

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 1, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Warren L. Monroe
B. Mahlon Brown
James I. Gibson
William J. Raggio
Clifton Young
Archie Pozzi

Cy Ryan, UPI
Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Bob Tripp, LCB Deputy Legislative Auditor
Howard Barrett, Dept. of Administration
Bill Bible, Chief Assistant, Budget Division
Deputy Warden Ed Pogue, Nevada State Prison
Associate Warden, William Lattin, Prison
William Hancock, Planning Board
John Sheehan, Tax Commission
Jim Lein, Tax Commission
Ross Morres, Indian Affairs Commission
Gary Sheerin, Public Defender

NEVADA STATE PRISON - Pages 365-370:

The Nevada State Prison is asking for three new positions, a counsellor and two vocational education instructors for a recreational vehicle repair and television and small appliances repair class. They also requested employees to operate the heating plant as inmates have done this in the past and this presents a security problem. Conceivably destroy the heating system and cut off telephone communications, etc.

Mr. Pogue stated that the prison population has stayed about the same during the last two years even though the crime rate has shot up reflecting the courts change in thinking toward utilizing community resources and probation before using incarceration as a last resort. He said Nevada had one of the highest rates of success in the nation. Only 24% returned to prison in 1971-72 and 28% in 1970-71. The average for the nation is 50% to 80%. Mr. Pogue said perhaps the reason for this was that Nevada had small institutions rather than large, impersonal ones, good vocational training programs, and a lot of people were not locked into a negative ghetto environment as in other states. With regard to the vocational programs Nevada has one of most successful programs in the nation.

Senate Finance Committee
February 1, 1973
Page Two

Senator Gibson asked about the retirement rates and was told this was due to the fact that prison employees are entitled to an earlier retirement and the state paid an extra one-half percent for this. The overtime listed is actually holiday pay because employees work on holidays. Overtime is also paid when employees assist with group counseling. At the present time employees aren't paid for shift differential and the state now proposes that employees working other than seven to four be paid an extra five percent shift differential.

The state also proposes creating a Correctional Officer III so that individuals with exceptional ability would be given extra compensation. The class I would be the entrance level or training period of one year and then officers would automatically be promoted to class II. Presently a third of the officers are expected to be considered for this class III.

There are also funds requested in the event that the legislature approves the building of a new prison so that for three months the prison would have extra staff to facilitate the move, after which time these employees would be layed off.

While the prison doesn't budget for a employee/inmate ratio, costs are higher at the old prison because it is poorly layed out. 110 employees are working at the old Maximum Security Prison where 250 inmates are housed. At the newer Medium Security Prison 80 employees are required for 350 inmates. More staff is also required in institutions housing individuals with high violence potential.

There are currently 250 inmates housed at Maximum, 350 at Medium, 35 at the Women's Prison. As a first step in phasing out the old Maximum Security Prison (but not the Women's Prison) it is requested that this session allot funds to build a new unit at the Medium Security Prison which will house 108 inmates. The state will then propose building additional units for 216 inmates at the 1975 Session of the Legislature. The total program when finished will provide housing for 800 inmates at the new prison.

NEVADA STATE TAX COMMISSION - Pages 90-94:

This department is requesting four new employees the first year of the biennium and five the second. Mr.

Senate Finance Committee
February 1, 1973
Page Three

Sheehan said this agency was one of the cheapest tax collection agencies in the nation, costing \$1.28 to collect each \$100.

They plan to change to a new computer system and are requesting extra funds for the first three months of the changeover while they are working the bugs out of the new operation. They plan to expand computer service to include the collection of gas, cigarettes, liquor and perhaps even property appraisal, all of which are done by hand now. He said computerization would help auditors retrieve and gather information much faster and would bring about better audit selection of individuals. Better audit selection would bring about more revenues, and selection is rather haphazard right now. He said each auditor produces an average of \$40,000 in revenue per year retrieving money people otherwise would not have paid the state.

There was a good deal of discussion about the fact that computers were reported to save money and yet agencies were all asking for expanded computer services and were still requesting many more employees. They questioned the savings from computerization. Mr. Barrett said computerization would never reduce completely the need for new employees but would slow down the need for increased personnel.

STATE PLANNING BOARD - Pages 88-89:

Mr. Hancock stated that building has greatly increased and more staff is needed. Because of the inflation in construction it costs the state \$200,000 per month because they are overworked and sometimes can't get the plans out to bid faster. Some estimates can go up 1% per month.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - Pages 99-100:

There are currently 23 reservations containing 7,797 Indians. Upon questioning Mr. Morres stated that most Indians are apprehensive about going through the Equal Rights Commission even though there is an Indian on the board. "Whenever there is domination by one group it evolves into another type program. I feel it is a black program." He said an Indian in McDermott had requested the commission to investigate a claim, but this was done so slowly he finally dropped the matter.

Senate Finance Committee
February 1, 1973
Page Four

BUDGET DIVISION - Page 30:

Mr. Barrett said he was asking for increases in salary because while "the budget staff never needs to be very large, I want competent people." He said the account clerks at times worked as much as forty hours overtime per week among them and would like to hire another employee to assist during peak periods. He requested another analyst because the workload is more complex now with federal funding. He also wanted to allow at least two people to be familiar with each agency's budget in the event of resignations, etc.

PUBLIC DEFENDER - Pages 104-105:

Mr. Sheerin stated that due to Supreme Court decisions his office would have to represent individuals charged with misdemeanors upon request.

When asked how he received his money from the counties he said the program had been free to the counties the past two years, but he recently sent the counties estimates and basically received no complaints. He suggested that perhaps enabling legislation would be necessary making it mandatory that counties pay his office. He added that the difficulty with this was that currently counties have the option of contracting this work to local attorneys or going through his office. Senator Gibson said the counties have registered a complaint and felt the state should provide total funding for this service. Mr. Sheerin said that the counties should pay when you're talking about original jurisdiction crimes.

Mr. Sheerin currently pays \$14,000 to an attorney who services four counties; Senator Raggio asked if it would be cheaper to hire rather than contract the attorney. Mr. Sheerin said the contract is cheaper because otherwise he would have to pay state fringe benefits amounting to about 10% more and he would also pay more in travel.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

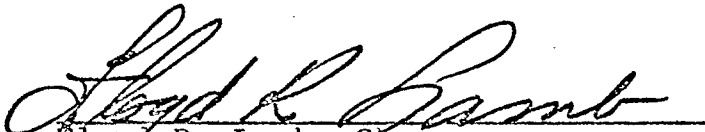
J. Dan Hoeker

Secretary

1 75

Senate Finance Committee
February 1, 1973
Page Five

APPROVED:


Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman