr. Maynard indicated that in order to establish a greater degree of rapport with the inmates a team approach has been developed within the institution. There are approximately four teams which must see each inmate within their group at least every 90 days. Teams are composed of a leader who has a bachelors degree or equivalent experience and is generally from a multi-disciplinary area including social work. Other team members include two classification officers and two or three correctional officers. Mr. Maynard noted that these teams, through their approach to inmate problems and relationships, are making significant inroads in determining and understanding prison culture.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Maynard for his presentation and then introduced Mrs. Mariam Phillips, Superintendent of the Kansas Correctional Institute for Women.

Kansas Correctional Institute for Women

Mrs. Phillips briefly described the activities of KCIW, noting that the current population is 86, and that the average age is between 18 and 26 years. She pointed out there had been a dramatic increase in the population at KCIW. Approximately four and one-half months ago it was 39 and is now 86. This number includes 15 federal prisoners who are housed under contract. Superintendent Phillips noted there are some disciplinary problems and that the inmates at KCIW were generally more hostile and aggressive than previously.

Responding to a question concerning vocational training, Superintendent Phillips discussed the several vocational training programs at KCIW, which include cosmetology, a business program and a nurses aide program. She has requested five positions at the Skill Center in order to provide expanded vocational

opportunities for the women. Mrs. Phillips noted that participation in the programs at KCIW has been good and that attitude of both the inmates and staff are important for effective program operation. Receptiveness of the inmates to the programs, and staff concern for the activities of the women seem to be critical aspects of a successful training program.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mrs. Phillips stated that most of the women at KCIW were felons. Like Superintendent Maynard, Mrs. Phillips expressed some problems with the Division of Architectural Services in the lack of progress in making capital improvements to buildings at KCIW. She also pointed out that inmates who are sick are sent to St. Johns Hospital for treatment and that the hours of operation for the gymnasium at KCIW have been extended. The facility is now open for use every night.

Following this discussion and lunch at KSP, the Committee divided itself into several subgroups to look at various areas of KSP. Specific attention was directed to the kitchen, to the hospital and drug operations, and to cellhouse "A". After the groups completed their study, the Committee visited KCIW, where the Committee toured the facility in one group.

Following its tour of KCIW, the Committee met briefly outside to summarize the day's activity and to plan its next meeting.

The subgroup charged with studying the drug and hospital situation related that currently prescription drugs and nonprescription drugs are dispensed from different locations within the institution. In order to maintain more administrative control, however, both controlled and noncontrolled drugs are to be administered from within the main building as soon as the facility within the main building is finished. The subgroup inspected the hospital storage of drugs and found that there is an attendant on duty at all times or else the drug room is kept locked. In its tour of the hospital facility, the subgroup found that the primary needs of the facility include the renovation of the third floor and the upgrading of dental equipment. The pharmacy operation in the basement of the main building was also inspected.

The group which inspected cellhouse "A" indicated that they thought the cellhouse was in relatively good shape. However, the locking system on the electric gates has been a problem.

The group which inspected the kitchen area found that the food preparation area is currently in the process of being renovated and that a new refrigeration area is planned. Additionally, the institution is not baking bread anymore due to the cost of flour and the cost of replacing the ovens. The group also found that it is difficult to recruit and keep help in the kitchen. The starting salary for kitchen workers is \$667 per month and that there are few applications from the outside for

this kind of work. On an overall basis the subgroup felt that the kitchen is moving in the right direction. They also noted that the metal trays which were to be replaced by plastic trays are still on the line. It was explained that the plastic replacements have not arrived and have been on order for several months.

In its final summation of activity, the Committee felt that the question of good time for persons with life sentences should be reviewed by the Committee. The Chairman noted that under current statutes, there is no advantage for a person with a life sentence to behave in a proper and orderly manner and that the Committee may want to consider changes in this situation. Additionally, the staff was directed to look into the problems relative to delays in the Division of Architectural Services as it relates to the renovation of buildings at KCIW.

After some discussion, the Committee decided that its next meeting would be a one day meeting at the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson, Kansas, on Thursday, August 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Chairman then thanked those present for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by John Schott

Approved by Committee on:

8-21-75

(Date)