

Approved: February 22, 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 17, 1995 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Clifford Franklin
Mike O'Neal
Belva Ott

Committee staff present: Don Cawby, Legislative Research Department
Leona Fultz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Det. Kurt Moldrup, Juv. Detective
Det. Pat Kitchens, Juv. Detective

Others attending: See attached list

David Adkins introduced Det. Kurt Moldrup and Det. Pat Kitchens to the Committee. Det. Moldrup stressed that he believes the number one issue is the lack of consequences for offenses. Once sentencing has occurred, there needs to be more intensive supervision of the adjudicated offender and he would like to see juveniles placed on "school release" and increase the use of "boot camp" style options. Also, he would like to see the use of curfews. His comments and views are further explained in the written testimony. (Attachment 1).

Det. Kitchens stated he sees three main problems: first, not enough room in juvenile detention facilities; second, no mechanism in place to handle juveniles arrested for crimes not serious enough for detention; third, no after hour access for patrol officers to SRS workers. (Attachment 2).

The Committee adjourned at 10:00. The next Committee meeting is February 20, 1995.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE CRIME
GUEST LIST

DATE: February 17, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jeremy Kohn	KSC



RILEY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ALVAN D. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

To: The Select Committee on Juvenile Crime
From: Detective Kurt Moldrup
Riley County Police Department
Ref: Comments Regarding Juvenile Justice System
Date: February 17, 1995

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

Thank you for your interest and the opportunity to address you regarding the problems in the Juvenile Justice System from police officer's perspective.

The bottom line is that the traditional family unit has been torn apart by various forces in society, thus our youth have lost the firm foundation of love, acceptance, moral standards and religious training that our nation was built upon.

While I believe that the Juvenile Justice System is not the answer to the growing epidemic of juvenile crime and violence, it is a part of the process to the solution. With that in mind I will make the following comments.

The number one issue that stands out among the rest is the lack of consequences for offenses, both early in a child's experience with the system and after many trips to court.

This is seen in many area;



The time it takes from initial entry in the system, (the point where Law Enforcement completes a case and charges the offender), to the time that he/she is in court and a sentence is handed down take too long, thus dramatically reducing the cause/and effect concept of the system. Reducing the process and pressuring prosecution to move more expeditiously will increase the effects of the system on an offender.

Once sentencing has occurred, there needs to be more intensive supervision of the adjudicated offender while he/she waits for bed space in the inadequately spaced options available. Many youth are sent to a group home or youth center, but stay on the street with little supervision as they await bed space. This puts the public at risk and again, eats away at any effectiveness of the cause and effect process of the system. In many cases an offender loses his/her fear of consequences during this time and engages in more crime seeing he/she has nothing to loose.

Use detention centers as a sentencing option rather than a temporary holding center during the process. On non-violent offenders, the detention center could be used like jail for adults. The juveniles could spend weekends in detention or even week intervals with "school release" much like work release for adults.

Increase the bed space available in maximum security centers as well as group homes and detention centers.

Increase the use of boot camp style options. The Job Corp in Manhattan could be used in this area. It could either be restructured to be a maximum security boot camp or divided into maximum security and a program similar to what exists there now only increasing its security.

Encourage better enforcement and prosecution of curfew violations. This is a powerful tool that is viewed as insignificant by the system. Yet, if it were seen as a real problem and there were consequences, such as weekends in detention or loss of driving privileges, then both the offender and the parent might change their habits.

Finally, make it easier to certify an offender as an adult.

This subject seems to be very effective with offenders and has increased the preventative nature of the system because they realize that they will have to take responsibility for their actions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address this topic. I hope these comments are useful and I look forward to seeing your recommendations. Please feel free to contact me for further questions or comments.

Respectfully



Kurt Moldrup
Criminal Investigations Division
Riley County Police Department

Feb 15, 1995

TO: House Select Committee on Juvenile Crime

FROM: Detective Pat Kitchens

REFERENCE: Law Enforcement Difficulties with Juveniles

Representative Atkins and Committee Members,

A patrol officer's time is of the essence. Their obligation is to respond to calls for service, handle them in a timely manner, and return to service. At the present time, a patrol officer's worst fear is to be dispatched to a call involving a juvenile. It simply takes too much time!

Correcting the problems below will go along way in helping patrol officers handle the timely juvenile call.

PROBLEM

- Not enough room in Juvenile Detention Facilities.

EFFECT

- The County Attorney is selective about detention.
- Release/Replace policy.

PROBLEM

- No mechanism in place to handle juveniles arrested for crimes not serious enough for detention.

EFFECT

- Patrol officers become baby-sitters.

PROBLEM

- No after hour access for patrol officers to SRS workers

EFFECT

- No assistance from SRS for patrol officers who deal with kids in SRS custody.

Respectfully,



Detective Pat Kitchens

Select Committee on Juvenile Crime
February 17, 1995
Attachment 2