

Approved 2-15-90
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Appropriations

The meeting was called to order by Bill Buntten at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on January 23, 1990 in room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present.

Committee staff present: Russ Mills, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Sharon Schwartz, Administrative Aide
Sue Krische, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Davies, Secretary, Department of Corrections

Others attending: See attached list.

Steve Davies, Secretary of Corrections, provided an update on the status of the Department of Corrections. Secretary Davies advised that Kansas' inmate population is currently decreasing in the minimum custody category. The court-ordered caps at the various institutions effective 7-1-91 are:

	<u>Current Population</u>	<u>7-1-91</u>
KSP	1,616	1,262
KCIL	262	240
KSIR	1,074	945

The court order requires that the segregation unit and outside dorms at Kansas State Penitentiary (KSP) no longer be used as living units after 7-1-91 and the Department is researching other ways to use these buildings when they become vacant. "A" cellhouse at KSP is one-half complete. Also, the court order requires the institutions to meet American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. KSIR is now ACA accredited and KSP and KCIL are working toward receiving the accreditation. A fire alarm and smoke detector system required for this accreditation will cost \$750,000, which the Secretary indicated would be funded out of FY 1991 major maintenance leaving \$250,000 in maintenance funds for 17 facilities.

The long-term mental health plan will be a 150-bed correctional facility at Larned. Inmates will move from the Dillon unit (74 beds for male inmates and 10 beds for female inmates) to the correctional unit at Larned as a gradual transition back to the regular institution. Psychologists will be available at the regular institutions to supervise the inmates' reintegration. Secretary Davies stated the Department has asked the Court for a six-month extension until January, 1992 to complete the mental health facility.

The Secretary reported that the inmate population has declined every month since June 1989, but the future is hard to predict because of parole laws, the sentencing commission, and the war on drugs. The Department has applied for a federal grant to obtain a program that would help the state predict future population trends. Kansas' inmate population is up in maximum and medium custody inmates, who are the most difficult to manage.

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 House COMMITTEE ON Appropriations,

room 514-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~a.m.~~ p.m. on January 23, 1990

On other matters, Secretary Davies will be making recommendations on how to legally deal with violence against corrections personnel. Secretary Davies is reviewing the total program available to the female population focusing on helping them reintegrate with their children and the community. The Department has applied for a \$6,000 grant from the National Institute for Corrections (NIC) for training in dealing with inmate gangs. In addition, the Department received a \$6,000 grant to study updating its computer system and applied for a \$25,000 grant to finance the update.

Secretary Davies reported that all the facilities under construction have been completed on time and negotiations are progressing on the Labette County Conservation Camp. Funds have been requested for the academic education program pursuant to Public Law 94-142 (Special Education Law) which the Department plans to implement next year. The education program at Hutchinson was classified as one of the top nine prison education programs in the country and additional programs will be modeled on it. Secretary Davies stated inmates are receiving education at the front door.

The Secretary reported on the drug/alcohol and sex offender programs and on the mental and physical health programs. Community Corrections programs in the counties will start up July 1, 1990. Some budgetary decisions will be made soon by the Department affecting these programs. With increasing numbers of inmates on parole, the Secretary is reviewing this system with public safety in mind.

The Secretary noted in 1981 the state correctional system had seven facilities and by 1992 there will be 19 facilities.

Representative Chronister advised Secretary Davies that expertise in evaluating the sex offender program might be available at Parsons State Hospital. Representative Helgerson asked Secretary Davies to let him know after his review of the CMS health contract what funding problems we might encounter in the future with that program. In response to a question on the Corrections food program, Secretary Davies stated one option being considered is to have one fulltime person monitor the food budget including portions and waste. The federal commodity program is being reviewed and staff at the institutions are being trained in how to order food supplies.

Representative Mead asked what programs within the correctional system are federally funded. Secretary Davies cited as federally funded the Chapter I remedial reading and math program, the new female program, the monitor for the drug and alcohol programs, and pell grants to some of the educations contractors. Representative Francisco asked the Secretary to keep him informed of the negotiations for a new building to house the work release center in Wichita.

Chairman Buntun turned to final action on HB 2627 which was heard by the Committee on January 22 and conveys land adjacent to Larned State Hospital to Pawnee County for recreational purposes. Representative Heinemann moved to amend HB 2627 adding a liability clause. Representative Lowther seconded. Motion carried. Representative Chronister moved that HB 2627, as amended, be recommended favorably for passage. Representative Pottorff seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

