

Approved 3/20/87
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Ways and Means

The meeting was called to order by Senator August "Gus" Bogina at
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on March 6, 1987 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senators Gannon and Winter with excused absences

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Robin Hunn, Alan Conroy, Scott Rothe, Paul West
Revisor's Office: Norman Furse
Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Pam Parker

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 200 - FY 1988 Appropriations for Corrections

Senator Doyen reviewed the Subcommittee Report for SB 200, Sections 2, Adjutant General, and 3, State Fire Marshal, and noted the subcommittee agreed with the Governor's recommendations for both sections. During discussion in regard to Section 2, Recommendation No. 7, it was decided by consensus that a letter should be sent from the Chairman to the Mayor of Topeka expressing concern for the potential impact of the proposed race-track adjacent to Forbes Air Base. General Tice, Adjutant General, stated that his biggest concern includes loose debris, high intensity lights, should night racing ever become a reality, and the use of leathal force to stop trespassers on the Base.

Senator Doyen moved, Senator Gaines seconded, the adoption of the Subcommittee Report for SB 200, Sections 2, 3, and 11. During discussion, a representative of the Ombudsman for Corrections Office stated that it appears that the Department of Corrections is like a funnel, in that there are a lot of inmates coming into the system and very few going out which results, in part, in the overcrowding situation. There is great concern for the safety of the inmates and staff because, although the inmate population has grown drastically in the last couple of years, there has not been a corresponding increase in the amount of staff. The motion carried by voice vote.

Senator Harder reviewed the Subcommittee Report concerning SB 244, Sections 8, Department of Corrections, and 9, Kansas Parole Board, and SB 200, Section 4, Kansas Parole Board.

Senator Johnston reviewed the Subcommittee Report concerning SB 200, Section 5, Department of Corrections. During discussion concerning Recommendation No.'s 3 and 4, Elwaine Pomeroy, Chairman of the Parole Board, answered a question from Senator Doyen by stating that he felt mandating alcohol and drug abuse counseling can help as staff tries to select those inmates who have some indication of willingness to change. If an inmate has had a problem with drug and alcohol abuse, and that abuse has led to a commission of crime, the Board feels they need to address that problem. To some extent there has been abuse, at some level, with about 80 percent of the inmates that come into the system, not all needing inpatient treatment. In answer to a question from Senator Johnston, Chairman Pomeroy stated that program slots available allow for a very small portion of those who really need the program. He noted it must be kept in mind that those slots were created inside the Department of Corrections to avoid another problem, which was to accommodate those paroled inmates with the condition that they enter inpatient programs on the street that are not available and were being backed up in the system. Some 350 inmates were found inside the walls who had not received alcohol and drug abuse counseling and already been paroled. In answer to a question from Senator Gaines, Chairman Pomeroy stated that unfortunately, when money was appropriated to SRS, that agency was not familiar with the inmates and they looked at the needs of the inmates as if they were patients. There was not inappropriate treatment, as far

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Ways and Means,
room 123-S Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. ~~p.m.~~ on March 6, 1987

as the inmates needing the program, there was inappropriate placement into the programs as far as those who would then leave the system. That has now been changed.

The Chairman announced that the Subcommittee Report concerning SB 200 would be continued on Monday, March 9th. He adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

