

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INSTITUTIONS  
January 29, 1981

MONTANA STATE PRISON

JACK K. MOORE, Chairman, called the meeting for the Montana State Prison to order at 9:30 a.m. All committee members were present.

Testimony was given by Carroll South, Director of the Department of Institutions; Gene Huntington, Office of Budget and Planning; Dan Russell, Director of Corrections; Jim Blodgett, Acting Warden at Montana State Prison, Bill McCrea, Business Manager at Montana State Prison; Joseph Koffman, member of Meat Cutters Union; Don Judge, member of AFL-CIO; Norm Rostocki, Fiscal Analyst; Rep. Gould.

MR. BLODGETT answered the questions that arose on January 28. He noted on the question of the condition of the gas masks, there have been 19 new masks purchased recently from Smith and Wesson and they are in top condition. The ones referred to before were the army surplus ones, which are very much outdated and were replaced. He explained the question regarding administrative travel. Of the \$3,000 for Travel, \$755 was expended for administrative travel through the General Fund. The remainder of that was funded by Federal Boarder Contract revenues. He noted that yesterday they left off on Repairs and Maintenance, page 17 and page 18. He explained the institution has prepared a maintenance cycle for the painting of all buildings. The inventory has been depleted due to the deficit. He noted due to the new facility a large amount of paint is required. This painting has been put on an interior replacement cycle of 3 years, and an exterior cycle of 7 to 10 years. In 1982, he noted they would like to paint 3 housing units, and in 1983 two housing units and a food service building. He stated there is one civilian painter, the other will be crews of 3 to 5 men. He explained the cable system for the educational programs, and the amount reflects upgrading of this equipment. He explained in the Television area, the institution maintains over 340 audio monitoring units, and 48 video cameras. These cameras are in need of maintenance and upgrading.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked what was the item in athletic and recreational equipment that cost \$800.

MR. BLODGETT noted this was for repair of the bleachers in the gym, with a fold-up mechanism, he would like to verify the need for it in 1983, but it has been indicated this might be an ongoing item. He explained on page 19, the decrease in the inmate pay was due to the license plate factory being pulled out of this request and put into another area.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked if this includes the industry program at

current level, or is this for the maintenance people in care and custody.

MR. SOUTH stated this does not include any industry program at all.

MR. BLODGETT stated he needed to mention that the separation allowance of \$25 for inmate release was included in the allowance pay.

REP. CONROY asked about the extension courses.

MR. BLODGETT explained the extension courses are given by the University of Montana, and a great number of people apply for these courses. They base entrance on several qualifications, one is a short time entrance, the other is that they have a high school degree or equivalent, and they also cannot be a behavior problem.

REP. CONROY asked how long this program has been there.

MR. BLODGETT noted this program has been there since 1970.

REP. CONROY asked what the success rate was for jobs along that line.

MR. RUSSELL stated that during the time this has been implemented, there have been 6 people who have received associate degrees. In FY 80 they had 199 in the program, and to date they have had 100 people in the program, and are projecting 200 by the end of fiscal 81. He noted it takes 3 years to complete the associate arts degree, and this is intended to give them an initial start. He did not have the figures of how many stayed in the program after being released. Their particular approach is giving them an opportunity for this type of vocation versus the trade area.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked if there was only one kind of program.

MR. RUSSELL noted there are a number of different courses offered, but there is only one degree offered which is a Human Resources Associate of Arts Degree.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked what the people could do with the degree once they got it.

MR. SOUTH noted it would help in social work, psychology and corrections.

SEN. THOMAS expressed concern in using state money for the education of the inmates.

MR. SOUTH explained it needed to be put into perspective, as compared to the tobacco expense, the education courses are only \$3,000 more.

SEN. THOMAS asked if another kind of funding could be used to help pay for this, so the state is not providing the education for them.

MR. BLODGETT explained everybody's funding is screened very closely. Any inmate that is eligible for Veterans or BIA benefits do use them in this program. He noted the state pays for those who do not have the funding for this. He explained these courses are available for the staff and several of them have attained degrees. In the beginning, there was a problem of enrollment, so with the inmates attending and helping out on class size, the staff may attend free. He noted this is a good training benefit.

REP. CONROY stated he would feel better if he had any positive proof, that this education was being continued on after the inmates release. He asked if there are any prisoners eligible to receive Social Security benefits, receiving them while in prison.

MR. BLODGETT stated those that are eligible to receive disability or Social Security do receive it, and it is deposited in their account. He explained it has not been the policy of the institution or the state to require in the past they use this money to provide their own medical or other services provided by the state.

REP. CONROY stated an indigent who has resources, as an example in the Center for the Aged, has to use up his resources before he is eligible for benefits.

MR. SOUTH felt this was a legal issue and rather complicated by committing someone to prison and making them pay for their own keep. He feels the answer would be for the Federal Government to cut off the payments, but he feels the courts have laws regarding what an institution can charge when it is a court commitment.

MR. McCRAE stated they have provided a list of inmates receiving Social Security benefits to the Social Security Division in Butte. He noted there is a federal law just passed, which does limit the amount of payment an inmate may receive. He noted the Division in Butte informed him that they will begin to start action on this, he has no idea what the disposition will be at this time.

SEN. JOHNSON asked how many inmates are enrolled in this education course receive Veterans funds, and what is the dollar amount.

MR. McCRAE stated he did not have that information with him.

MR. RUSSELL stated any additional costs will not be reflected in the General Fund expenditures. This would be a matter between the University and that person. He noted this averages approximately \$50 per inmate per year expended for extension courses.

MR. SOUTH stated if there are any students paying the University directly, this would not be reflected in the Prison's records, but only on the University records.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked if there were more than 199 students.

MR. RUSSELL stated there were 199 students enrolled, he would need to get the information to show how many were being paid by other benefits other than General Funds.

SEN. THOMAS asked what type of rate is the University being paid on.

MR. McCRAE stated this is presently with the University of Montana and the Prison pays per credit hour, per student. He explained how the inmate's account has a check drafted from it to pay for his credit hour. He noted they determine what the University is going to charge, and they back in the amount of students that can take part in the course.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked if the inmates in the industry program are currently being paid out of the General Funds.

MR. McCRAE stated at the present time the prisoners in the print shop and the industries are being paid for by the General Fund. This \$10,000 reduction reflects the license plate factory and the industry program.

MR. BLODGETT explained Equipment on page 20. He noted the primary expenditure would be for two automobiles and 4 passenger vans. The vans asked for would be for 1 12 passenger and 3 shop vans. He explained the need for the aerial ladder.

REP. CONROY asked if Montana Power could help out on this.

MR. BLODGETT explained all the electrical lines are metered and are the responsibility of the Prison. They are responsible for installing and maintaining about 14 miles of electrical transmission lines. He noted they are self-supporting. However, the Montana Power needs to be there when they install lines.

REP. ERNST asked if they have reviewed a contract with Montana Power.

MR. BLODGETT noted it has been easier to maintain these lines than to contract for it. He stated the equipment in the maintenance area has cost the institution a total of \$43,000 in the past 15 years because they were able to buy this equipment from surplus areas and maintain them at a minimum cost.

MR. ROSTOCKI stated the equipment request has changed substantially from the original one.

MR. HUNTINGTON stated the numbers have changed, but these are the same pieces of equipment requested.

MR. BLODGETT stated the welder needs to be replaced, it was purchased in 1957, and the repairs are in excess of what it is worth. This welder is in the maintenance department. The boilers are requested for housing units. There are 21 heating plants in the prison compound, and one boiler handles 3 of the units. They would like to have a spare boiler on hand for replacement purposes. He explained the garden tractor is used for minor landscaping, lawns, snow removal and walks inside the institution.

REP. CONROY asked if this was a riding tractor that could be used in the garden.

MR. BLODGETT noted this was a small riding tractor, and might be too small for the garden.

SEN. JOHNSON asked if the ranch tractors could be used.

MR. BLODGETT stated for security purposes and the size of the tractor needed, the ranch tractors wouldn't work.

MR. ROSTOCKI asked about the price difference for the sewer snake on page 21.

MR. BLODGETT noted this was an economy model. He stated it was common for paper towels, parkas and a lot of foreign items to go through the sewer.

MR. ROSTOCKI explained his estimates on Repair and Maintenance and that he included \$15,000 in the biennium specifically for the repair of the vehicles. He noted he added \$15,000 the first year for paint. The LFA's figures differed because of these amounts.

MR. BLODGETT explained page 21 in regard to the automobiles, vans and mower.

REP. CONROY asked why didn't they incorporate a mower along with the garden tractor.

MR. BLODGETT noted they have \$7400 on the original estimate for the tractor with attachments.

MR. ROSTOCKI noted the LFA had included a fork lift in his request because they needed one in their warehouse.

MR. BLODGETT stated at the present time all the laundry is being done at Warm Springs, and they would like to wash personal items in the main units. He noted the requested washers and dryers would be replacement items because they do have them already in the housing units.

MR. HOFFMAN asked if the Department would provide an outline in detail for the Personal Services area since this comprises about 65% of their budget.

THE CHAIRMAN asked to discuss the FTE's in the Personal Service area. He stated the Montana State Prison Budget would need to be discussed at a later date and would take approximately two more days. The Prison Budget will be scheduled for February 13 and 14.

MR. SOUTH stated he would like to start discussing the FTE's in security first. He referred to page 6b (See Exhibit ). He noted each one of the units have a central electronically controlled unit, that has to be manned 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. This is a 7 day post. He explained the relief factor is calculated into a 7 day post as 1.55 FTE. He noted there are also 5 day posts, and their relief factor is 1.1 FTE. He asked the committee to look at page 12b (See Exhibit ) regarding the National Guard requirement.

MR. ROSTOCKI noted there was a consultant in the past who determined what posts were 7 day posts as opposed to a 5 day post. He explained the LFA figures were different, but he agrees with the 150.88 decided on by the Department of Institutions. He noted over and above the 22 security positions granted by the governor, there were 5 positions that the Governor granted that were not security positions. These are 2 social workers, 2 LPN's and 1 recreational director. He noted the LFA difference at this time is the 2 social workers.

MR. BLODGETT explained the necessary officers to man each of the 6 housing units in the institution.

SEN. JOHNSON asked which unions are dealt with at the Prison.

MR. BLODGETT stated they deal with several unions, but the

principle one is MPEA.

MR. SOUTH stated there were some posts that J. J. Clark had evaluated that he did not agree on. One was the remote observation tower, and some perimeter posts that he differed on. He noted there would be no change in FTE.

MR. SOUTH explained he would like to prepare for the committee a side by side comparison of the existing staff non-security and the required staff to man the security area.

MR. ROSTOCKI explained the LFA difference in the budget other than inflation factors is in the food area under Supplies and Materials. He noted the cost was \$1.05 per meal, however, the staff eats a little different and their cost averages around \$1.35 per meal. He thought the committee might want to discuss the costs on the food and also why the Prison is higher than the Swan River Youth Camp.

MR. SOUTH stated at this point he is not sure why the price is higher, but he would look into it.

MR. JUDGE, member of the AFL-CIO explained there are 7 meat cutting personnel at the institution. Two of those are supervisors, and 5 are actual meat cutters. He explained their responsibilities. He noted the proposal that will be heard within the next few days is the reduction of one supervisor, and the reduction of 3 of the meat cutters positions, for a reduction of 4 FTE.

MR. KOFFMAN, meat supervisor at the Prison, explained with only 3 meat cutters in charge, the security is serious. He noted if they are planning on additional inmate help, the waste would go up tremendously. He stated the standard waste is about 22%. However, they had a Vo-Tech meat cutting class at the Prison and there waste is about 27% with all inmate help. He noted the waste this would involve over a period of time. He stated the vacation time would leave only one man on duty, and endanger the security of the remaining staff. He stated lethal weapons are being placed in the hands of the inmates, and with the 6 men there presently, they can keep an eye on the inmates. However, with a reduction of staff, he dreads the thought of being in a building with the inmates and these knives. He further explained there is about a 6 month turn over in inmates and during the six months of training there is a waste factor. He stated the inmates attitude is not what you expect if you were training someone to cut meat. The inmates are there for two reasons, one is \$1 a day, and good time. He noted the good ones are few and far between.

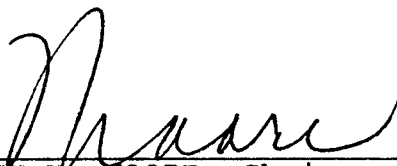
REP. CONROY asked if the 22% waste was an average of pork and beef, and what Mr. Koffman's opinion was of the grade and yield

of meat at the ranch.

MR. KOFFMAN stated the amount of waste was average, and for the most part, the grade is good. He felt the product is good, but with improper cutting the nutrition value is reduced. He noted there was very little choice, and most parts of the cut was good.

REP. GOULD explained the last time he had visited the Prison was December 3, 1980 and it was unannounced. He felt the day-to-day operations were being run very well. He stated the area of concern to the committee is the number one priority of security. He feels the committee should look down the road as far as the design concept of the prison. He personally feels the pods should be changed so that better use of the man in the pod is made. He felt these men should be sitting in one place and monitoring continual activity rather than walking around. Another problem he feels is the tower situation, and some serious thought should be given to an additional tower. He thinks when you come to an escape situation, and you blew away one or two people there would not be such an escape problem in the future. He hoped Long Range Building would help plan for this problem. He felt it important to protect the relationship between the Montana State Prison, the Legislature and the people that are living in the valley. He stated at this time the relationship is good, but if they are harmed then this would endanger this relationship. He wanted to state emphatically in the areas of health and feeding and care of the people in the prison, there is a good job being done.

There being no further comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



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JACK W. MOORE, Chairman