

EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELFARE & STATE
INSTITUTIONS

JANUARY 25, 1977

The meeting was held in the Administration Building of the Nevada State Medium Security Prison at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 1977, with Senator Jack Schofield as Chairman.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield
Senator William Raggio
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator William H. Hernstadt

ABSENT: Senator Joe Neal, Vice-Chairman
Senator Richard Blakemore

HOSTS: Charles Wolff, Jr. -- Warden, Nevada State Prison
Michael Medema -- Nevada State Prison
Bill Lattin -- Nevada State Prison

The meeting was brought to order in the Conference Room of Medium Security Prison with Warden Charles Wolff as host.

Senator Raggio asked Warden Wolff if there had been any follow-up of the appropriation made in the 1975 Legislative Session for the restoration of Fort Churchill. Warden Wolff said that the Park System approached him two (2) months ago but had no definite plans. However, the Warden said that the Ad Hoc Committee of inmates were very enthusiastic about the block buildings, and felt that this might be able to work into higher types of construction for some of the more responsible inmates.

Senator Hernstadt asked if there was any type of industrial projects for the inmates who are not allowed on the outside for work. Warden Wolff said this is not currently in the statutes, however, the Department is trying to formulate a bill to provide a 'state use' law (which should be in the Education, Health, Welfare and State Institution's Committee).

Senator Hernstadt said that he would like to see inmates employed by the Highway Department for road finishing. The Senator commented that the Highway Department has complained of lack of personnel, and inability to increase staffing because of lack of funds (due to the inability to increase the Gas Tax). The Senator said that the income could go partially to the inmates as wages, and partially to the victims as restitution.

There was some discussion among the group as to the negative response to prison industry by organized labor. However, Senator Raggio said that he felt the benefits awarded to the penal system would far out-weigh the complaints of organized labor.

Warden Wolff said that he would support such industry legislation, and also said that there shouldn't be a significant impact on the labor market.

Mr. Michael Medema said that S.B. 116 was the "work" bill, and was currently being amended to include the provisions for victim restitution.

Warden Wolff said that the manufactured items would not be sold to the private sector, but only to State Institutions. Also, the Warden commented that this could only save money for the State.

Senator Raggio asked about the recent riots in the Maximum Sector. Warden Wolff said that two blacks tore up the Hobby Room, and on the way over assaulted an Indian and a white man because they felt they weren't getting what they wanted. There was also a plan to cause an assault in the dining room, and in the process they 'viciously' took the lives of two black men who were in no way involved. Warden Wolff attributed this unrest to idleness, which could be solved by the above industrial proposal. The Warden said that, "we need to give them a work habit, and a job skill".

The Senators were then taken on a tour of Medium Security where they were escorted by the Ad Hoc Committee of inmates.

At Medium Security the following areas were viewed and discussed:

- a) The cold and hot water problem.
- b) Old mess hall -- Coffee Shop
- c) Bake Shop
- d) Forestry classes
- e) Tailoring
- f) Welding, Body Shop
- g) Mattress and Upholstery Shop
- h) Living Quarters -- 12 men to a room

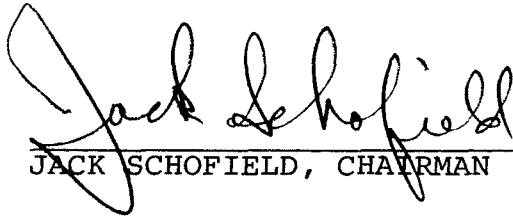
Members of the Inmate Ad Hoc Committee questioned if they couldn't be taught practical skills that could be used on the outside. One member said that perhaps there could be bartending and card-dealing classes.

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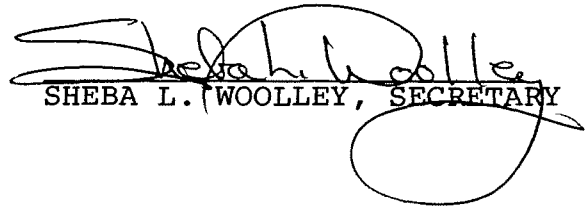
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The Senators were then taken to the Maximum Facility where they observed the License Plate Factory, the Mess Hall, the cell blocks (including "death row"), as well as, the Women's Facility.

The Senators returned to the Legislative Building at 10:45 a.m. for session roll-call.



JACK SCHOFIELD, CHAIRMAN



SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY