

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 15, 1979 -- Room 108

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yardley at 8:00 a.m. Committee members present were:

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

Others present included Curt Chisholm, Larry Zanto, Jim Haubein, Ray Hoffman and Bob Rhay, Department of Institutions; Ted Clack and Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning; Roger Christ, Montana State Prison; and Betty Waugh and John LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office.

Montana State Prison - Irrigation System

Mr. Bob Rhay, Administrator of the Corrections Division, gave the committee some background on the ranch operations and the industries programs at the prison. He referred to HB 208, which allows institutions to sell products which have been produced through the institutions' industry programs. He said it is important for this bill to pass.

Roger Christ, Warden at Montana State Prison, gave the committee three handouts. (See exhibits A, B and C.) Exhibits A and B concerned the irrigation system project. He went over those with the committee. Exhibit C concerned the prison industries. In the handout, all the short-range goals for some industries are broken down and listed. Some of the long-range goals listed were the new industries building, school bus restoration, city-county signs industry, radiator repair industry and the jail equipment industry.

The Vo-Ed program was discussed. Representative Lund asked Warden Christ if he was aware of the bill being presented to have all the Vo-Ed programs put under the administration of the Office of Public Instruction. Warden Christ told him he was aware of the bill and was very much against it. If the Vo-Ed programs at the prison were under the Vo-Ed program at OPI, Vo-Ed would have to start picking up the costs of supplies and teachers' salaries.

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Larry Zanto, Director of the Department of Institutions, told the committee that he has heard that the prison does not own the water rights to the land for the ranch. He said that was strictly a rumor because he has all the legal documents in his office. He also told the committee there has been criticism about the ranch having all that land but almost nothing being produced off of the land. The land is not good for dry farming and, hopefully, with installation of the irrigation system the production will be much greater.

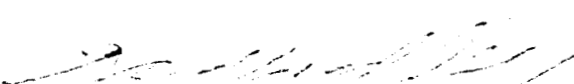
Chairman Yardley asked Warden Christ about the enterprise accounting system. Warden Christ told the committee the accounting system, with a private C.P.A. firm, will be started soon. The cost will be \$11,000 so they are deferring purchase of a piece of machinery to pay the \$11,000.

Pine Hills School


Ted Clack gave the committee the information on the closure schedule for the farm and a list of equipment purchased and encumbered in FY'78 and FY'79. (See exhibits D and E.)

There was a mistake on the equipment expenditures. The \$10,956 for furniture for the new boys' lodge was entered in FY'80 but should have been in FY'81. Therefore, the actual Executive recommendation for equipment should be \$3,000 for FY'80 and \$36,559 for FY'81. The committee discussed the proposed budget. They decided against the LFA's recommendation of keeping the six acres and the extra FTE involved with that training program. They agreed to accept the Executive's recommendation for personal services which is \$1,733,476 for FY'80 and \$1,741,015 for FY'81 and also accepted the Executive's recommendation of 124.87 FTEs for each year of the biennium. There was also discussion of having the personal services amounts line itemed for this budget. The total budget amounts agreed on were \$2,096,952 for FY'80 and \$2,134,520 for FY'81. The FY'81 figure includes the \$10,956 recommended for furniture for the new boys' cottage. The committee asked the LFA and Executive to come up with amounts for each category within the budget and report the amounts to the committee at Friday's, February 16, meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Dan Yardley, Chairman



Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary