

Approved February 16, 1988
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR AUGUST "GUS" BOGINA at
Chairperson

11:10 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 21, 1988 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Scott Rothe, Alan Conroy

Revisor's Office: Norman Furse

Committee Staff: Judy Bromich, Pam Parker

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Roger Endel, Secretary, Department of Corrections

Mr. Endel presented an overview of the Department of Corrections in Kansas. He highlighted his personal background then stated he felt there are three major issues which need to be addressed: (1) System management, (2) Overcrowding, and (3) Programs, quality and quantity.

In regard to system management and organizational issues, Mr. Endel stated that he has regionalized the responsibilities of two of the Deputy Secretaries into northeast and southwest portions of the state. The third Deputy Secretary has been assigned the responsibility of programs. He expects the regionalization to facilitate quick response times. He is trying to develop two management themes. One is professionalism within the correctional ranks and the other is to put the offender populations to work. Eventually he would like to move toward what he terms an "economic model of corrections" whereby offenders earn their way out of jail in economic terms. He emphasized he was not referring to the high risk, difficult to manage prisoners.

In regard to the second major issue, that of overcrowding, Mr. Endel stated that Kansas is the highest in the nation in its growth of prison population during the past ten years, 1983-1987, with a 69 percent increase. Kansas is increasing at the net rate of 400 new prisoners per year and that has been occurring since 1980. According to Mr. Endel this means that Kansas will have to provide a 400-bed institution every year from now on until that trend changes. An analogy he used was that the correctional system is like a bathtub with an inflow mechanism, an outflow mechanism and the tub itself. The three choices he outlined for a solution to the problem of overcrowding is to adjust the inflow, adjust the outflow or build a bigger tub. He recommended the development of perhaps as many as two thousand new beds preferably contained in one main institution. At the same time he recommended developing, immediately, an assessment of all of the policies and laws which are feeding the system. He warned that he has a large stack of plans on his desk relating to this issue dating back to the 1950's and that the issue must be addressed very soon.

In regard to the third major issue of prioritizing and development of programs, Mr. Endel stated he felt there is no reason that any inmate in the system for any length of time should leave who cannot read, have a high school diploma or a GED. He plans to stress the work program to develop skills, not necessarily occupational training. Support programs must be developed for substance abuse, mental health, education, and re-entry for pre-release inmates. He stated that the Parole Board demands for release is another situation which needs very careful evaluation. Parole, furlough and community corrections are issues needing attention.

In conclusion, Mr. Endel stated that Kansas can no longer afford a "piece meal" approach to solving major correctional system problems. Consolidation

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room 123-S, Statehouse, at 11:10 a.m./~~pm~~ on January 21, 1988

is needed. He recommended separation of corrections from the political arena as much as possible to maintain it on a professionally managed basis. If stability and consistency in the correctional system is desired, then a stable management structure must be provided. He pointed out that corrections is a public policy issue, not a political issue.

In answer to questions, Mr. Endel stated that he intends to work with legislators on addressing issues and solving problems. He will urge DUI programs be put on a self support basis. In regard to legislation concerning felony level offenses, it is essential to have corrections input on legislation introduced. He stated that substance abuse programs of all kinds should be a normal part of most programs in most locations.

Mr. Endel stated that he felt his obligation is to bring legislators the basic framework of his plan for solving problems. He asked for as much latitude as possible in actually managing the Department on a day to day basis. He suspects, if the Governor assembles the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, eventually they will come to the legislature with some proposals in the direction of determinate sentencing.

Mr. Endel stated that he is at a disadvantage in that he arrived in his job on December 7th and the budget had already been submitted. He noted that the Governor had made it plain that part of his job is to analyze the situation and develop some specific recommendations for solutions to the existing problems. The only modifications he might be in a position to ask for this session that are not in the budget will be planning money for technical assistance. He would like to request a chief maintenance officer and a medical doctor in the central office but he did not know whether he could ask for any major modifications this session.

The meeting was adjourned.

