

Approved: February 9, 1995
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE CRIME.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Adkins at 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 1995 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Don Cawby, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Leona Fultz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Hunter Hearst, Dir. National Center of Juvenile Justice

Others attending: See attached list

David Adkins introduced Hunter Hearst who is the Director of the Research Division of the National Center of Juvenile Justice at Philadelphia, PA. He gave an overview of where Kansas ranks in the percentages with other states for juvenile justice. He stated that Kansas is part of 22 other states that have their juvenile systems in connection with SRS; 11 states have their system in the Department of Corrections; 6 states are in separate family and children agencies and 12 have separate youth service departments.

Mr. Hearst gave a few statistics on violent crime and where Kansas stands in these statistics. Florida ranks as the state with the highest violent crime rate by juveniles with 1,200 per 100,000 population; Kansas ranks 28th with 511 violent crimes per 100,000 population and North Dakota and Vermont rank the lowest with 83 violent crimes per 100,000 population.

Mr. Hearst gave some statistics on serious property crime (burglary). Florida ranks as the state with the highest property crime with 1,889 per 100,000 population; Kansas ranks 11th with 1,300 per 100,000 population. This is unusual for a state like Kansas.

Mr. Hearst stated that his recommendations would be the following:

1. Keep local government monetarily involved. We are more interested if it is a local problem.
2. Too much money is spent on the backend (most violent offenders). More needs to be spent on the frontend (such as drug treatment centers).
3. Have the violent cases determined in criminal court, no matter what age, if appropriate then move to juvenile court. You have to make the case to be tried in juvenile court. This adds stability to the system.
4. Recognize your limitations. There are young people for whom we have no answer. Do not continue to spend most of your resources on the most violent offenders.

David Adkins stated that handouts were given to each member of the committee from a publication entitled "Crime and Delinquency, Juvenile (in) Justice and the Criminal Court Alternative". The Committee meeting adjourned at 9:45. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 3, 1995.

