

Approved _____

2-3-88

Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Appropriations

The meeting was called to order by Bill Buntten at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on January 25, 1988 in room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Turnquist (excused)

Committee staff present:

Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Legislative Research
Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Sharon Schwartz, Administrative Aide
Sue Krische, Committee Secretary
Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Roger Endell, Department of Corrections

Others attending: See attached list.

Roger Endell, Secretary, Department of Corrections, addressed the Committee on his observations and concerns regarding the state's prison system. He highlighted three areas that will receive priority attention:

1. Organizational Management of the Department
2. Overcrowding
3. Programming

Organization of the Department - Secretary Endell has divided the state into two management regions--north/east and south/west. Regionalization should allow better control and quicker response to situations. He cited the turnover in leadership of the Department over the last thirty years as contributing to our inability to solve problems on a long-term basis.

Secretary Endell will emphasize two main themes for the Department: (1) professionalism within the correctional ranks; and (2) putting the offender population to work.

Overcrowding - Secretary Endell confirmed that a new suit will be filed by the Federal Government on the overcrowding at Lansing. Kansas was first in the nation in prison population growth between 1983 and 1987. The state experienced a 69 percent increase in prison population over that four-year period. Secretary Endell stated to relieve the immediate problem, we need to move 1,500 people out of the penitentiary and 500 out of the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory. We will have 400-500 new beds at Ellsworth, Norton and possibly Stockton.

Programming - One deputy secretary in the Department is focusing full-time on statewide program development and the quality of programs now offered. Secretary Endell feels our basic standards should be that no offender should leave our system who cannot read and without a high school diploma or GED. In addition, every offender should have meaningful work opportunities. Work programs should be supplemented by educational, mental health, substance abuse and sex offender treatment programs.

Secretary Endell stated the correctional system should not be a partisan political issue. It is a major public policy issue, and Kansas needs 1,500-2,000 beds as soon as possible.

Chairman Buntten asked if the Department would have a plan for the Legislature this session. Secretary Endell stated he will present an outline of what he thinks should be accomplished after coordination with the Governor. On Kansas' classification system of prisoners,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Appropriations,
room 514-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on January 25, 1988

Secretary Endell feels 2,400 minimum security prisoners out of 5,800 is a large number and he is in the process of verifying these classifications. On recidivism, he said he does not know Kansas' rate, but 30 to 40 percent nationally is the normal rate.

In response to a question, Secretary Endell noted that Kansas has one method of release--a three-member parole board. Another possibility would be a good-time statute. He emphasized a broader question is whether or not elected officials will entertain a loosening of the system so that people are released.

In his responsibility for oversight of the entire system, Secretary Endell recommends the Department of Corrections review all bills having the potential of adding more people to the penal system so that the Department can attach fiscal notes to them.

Representative Shriver asked if Secretary Endell is prepared to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on changes in our system that are outside the Department, but need to be made to solve our problems. He stated he has proposed the formation of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council composed of the Attorney General, a representative of the Chief Justice, Secretary of Corrections and Chairman of the Parole Board, etc., to coordinate criminal justice policy. Minnesota has a type of criminal justice council that annually reviews the bed space issue in their prison system and they make adjustments to inflow and outflow accordingly. Secretary Endell pledged his availability to the Legislature this session to answer any questions.

Chairman Buntin encouraged Committee members to visit and begin working on fee agency budgets as soon as interns have been assigned.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

