

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

January 26, 1979 - Room 108

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chairman Yardley. Committee members present were:

Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis
Representative Pat Gesek
Senator Mark Etchart
Senator Bill Thomas

Also present were Betty Waugh, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning, Bob Rhay, Roger Christ and Representative Bardanouve.

See the attached Visitors' Register for others present.

Montana State Prison

Mr. Bob Rhay, Administrator of the Corrections Division with the Department of Institutions. He told the committee the complete transfer of prisoners to the new prison was to have been finished by the end of this biennium. Hopefully, the transfer will be complete by September 30, 1979. The prison population is going to be a problem. He feels the maximum population capacity will be reached by July, 1979.

Mr. Roger Christ, Warden of the Montana State Prison, read the "Montana State Prison Budget Message" to the committee. (See exhibit A.) He explained and discussed the prison ranch's irrigation project. (See page 17 of exhibit A.)

Chairman Yardley asked Warden Christ for more information concerning the number of employees that could work on the ranch and information on the existing facilities and what would have to be built.

Don Judge, representing the AFSCME, AFL-CIO, supported the continuance of the present FTEs at the prison. Some of the reasons he gave for his support were: (1) there is already a great amount of overtime at the prison; (2) there is a large turnover rate at the prison; (3) there is a lack of security; (4) security training program has to be maintained; and (5) the prison needs a rehabilitation program, referring to the program at the ranch. Mr. Judge said if an increase in inmate population is anticipated, the committee shouldn't propose a decrease in the prison staff.

Diane Williams, representing the League of Women Voters, asked the committee to reconsider any staff cuts and felt the training of officers should be done earlier in the employment and should be intensified.

A questions and answers period then followed. Some topics that were discussed concerned the average salary per employee at the prison, when the inventory data from the prison will be complete, if the two metal buildings at the prison could be used for the industry program, should the prison industries be put on a revolving account, and there was discussion on the printing industry at the prison.

Warden Christ discussed having a utility force to help cut down overtime at the prison. He felt they would need seven more positions.

There was discussion on the committee's concerns about the prison's supplies budget. Curt Chisholm, Department of Institutions, agreed with the LFA's recommendation to have the institutions go to a quarterly purchasing but added that the institutions were under the Department of Purchasing and maybe the LFA should be the one to recommend that to the Department of Purchasing on behalf of the Department of Institutions. Senator Etchart asked that the committee hear more background information on the purchasing policy because the problem has come up so often. Chairman Yardley asked if testimony from the Department of Purchasing could be heard at the executive session, Monday, January 29, 1979.

Swan River Youth Forest Camp

Personal Services

LFA recommendation is \$337,435, \$54,064 of that for benefits. The Executive's recommendation is \$339,587, \$60,618 of that for benefits. LFA had used the actual percentage of benefits paid in FY'78 and added \$20 for insurance per person in FY'80 and FY'81. Executive told the committee they based their recommendation on the percentages that were projected by the Department of Administration for FY'80 and FY'81.

Contracted Services

LFA funded for legal services based on what was actually expended in FY'78. Executive included the contract for legal services at the University of Montana.

Repair and Maintenance

Executive was higher on their estimate on the cost to retile the bathroom and kitchen. They are going to put the amount needed into the long-range building category which would be a supplemental budget.

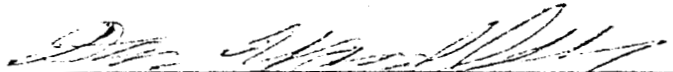
Other Expenses

LFA had reduced the boys' allowances from \$60 to \$55 per month. Executive left allowances at \$60.


Representative Lund asked that the committee be provided worksheets from the LFA and Executive.

Chairman Yardley asked Doug Booker and Betty Waugh to iron out their differences in the personal services category and report to them on Monday, January 29, 1979.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Dan Yardley, Chairman



Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary