

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

February 26, 1975

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, John Dolan, Warden Ed Pogue, and Gene Pieretti.

Chairman Mello stated that there are two Supplemental Appropriations and several Capital Improvement Projects for the Prison Budget.

The supplementals are on page A-28. For 1973-74, the amount is \$79,354 and for 1974-75 for \$773,295. Warden Pogue stated that the 74-75 supplemental for \$773,295 was amended to \$538,085 due to an error in recording salaries twice. These supplementals are requested because of increased costs and population growth.

Warden Pogue explained that the CIP 75-4 in the amount of \$75,000 is to connect the Medium Security Prison to the Carson City sewer system. CIP 75-8 is a request to add to the infirmary in the Medium Security Prison as the infirmary for Maximum Security is on the fourth floor and it is difficult to get the sick or injured up four flights of stairs. CIP 75-32 is to provide an Industrial Building for the Maximum Security Prison in an effort to provide some meaningful employment for those in Maximum Security. CIP 75-50 would provide for the purchase of the outdoor lights around the prison and just pay the power bill. At present, these lights are being leased.

Warden Pogue stated that at the present time they have 876 inmates at the Nevada State Prison. They have 428 beds at the Maximum Security Prison and they have 430 people. He also stated they have a small increase at the women's prison and now have 32 inmates.

The Warden then explained the supplemental request of \$538,085 which is for salaries and operating expenses for 1974-75. The operating expenses total \$331,000 and were broken down as follows: \$6000 operating supplies, \$1000 Contractual Services, \$5000 Equipment repair, \$55,000 Utilities, \$9900 Maintenance, \$3000 Vehicle Operation, \$19,000 clothing and uniforms, \$81,000 Medical and Dental expenses, \$22,000 inmate stipend and travel, \$102,000 food and \$16,000 Farming. He stated that food costs are .50 per meal per person and they have their own dairy farm and own beef.

Chairman Mello stated that there is \$209,250 allocated from Interim Finance that is not shown in this budget.

The Prison Administration (page 412) was explained. They receive income from selling milk and products associated with the dairy, sell power to Department of Motor Vehicles and Park Davis Plasma Paresis Buildings, charging Parole Board and other staff and visitors for meals, making signs for parks, upholstering furniture and work in the motor pool. Also, the Elizabeth Reimbursement, which is now the Park Davis Company, pays for the correctional officers and other staff and time that are built into this budget to run their Plasma Paresis program. And, employee services for book binding for school districts, laundry and drycleaning for the children's home and other institutions.

Warden Pogue explained the Plasma Paresis Program which is the extraction of whole blood from a person, separation by centrifuge out of the white plasmapar and then the reinfusion of red blood back into the person. This produces products as the means to stop Hemophiliacs from bleeding to death, produces gammaglobulin and other exotic methods. About one-third of the population donates their blood and they are paid \$4.00 each time the blood is withdrawn. This provides a means of income to the inmates which provides them with the opportunity to buy small items in the prison store and decreases prison expenditures.

Chairman Mello asked Warden Pogue to explain his feelings on the recent ruling by Judge Thompson. Warden Pogue stated that this ruling confirms

what has been recommended and what they are trying to do. Judge Thompson made a good decision and wanted to bring the prison in line with the federal prisons. He felt Judge Thompson's order could be applied, but would be a little expensive.

They are asking for a Correction Officer to transport prisoners, an Administrative Secretary for the Business Manager, a Management Analysis to assist the Business Manager in analyzing and keeping within the budget, two additional Senior Clerk Typists, an In-Service training officer full-time, a Correctional Officer to assist the training officer in use of handcuffs, and provide backup, a Physician's Assistant to work with the Medical Director, 5 Medical Technical Assistant Corpsmen to work in the hospital at the Medium Security Prison and an Equal Opportunity Officer to recruit and retain minority employees and work as an assistant to the Personnel Officer, and one Senior Clerk Typist for the Personnel Officer.

In the Women's Prison they are asking for a half-time Vocational Education Instructor for Cosmetology and hope to begin a licensing program.

In the Medium Security Prison they are requesting a Correctional Classification Officer, a Correctional Officer II and a Correctional Officer I. Also a Physical Education/Recreation Officer is being requested, but his position would continue to be funded through the Crime Commission Grant of \$150,000. A Maintenance Supervisor I, a half-time Senior Clerk Typist to cover the increased workload and demands, a Principal Clerk Typist who would keep the inmates time and make sure inmates are properly released, legally retained and make sure they receive all their time, a Correctional Lieutenant, Correctional Sergeant and 13 Correctional Officers.

At the Maximum Security Prison they are requesting a Correctional Counselor II, a part-time coach which is funded by the Crime Commission grant, an Electrician is needed due to the age of the building and deterioration of wiring, two Academic Teachers to provide programs for the inmates who will be transferred from the Maximum Security Prison to the new house, a Cook III to help cover the three meals a day, a Senior Clerk Typist to help with the additional workload and help the counselors who will be preparing additional admission summaries, a Correctional Lieutenant to supervise all miscellaneous activities and outside assignments, three additional Correctional Sergeants - one would be a cell-house sergeant, one would be a Classification and Assignment Sergeant and an Investigative Sergeant, and nine Correctional Officer positions to relieve the existing staff in order to cut down on overtime and relieve for sick days and vacation.

Warden Pogue gave the committee a list of the inmate/staff ratio. They have 63 people under 21 years of age and hope to provide basic adult education.

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Chairman Mello explained to Warden Pogue that he should be prepared to help the people and work in the area's which are deficient by requesting what he feels is necessary for the operation of this facility and not what the Governor has recommended.

Warden Pogue stated that the operating costs are based mostly on inflationary costs and the increase in their population. The Contractural Services provide for \$4800 for an Optometrist who comes in on a regular basis. Also, Federal Regulation requires the services of a Pharmacist. These also provide for outside specialties when medically necessary and where indicated. The Usual and Customary fees are paid to physicians. The Dues and Registration are for professional groups on an institutional basis and the Association for Correctional Officers. The Miscellaneous item is for distilled water, funerals and film developing.

They are requesting one sedan, one compact car and one nine passenger transportation van. Also a four-wheel drive vehicle and a delivery van and in the second year they are requesting one pick up truck.

Gate money is \$35 per person but they can go up to \$50 if the person is in need.

The Contraband Detection Unit is a low dose X-ray machine to detect contraband entering the institution

Mr. Wittenberg stated that he has received letters regarding spending money for a new facility in Las Vegas and that they do not like the way the

prison is operating. He could not understand why they are requesting only what the Governor is recommending and not what they actually need to operate this facility.

Mr. Weise asked if they were given the budget as requested last time, would they have to be now asking for a supplemental appropriation and Warden Pogue replied that he did not feel they would.

Chairman Mello stated that they followed the Governor's Recommendation last time because no one asked for more and the Governor cut the budget over \$700,000. They now have a supplemental appropriation of \$538.085

Warden Pogue stated that the Governor did not agree that they needed all they were requesting and they feel they can live within the budget as recommended by the Governor.

Mr. Weise felt that this was the clearest budget as to where the money is being spent.

Mr. Robinson stated that if they would have stuck with their request for food last session, they would have been almost exactly right.

Warden Pogue stated that this was a realistic budget as long as there is no increase in population. If there is an increase in the population, they will have to again ask for a supplemental next session.

Mr. Dreyer stated that the Warden should have a better idea than anyone as to any population increase which might occur.

Mr. Bible stated that these budgets were prepared six months apart and there was a decrease in the population.

Mr. Weise stated he felt this was the best justification for annual sessions as the population cannot be controlled.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40A.M.