

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

MARCH 10, 1977 - Room 225

The meeting of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Institutions was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Gerke. Other members present were:

Senator Elmer Flynn
Senator Mark Etchart
Representative Harry Hansen
Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis

Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present. Representative Bardanoue was present for part of the meeting. Also present was Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning. Mr. Larry Zanto, Director of the Department of Institutions was invited to this meeting.

The subjects of this session are HOUSE BILL 723, WARM SPRINGS STATE HOSPITAL and MONTANA STATE PRISON.

HOUSE BILL 723

Chairman Gerke reported to the committee about the possibility of funding placement counselors for the prison through the Department of Labor. Fred Barrett, administrator of the Employment Security Division, Department of Labor and Industry, had told Chairman Gerke that the law prevents him from having someone on that job at the prison out of his own department. He could fund two FTE's for that work who could be attached to the Department of Institutions wherever desired. The available funds would be approximately \$10,000 per FTE.

Larry Zanto, Director of the Department of Institutions, said that if Employment Security Division could do this, they would agree to it. Travel money would be needed under the Department of Institutions for the two people. Employment Security Division would only provide salary.

Chairman Gerke said that the details on this can be worked out between the Department of Institutions and Employment Security Division. Some travel money would be approved. These positions would be placed under the Corrections Division of the Department of Institutions. Therefore, HB 723 will be tabled, as the placement counselors can be provided as mentioned above.

Representative Hansen made a motion to accept the Employment Security Division's offer to fund two FTE's for parole placement counselors to be placed under the Department of Institutions. Representative Ellis seconded it. This motion carried unanimously. Tom Briggs will check into the type of funding which will be used.

WARM SPRINGS STATE HOSPITAL

There was a discussion on the remodeling of the old general hospital. Tom Briggs said it appears after the transfers are made to Lewistown, there will be 43 geriatrics left at WSSH. There is a possibility that these 43 geriatrics could be taken care of in Galen. Mr. Moore had told Tom that if these geriatrics were transferred out, then the old general hospital would not be needed for consolidation. Galen has not been spoken to regarding this possibility.

Mr. Zanto said that he would like to see the old general hospital repaired and put into good condition, perhaps not up to life safety standards, but providing good bed space. Perhaps the remaining \$406,000 in the long range building account for the old general hospital could be used to bring it up to good condition.

There is a deadline of the contractor on the old general hospital. It was decided to request a 20 or 30 day extension on this contractor deadline to give this committee and the department time to decide what is best.

Gene Herrington, Office of Budget and Program Planning, said the supplemental request on the remodeling of the old general hospital was to bring the building up to federal certification standards. Life safety standards are what is necessary to meet the fire marshal's standards. At WSSH, as the population is now and the federal regulations are now, the state will not obtain much reimbursement if this building is brought up to certification standards for Medicaid and Medicare. He feels these beds are needed in this building. Further discussion will be held on this if an extension is approved.

Chairman Gerke reported on a letter dated March 9, 1977 from Dr. Xanthopoulos to Michael Billings regarding continuation of funding of the University of Washington program which is a part of the Western Alliance of Medical Schools for the fostering of university expertise in the application of new techniques toward the treatment of acute and chronic psychiatric patients. This program began in October of 1976.

\$80,000 is requested for each year for rotation of faculty and clinical input from University of Washington via a video-phone hookup. \$20,000 is requested for one year for video tape equipment. This makes a total of \$100,000 for FY-78 and \$80,000 for FY-79. It is felt this type of program is the only way to help some of these patients. Unit 219 would be used for this purpose. This university is recognized as a leader in this field. The above amounts do not fully fund this program. The university picks up some of the expenses. These requested funds would be under Contracted Services.

MONTANA STATE PRISON

It has now been decided that there is no way that the warden can double up the inmates and put 527 estimated population into the new 300-capacity prison. 200 will have to be left in the old prison until a new unit can be built. This new unit is in long range building program. The length of time it takes to get a building actually built was discussed. Mr. Zanto said the new unit would be built as two X-shaped units connected together to make one building. Speed is needed for this construction because of the high cost of keeping two institutions operating.

Operating two institutions means an additional 80 FTE's and operating expenses. There would be repairs and small items needed because of old equipment and need of double items.

Totals of supplement are \$1,046,759 for 1978 and \$1,132,213 for 1979. \$41,610 would be subtracted for savings of laundry. Tom has some questions on the rate of increase between 1978 and 1979 on Personal Services and Utilities. These figures will be gone over to resolve any differences.

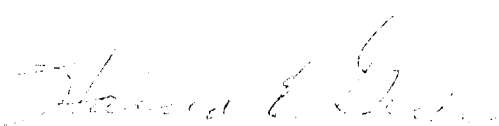
The prison has requested additional kitchen equipment because of operating two prisons: \$8,498 for a freezer and cooler and small utensils.

The additional towers and food service post were discussed. The guards requested these items. The warden does not feel that they are necessary with all the elaborate electronics and fence.

There is a question as to whether or not keep the laundry going in the old prison. Doug Booker said that if two FTE's could be eliminated at the prison by sending the laundry to WSSH, this would save more than keeping the old prison laundry going. He figures that WSSH can do the prison laundry for \$38,000 in 1978 and \$17,000 in 1979. This does not take into consideration the extra clothing needed for the inmates.

A new sewage lagoon, new well and water storage are under the long range building program.

Session ended at 10:00 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold E. Gerke".

Harold Gerke, Chairman