

Approved 2/16/83  
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Neal D. Whitaker at  
Chairperson

11:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 7, 1983 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Reps. Fuller and Vancrum, who were excused.

Committee staff present:  
Russ Mills, Legislative Research  
Nora Crouch, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Gary Rayl, Director, Kansas State Penitentiary

Chairman Reilly called the joint meeting to order and welcomed members of the Committees as well as Director Gary Rayl and his staff. He advised the Committees that the purpose of the meeting was to report on the changes made as a result of the Henderson-Lovelace reports and legislative reviews. A copy of the Management Progress Report was previously furnished members of the Committees by KSP.

Senator Reilly introduced Director Gary Rayl of KSP and explained that he would review the report and be available for questions.

Gary Rayl, Director, KSP, stated that a lot of progress has been made and things are starting to go in the right direction. For the benefit of the new members of the House Committee, Mr. Rayl gave a short background of his corrections background. He stated that when he came on board there were a lot of problems and conflicts. The staff then proceeded to try to get a handle on the different recommendations and decide what was really necessary for the programs he wanted to implement. He stated that all recommendations were looked at to see if they were useable. A number of the changes that were implemented were the same as some of the recommendations of the reports. He further stated that KSP must have support from a lot of people to get programs initiated and carried out. A person can set as many policies as they want but there has to be support from the Governor, Legislature, the staff at the penitentiary, and the inmates to make the programs work.

The morale of both staff and inmates has improved. An improvement in the career ladder, retirement benefits, uniforms, and equipment to work with, show a concern by both management and the Legislature. Suggestions boxes have been placed around the institution and thus far all suggestions have been positive. There are finally enough radios to go around and the telephone system is installed. Actually it is a better telephone system than was originally planned.

A member questioned the implementation of a shakedown team. Mr. Rayl stated that they emphasize to all employees that everyone is responsible for shakedowns and that they are reluctant to go to just that system. A shakedown should be accomplished in any area that it's thought necessary. They did establish a shakedown team and utilize other persons as well but still emphasize that it is everyone's responsibility to continue shakedowns. Employees must make a report every time they shakedown an area. A full shakedown of the institution was accomplished in August and management was surprised at the lack of contraband found. They still found too much but not as much as anticipated. The A & T facility is shakedown every 2 weeks or more.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs,

room 313-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xx~~ p.m. on February 7, 1983

A Scat-Team has been developed of 50 people. This is actually a riot team. Equipment and uniforms have been purchased. These men were trained at Fort Leavenworth and at KSP. They receive an extra 25 hours of training. It is felt that they can handle all emergencies.

A member questioned the use of a drug surveillance program. Mr. Rayl stated that this type of program is very costly. To pull a certain percentage of the population out and do a chemical test on them would probably not accomplish what you want. The guards have contact with the inmates each and every day and they are trained to respond to those who are on drugs. He really didn't see any need for this program at KSP.

A member questioned whether there were any long range plans for KSP last year when Mr. Rayl came aboard. He stated that as far as he know there were none. He has discussed the problems with the Secretary of Corrections and they are working on solutions. He said the biggest problem is over-crowding. The population today stands at 1,425 with over 1,200 in the walled areas. A member questioned if the new project were finished today would it eliminate double-celling. Mr. Rayl replied that even if the project were finished today KSP would still be 500 over-celled. The population is growing every day and there must be space to accommodate them. Of course, one of the chief causes of problems is the double-celling. There are a lot of people who like to double cell for the company and extra security. There are a lot of people who don't want to double-cell but will accept it, and there are those that simply can't be double-celled. KSP is at the point where we have to force them to live together and that creates problems.

Inmates need to be provided with activities. If they have activities, education, vocational training, work, etc., where they can be out of their cells, there will be less problems. If they do not have any activities and these people are pushed together there will be problems. A question was raised about the size of the cells. There is approximately 64 to 65 square feet in each cell. KSP cells are perhaps a little larger than most prison cells. The biggest problem remains the number of people in the institution.

A question was asked about the training procedures for new guards. They receive a 4 week orientation and training program, a 90 day intensive OJT program and are rotated into cellhouses, towers, work crews, and discharge so that they have a total understanding of the institution. This has seemed to cut down on the turnover ratio. We have no openings at the present time. We have been able to reduce the time it takes to replace a guard when one resigns. Possibly because of the difficult economic times when we have an open position now we have 30 to 50 applicants so we are able to screen them. Potential applicants are given a tour of the facility so they know what they are getting into. Every employee has to have 90 hours a year of in-service training. The training program has been revamped this year to point out issues that were not touched upon before that are crucial to KSP employees. The institution will continue to emphasize a good training program.

A member questioned the disciplinary procedures for inmates and how the new procedure works. Dennis Ragsdale, Unit Team Manager, stated that they are still in the process of getting used to the new rulebook that made some major revisions in the system as it worked. Specific personnel were assigned to assist in consistency and efficiency in the system. Full-time hearing officers were established. There is a disciplinary board for Class 2 and 3 offenses and a rotating board for Class 1 violations. The reports are notarized and countersigned. This in effect turns this into a deposition and keeps officers from having to be relieved from duty and having to come in on their own time. Penalties for class of offenses have been changed, fines have been increased, written reprimands are issued. Rule 708 eliminates or reduces the number of technical dismissals of cases. There are probably a small back-log of cases due mainly to the change over on December 1st to the new rulebook. Everyone involved has to get used to the new format.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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room 313-S, Statehouse, at 11:30 a.m. ~~xxx~~ on February 7, 1983

The farm has been reactivated. It is a 5 year project and hopefully at the end of that time will be in full operation. We were able to convert lease money of \$105,000 into the operating fund and in March we will convert \$95,000. The difference comes from the fact that we have taken back 100 acres. In the next year we plan to get into the hog operation, during the 3rd year we plan to get into the poultry business, and then into a slaughter-house operation.

A question was raised about the co-ed facilities at the women's facilities. Mr. Rayl advised that an answer about that issue would have to come from the Secretary of Corrections. He did state that visiting hours and visiting space at KSP have been expanded but that conjugal visits are not permitted. A big emphasis is placed on family visits.

Additional educational and vocational programs are being planned for next year. They are always looking for jobs for inmates to do.

A question was raised about mentally ill inmates. Mr. Rayl responded that these people need to get out of the system and get proper care. At the present time they have to be locked down all the time. There is no space at Larned. DOC does not have a good facility to deal with mentally ill persons. The Legislature has been reducing the number of people we can put at Larned or other facilities and we have been fighting this issue for many years. Secretary Barbara has sent out a letter to all Directors asking for their suggestions. There are probably 150 to 200 inmates in this category, or 10 to 20%.

A member mentioned that he had heard that by 1990 there will be a reduction in prison cells as it would seem there is a let up of people being sent to prison. Mr. Rayl responded that the prison population is continuing to grow. The public is depending on the courts to put second and third offenders in jail.

Mr. Rayl handed out an Orientation Manual and an Employee Assistance Program Manual for the Committee's inspection. He stated that if the Committee wanted further copies he would provide them.

A member questioned whether Secretary of Corrections Barbara would be appearing before the joint committee to give his philosophy about the prison system and the programs that he would like to see implemented. Senator Pomeroy stated that he had contacted the Secretary about appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Secretary's response was very positive. He saw no reason that the Secretary would not want to appear before the joint committee. Dave Barclay, Administrative Assistant to Secretary Barbara responded that the Secretary had had an appointment conflict on Monday but would be more than glad to appear before any Committee to give his views.

Senator Reilly thanked Mr. Rayl and his staff for their presentation and input into a very difficult problem area and restated that if either Committee or member of the Legislature could be of any help to please let them know.

The meeting adjourned.



Joint Meeting

2-7-83

Laurance F. Hicks  
Byrnett, Kenoy  
Dennis S. Reynolds  
William P. Strickson  
Dana Barclay  
Gary Rayl -

#58

Bill McBlasow  
JOHN COLLINS  
Charlotte Pokorny  
Derris Santos  
Carole Gonzalez

Girl Scouts  
Girl Scouts  
" "  
" "

Rosemary Smith  
Dennis Williams  
Dr. Dolores Brinkel

Dev. & Budget  
Criminal Justice Ministry  
Gov. Jullien

David Kah  
Bany Swanson

Gov office intern

Luiz Ben  
Dr. Siller  
Al Ramsey  
George Sargarden  
Ken Cotewiel

Rep.  
Rep.  
Rep.  
Rep. 12th Dist  
Rep 9nd