

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 59th SESSION

May 2, 1977

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Glover, Mr. Kosinski, Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Serpa and Mr. Vergiels.

EXCUSED: Mrs. Brookman, due to illness.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Dolan Assembly Fiscal Analyst; Bill Bible, Budget Division; Senator Cliff Young; Warden Charles Wolff; Lody Smith, Division of Forestry; Mike Medema, Business Manager, Nevada State Prison; Art Palmer, Legislative Counsel Bureau; Earl Oliver, Legislative Audit Division; Jim Wittenberg, State Personnel; Mike Brown, Judicial Planning and Assemblyman Bob Craddock.

S.B. 355. Makes appropriations to Nevada State Prison for establishment of honor camps for employment of prisoners upon conservation projects.

Senator Cliff Young testified in favor of the bill, stating the bill would establish honor camps for employment of prisoners in conservation projects in the State of Nevada. He stated that almost all western states now have some type of honor camp for conservation projects. Senator Young stated the prison population is practically exploding. There are currently 1,000 prisoners and projections for the end of the century indicated there could be as many as 1,800 up to 2,200 or 2,300. It is expensive to keep the prisoners and to construct the facilities at the maximum prison. It would cost approximately \$50,000 per man. Estimates of the annual operations run as high as \$15,000 per man.

Senator Young stated the experience in Colorado indicates that the rate of recidivism is substantially less for people who have gone through this type of conservation work.

Warden Wolff stated S.B. 355 is not a part of the Prison's Executive Budget, but was introduced on the basis that Senator Young felt there was a need for it. Basically the bill provides an opportunity for individuals that classify as trustees to be able to live in an honor camp type setting outside the basic perimeter of the institution. This would house approximately 50 individuals on an ongoing basis. It costs somewhat less than half to support individuals in an honor camp type setting rather than in an institutional setting as far as dollars that are expended are concerned.

The bill would provide space for trustees outside of the institution and would provide additional beds above the capacity there is now.

Mr. Glover asked when was the last time Nevada had honor camps. Mr. Smith replied 1969. Mr. Glover asked why they were done away with. Warden Wolff replied the honor camps were in trouble in one area. Another reason was because it was more economical to supervise them in-house at that particular time because there wasn't available supervision.

If the bill were to be approved, the honor camp would be located on the acreage they have at the minimum security institution today.

Basically, they would be living on the institution grounds.

Mr. Glover asked if there would be more people escaping. Warden Wolff replied he certainly hoped not.

Chairman Mello asked of those that have escaped in the past, what crimes had they committed against the public. Warden Wolff replied one escapee committed the crime of rape.

Warden Wolff stated the prison felt they have the problem corrected by using a proper classification system. The prisoners will be individuals who are at the tail-end of their sentence and who do not have a history or background of violence or aggressiveness. They will be able to have individuals who are relatively safe because they will be coming back into the community in a short time.

Warden Wolff stated basically they are talking about funding a single honor camp, and on the basis of the experience this biennium, a decision would be made if there is ever going to be any future funding.

Mr. Kosinski asked if it would be possible to put the criteria in the statute that these prisoners would have to meet to be eligible for honor camps. Warden Wolff replied it could be put in the statute.

Mr. Kosinski asked Warden Wolff to provide the Committee with the criteria they intend to use assuming the bill passes, to select the persons that would be put into the honor camps.

Warden Wolff stated the time frame talked about is somewhere in the neighborhood of six to eight months. He said that approximately one-fourth of the prisoner's stay would be in an honor camp.

Mr. Hickey asked if there were adequate conservation projects to keep the prisoners busy. Mr. Smith replied yes. Forestry has considerable projects throughout the Sierras. They presently have two crews that work out of minimum security that would be a part of the housing unit. They work on hazard reduction, forest fire and wild land hazard reduction, eradication of mistletoe, a tree disease and bug problems. There are many ongoing projects for state agencies and private individuals. The state does not compete with private enterprise.

Mr. Smith stated, above all, these are highly trained fire crews. That is one of the things that makes an honor camp very desirable as far as the Division of Forestry is concerned because they have ready access to the crews.

Chairman Mello asked about subsection 1 of Section 1 and asked what the \$80,000 was to be used for. A detailed budget was passed out to the Committee, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. Smith stated that the vehicles shown in the detailed budget are new equipment for the two additional crews. The equipment spoken of in 1969 was mostly military excess that has since gone out of the system.

The living quarters would be house trailers which would be specially built. There will be four housing units.

Chairman Mello asked if these people would branch out and work on the highway crews. Warden Wolff replied this particular group of people would be utilized almost totally by the Forestry Department, Parks Department and Fish and Game. If the Highway Department is interested in having crews work out, Warden Wolff felt something could be worked out with regard to picking up trash along the highways.

Mr. Smith stated when he was asked to come up with possible projects, he contacted Ken Davis and he indicated that there would be litter pickup, together with weeding, landscaping, erosion control and projects of those types.

Mr. Kosinski asked about the mental and dental expense in the detailed budget and pointed out that in the Prison's budget, all necessary medical and dental expenses were provided for. Warden Wolff agreed.

Chairman Mello stated he wanted them to go through the budget again and cut out the duplications.

S.B. 484. Requires Department of Motor Vehicles to provide list of registered owners of vehicles in county to district judge for jury selection.

After testimony from Senator Young, Mr. Bremner made a motion for a "Do Pass"; seconded by Mr. Kosinski. Motion passed.

S.B. 519. Provides for use of federal countercyclical grants.

After testimony from Bill Bible, Mr. Bremner made a motion for a "Do Pass"; seconded by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

A.B. 507. Extends state group insurance to legislators during sessions.

Earl Oliver stated as he understood it, right now legislators are covered under NIC. During the interim, Legislators would be covered only for those days they are actually in a meeting and to and from attending a meeting.

Chairman Mello asked what would happen if Legislators left a day early for the meeting. Mr. Oliver stated the legal opinion is going to cover that. If it doesn't satisfy the Legislative Counsel Bureau as to to and from travel and duration of time, they can explore it a little further.

After testimony from Mr. Glover, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Oliver, Chairman Mello appointed a subcommittee of Mr. Hickey, Mr. Glover and Mr. Kosinski to study the bill and come up with the necessary language to clean it up.

S.B. 424. Increases annual salaries for elected state officials.

Mr. Bremner and Mr. Hickey gave their subcommittee report to the full Committee, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. Vergiels made a motion for adoption of the subcommittee's amendments; seconded by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed.

Mr. Bremner made a motion for a "Do Pass, as amended"; seconded by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

A.B. 164. Authorizes governing body of local government to request certain technical assistance.

Assemblyman Bob Craddock testified in favor of the bill, stating it was part of the general improvement district package that resulted in the interim study. They have already passed A.B. 163, A.B. 165 and A.B. 167 which are the procedural processes. A.B. 164 is a spinoff. It provides that the Committee, which is established pursuant to 354.594 have the Tax Commission set rules and regulations or have the Tax Commission go through the procedure with the Committee to determine who needs the assistance. Three of the members of the Committee, pursuant to 354.594, are selected by the League of Cities, three by the County Commissioners Association, three by the Association of School Trustees and two by the Nevada Board of State Accountants. No action was taken on the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. 1089

	GOV.	SUP. CT JUSTICE	DIST. CT. JUDGES	ATTORNEY GENERAL	SECRETARY OF STATE	CONTROLLER	TREASURER	LT. GOV
REG. SAL: JAN, 1979	51,000	49,500	44,000	44,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	15,000
SAL. JAN, 1980								
per schedule	53,000	51,500	46,000	46,000	37,000	37,000	37,000	16,000
with 5% CPI	53,550	51,975	46,200	46,200	36,750	36,750	36,750	15,750
SAL. JAN, 1981								
per schedule	55,000	53,500	48,000	48,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	17,000
with 5% CPI	56,228	54,574	48,510	48,510	38,586	38,586	38,586	16,537
SAL. JAN, 1982								
per schedule	57,000	55,500	50,000	50,000	41,000	41,000	41,000	18,000
with 5% CPI	59,039	57,302	50,936	50,936	40,517	40,517	40,517	17,364
SAL. JAN 1983	New term			New term	New term	New term	New term	New term
per schedule	-	57,500	52,000	-	-	-	-	-
with 5% CPI	-	60,168	53,482	-	-	-	-	-
SAL. JAN 1984								
per schedule	-	59,500	54,000	-	-	-	-	-
with 5% CPI	-	63,176	56,156	-	-	-	-	-
SAL. JAN, 1985			New term					
per schedule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
with 5% CPI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The schedule is based upon a flat \$ 2,000.00 increase each year for all elected officials except the Lt. Gov.

The Lt. Gov. is scheduled for a flat \$ 1,000.00 increase each year.

NEVADA STATE PRISONS

BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS
MIKE O'CALLAGHAN, GOVERNOR
ROBERT LIST, ATTORNEY GENERAL
WM. D. SWACKHAMER, SECRETARY OF STATE



CHARLES L. WOLFF, JR.
WARDEN
P.O. Box 607
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

NEVADA STATE PRISON
P.O. Box 2247
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

NEVADA WOMEN'S
CORRECTIONAL CENTER
P.O. Box 2247
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

NORTHERN NEVADA
CORRECTIONAL CENTER
P.O. Box 97
STEWART, NEVADA 89437

SOUTHERN NEVADA
PRE-RELEASE CENTER
301 SOUTH HIGHLAND DRIVE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

February 11, 1977

Senator Cliff Young
Nevada State Senate
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Senator Young:

At your direction we have prepared an analysis of the feasibility of establishment of the Public Works Camp for Prison inmates. It is my opinion that the attached proposal is feasible and practical. The greatest problems facing the Prisons are population and inmate idleness. The Public Works Camp will contribute to easement of both of these problems.

The proposal has been prepared as a joint effort of the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Nevada State Prisons. Should you require further information, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Wolff, Jr.
Warden
Nevada State Prisons

CLW/MLM/lh

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A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC WORKS CAMP

A feasibility study has been done and a definite need for mobile camp work crews for the Nevada Division of Forestry has been established. Nevada State Prisons inmates are constantly available to staff these crews for the Nevada Division of Forestry at a very low cost.

Initially it is proposed that four 10 man crews co-supervised on a 24 hour a day basis by the Nevada Division of Forestry staff and by Nevada State Prisons staff be established. These crews will be housed in house trailers in order to provide for optimum mobility when relocation of a camp becomes necessary. It is proposed that the camp be initially located in the Pinenut Range. 40 of the inmates will be assigned to work on supervised work crews; 8 inmates will be assigned camp maintenance responsibilities.

The cost of this proposal to the State over and above the requests by the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Nevada State Prisons is \$402,648 in general fund support through July 1, 1979. The attached budget explains the cost of this proposal in detail.

PUBLIC WORKS CAMP
BUDGET PROPOSAL

Revenue	Fiscal Year Ending June 30,		
	1977	1978	1979
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 80,500	\$ 168,787	\$ 153,361
Project Income		40,000	40,000
Total Revenues	\$ 80,500	\$ 208,787	\$ 193,361
Salary Expenses			
Forestry Foreman II - 2 positions	\$	\$ 23,974	\$ 25,292
Correctional Sgt. - 1 position		15,037	15,864
Sr. Correctional Officer - 1 position		11,464	11,987
Correctional Officer - 3 positions		30,093	31,458
Salary Expense	\$ -0-	\$ 80,568	\$ 84,601
Fringe Costs @ 21%	\$	\$ 16,191	\$ 17,766
Total Salary Expenses	\$ -0-	\$ 97,487	\$ 102,367
Operating Expenses			
Office Supplies and Expense	\$	\$ 250	\$ 300
Operating Supplies		3,068	3,549
Insurance Expense		1,517	1,517
Equipment Repair		1,760	2,036
Utilities		8,000	9,000
Maintenance of Bldg. & Grounds	2,000	1,210	1,300
Vehicle Operation	5,000	6,864	7,550
Clothing and Uniform Expense		5,423	5,535
Medical and Dental Expense		17,338	19,263
Stipends and Travel		2,588	2,606
Food		28,282	29,838
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 7,000	\$ 76,300	\$ 82,494
Equipment Expense			
Crew Truck - 2 needed	\$	\$ 35,000	\$
Maxi Van	8,500		8,500
Living Units	24,000		
Administration/Recreation Units	24,000		
Specialized Equipment	8,000		
	\$ 64,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 8,500
Site Preparation	\$ 9,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 80,500	\$ 208,787	\$ 193,361

PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS UTILIZING INMATE LABOR

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of implementing public work projects utilizing inmate labor is to match the potentially productive but presently idle members of the inmate population with necessary public work projects within Nevada.

II. GOALS

The goals expected are to:

1. Decrease idleness within the inmate population by involvement in meaningful public work projects.
2. Reduce the cost of public work projects using low cost inmate labor.
3. Teach job skills to inmates which will be beneficial upon return to society.
4. Instill the work ethic and the pride of accomplishment in the inmates involved.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of the program are:

1. Inmates will leave the prison equipped with a useful job skill and a life pattern which incorporates the work ethic necessary to join society.
2. Public work projects currently limited due to high labor costs will become cost feasible due to the utilization of low cost prison inmate labor.

IV. POTENTIAL USERS

The potential users include all public service departments of Nevada State government. It is anticipated that this program could primarily be used by:

1. Nevada Division of Forestry
2. Nevada Division of State Parks
3. Nevada Department of Fish and Game
4. Nevada Highway Department

V. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation will require a commitment by the Prisons and the Public Service Department to provide staff, labor, operating resources, and equipment for the program. The Prisons can provide support for three categories of inmate crews. These are:

1. Day crews - 8 to 12 members
2. Portable Field Crew - 16 members
3. Permanent Field Crew - 50 to 75 members

The Prisons commitment for these crews will be to provide security staffing necessary for inmate supervision, inmate laborers to staff the crews and living expenses of the inmate laborers.

VI. TIME TABLE

The time table for activation of the programs is anticipated to be:

1. Day Crews can be activated immediately upon funding.
2. Portable Field Crew can be activated immediately upon funding.
3. Permanent Field Crew can be established upon funding by the portable field crews.