

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, WELFARE  
AND STATE INSTITUTIONS

MARCH 2, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 1977, in Room 323. Senator Jack Schofield was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield  
Senator William Raggio  
Senator Richard Blakemore  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator William Hernstadt

ABSENT: Senator Joe Neal

GUESTS: Warden Charles Wolff, Nevada State Prison  
Michael Medema, Financial Director, Nv. State Prison  
Dorothy Frehner, Sociologist

S.B. 239

Warden Wolff said that the prison administration supports this bill in concept and application, but wanted paragraphs 5 and 6 eliminated based on the fact that the administration needs flexibility for control of the program.

Senator Schofield asked if the Warden will establish some basis of eligibility for the visitors? The Warden said the visitors will have to be legitimate relatives, and the prisoners will have to be inmates that show reasonable conduct, participation in prison activities and interested in self-improvement.

Senator Schofield asked about the affect of this program on single prisoners? The Warden answered that the single prisoners can have a continuance of a family relationship with brothers, sisters or grandparents.

Senator Schofield asked if this type of visitation would increase the drug traffic? The Warden said that inmates who were suspect of trafficking drugs would not be able to participate in the program.

Senator Blakemore asked if this was done in other states? Warden Wolff said that in one form or another, it was being done in twenty other states. The Warden added that the program would be for everyone eligible, except prisoners on 'death row'.

Senator Hernstadt asked how many of the prison population were married? The Warden answered 50%, and he agreed with Senator Hernstadt that this might help in the problem of homosexuals.

Michael Medema, Financial Director of the Prison system, presented the Committee with the Prison's estimate of the fiscal impact of this legislation, (Exhibit "A"). The Warden said this funding would be for three (3) units at Maximum and Jean, four (4) at medium, and one (1) at the Women's facility.

Senator Raggio questioned the Warden about the programs used in other states. The Warden said that the program was started in Mississippi, and all participating states use either a furlough or overnight type of visitation.

Senator Hernstadt asked if any foundations were contributing funds to this program? Warden Wolff said not at this time.

The Warden emphasized that the two major goals of prison rehabilitation efforts was to establish a work ethic in the individuals, and to try and maintain a family unity.

Senator Faiss asked if this would have any affect on possible rioting? The Warden said the inmates might hesitate to become involved in any conflicts, because they would risk losing their visiting privileges.

Senator Blakemore felt that the prisoners should not be allowed too many rights, and perhaps some consideration should be given to comparison of others who have been separated under causes not created by their own actions, i.e., construction workers and servicemen.

Senator Raggio said that he felt that prisons were for three things, punishment, protection of society and rehabilitation. Senator Raggio continued to say that the prison population is not usually made up of first offenders, and in the past he has not been able to see much development in the area of rehabilitation. The Senator said that the punitive impact of the prison should not be lost, and perhaps this might cause a problem with pregnancy, both in the wives of inmates, and in the female inmates themselves. Finally, the Senator felt that the money in this program could go to more worthwhile efforts. Warden Wolff re-stated that he only supported this bill in concept, and in the prison system there has to be a series of priorities. Senator Raggio submitted a letter he had received last session from a woman who's husband was an inmate, and she seriously states the reasons she is against the enactment of this type of legislation, (Exhibit "B").

Ms. Dorothy Frehner, a sociologist, said that she would present documentation to the Committee that showed in studies of other prisons that conjugal visits relieved tension, and helped diminish homosexuality.

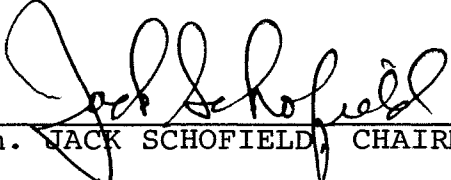
Chairman Schofield asked the Committee to consider possible introduction of legislation dealing with community education, (Exhibit "C"):

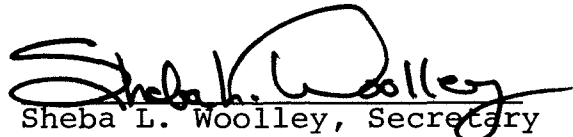
Senator Raggio: Motion to adopt as Committee introduction.

Senator Faiss: 2nd the Motion.

The Motion passed. (Senator Neal was not present for the vote)

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

  
Sen. JACK SCHOFIELD, CHAIRMAN

  
Sheba L. Woolley, Secretary

Date Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE AGENCY ESTIMATES

Date Prepared February 23, 1977

Submitting Nevada State Prisons

Revenue and/or Expense Items	Fiscal Note 1976-77	Fiscal Note 1977-78	Fiscal Note 1978-79	Continuing
Salaries		\$ 47,532	\$ 49,909	\$ 52,404
Operating		39,600	41,778	44,076
Equipment	\$158,400			28,800
Site Preparation	27,500			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$185,900</b>	<b>\$ 87,132</b>	<b>\$ 91,687</b>	<b>\$125,280</b>

Explanation (Use Continuation Sheets If Required)

To permit overnight or extended visits at the Prisons it is anticipated to require: (1) Nevada State Prisons - 3 trailers and 1 counselor; (2) Northern Nevada Correctional Center - 4 trailers and 1 counselor; (3) Nevada Womens Correctional Center - 1 trailer with the Nevada State Prison counselor in charge; (4) Southern Nevada Correctional Center - 3 trailers with 1 counselor. The trailers will have an average life of five years requiring a replacement schedule to begin within the third year of operation replacing two trailers per year. All expenses will need General Fund support.

Local Government Impact YES  NO   
 (Attach Explanation)

Signature

Title WARDEN

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT  
 (Legislative Counsel Bureau Use Only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT "B"

1960 Helena Street  
Reno, Nevada  
323-5186  
March 19, 1975

Nevada State Assemblymen  
Nevada State Senators

In Re: Nevada State Prison Bills

Senate Bill 353

My dear friends:

The introduction of your newest bill on the Nevada State Prison and allowing cohabitation of their mates at the State Prison, will present many future problems for families, guards, administrators, the inmates themselves.

As a wife of a prisoner, I would like to introduce to you some of the situations the State of Nevada will be facing should this bill pass.

1. Consider the single inmate, how would the unmarried inmate feel not being allowed to have sexual activities because he is single.
2. To many married woman, sexual relations with their mate is a very personal, intimate occasion. How many wives would be uncomfortable making love to their husbands in a prison? Love-making to a mate should be made in the privacy of their own bedroom where it is blessed, maternal and comfortable. Many women would freeze at the thought of making love in a prison, not to speak of where another couple and hundreds before them made love in the same bed. How would one explain to their child in later years that they were conceived in a prison?
3. With husbands in prison, how many women with lower incomes or presently living off the welfare roles, will become pregnant, and up go the welfare tabs for another mouth to feed.

At the present time the Nevada State Prison is run by a HOME AWAY FROM HOME system. The comfortable home at the Nevada State Prison is an incentive for anyone to get into trouble and run from responsibilities. It is my opinion, if the husbands were so concerned about their wife, they wouldn't be in prison to begin with.

At the present time, the prison system continues to get lenient by the day. It is run like a boys High School or a Boys Camp. When it is analyzed, it is not the fault of the Administrators who are governed by orders from the Governor and the Judicial System. Where does the fault lie? People who cry over every little detail if their little Boys School isn't run the way they want it run, because their little darling is mistreated. There is now a public telephone booth available at the prison. How many arguments does that cause when husbands are checking up on their wives consistently, with accusation with or without foundation.

Why am I concerned about the Nevada State Prison? Because I, like many wives would like to take advantage of the time to see a reform system for our husbands so that they would not be habitual in their acts and accept life with its love, gifts and responsibilities.

For example, my husband, Grant L. Crumley, before I knew him, spent time at the Nevada State Prison, 9 days after I married him, he is again returned to the Nevada State Prison on a parole violation. Each of these two times, he spent only one year, each time did not learn his lesson, returned to society and did the same thing over again.

I stuck by my husband the last time he was in prison because I was newly married and thought I could offer him security of love and finances which would change him and make him more secure, however, after five years of being married to him, I found the more I gave, the more I was expected to give, whereas, from love it was whatever he expected of me from habit until I could not afford the luxury and maintenance any further.

During this course, instead of working like most men, paying bills which my husband doesn't know the first thing about since he can con anyone out of anything, it was many times he would say, "PRISON IS SO EASY" - meaning- free room and board - no responsibilities.



My husband is now in Washoe Jail, facing five counts of robbery and assault & battery. The one time he got caught not to speak of all he did do and not get caught. He is actually looking forward to going back to prison where he is treated like a KING. No responsibilities - no bill collectors, no problems as the State has the problems. On this trip, had he been able to get his hands on a gun, someone would have been killed. Since the Nevada State Prison is run like a REST HOME instead of a PRISON, can there not be some solid commitments made at the prison to make it a prison instead of a luxury? The way the system is run now, and I imagine the prison must go along with the Administrative rules set forth by Judiciary systems, does this make the prisoner a solid and responsible person when he comes out. In my case, I know my husband better than anyone, he can con anyone with his baby-face and succeeds everytime. Assuming he will get a 1-5 year sentence on April 7th, he will serve another year, be out and back to the same thing all over again. With the prison system being a luxury, it would be my opinion that the amount of returnees would be high. How many people can I give you a list of names who have been taken by my husband over the past four years he has been out that I had to buy him out of or get him out of trouble, keeping going until finally he was caught. He is even looking forward to going to Carson City because he has no responsibilities there. Does this make a prisoner a responsible person for society? What does it do to wives and children to watch something like this?

How many wives only concern is a hope to wait, with hopeless promises from their husband how they will be good, and at the same time, there is no rehabilitation problem because the poor little dears might get educated that there are other ways to getting things in life without robbing. I feel that a systems analyst should be engaged by the State of Nevada to study the problems of the prison. Those of the Administration, those of the employees, those of the prisoners, those of the families.

Prisoners aren't going to cut their own throat and say how comfortable it is there, but you will sure hear from them when they have something to grip about.

My intentions in writing this letter is because I care about what happens to my husband as other wives care, and sometimes we must hurt someone we love to bring them to their senses. A year in prison will not teach my husband not to go back when he has already had a year each time, plus he has been in trouble since he was 15 years old. A rest home will not help him because the next time he has a hard time on the outside, he will not then have the responsibility to know how to handle a situation and will take the easy road out, going back to Prison. For his own good, I want it so hard on him this time that he would think twice before acting like a two year old and get into further trouble again so he would not go back to Prison. He is a model prisoner which gets him out of Prison everytime, but he is also a model con-artist, a model irresponsible person, a model drinker, gambler etc.

My husband is 40 years of age, I am the only one left who cares what happens to him. If I should leave him, he would be lost without a friend in the world. At 40, a many should have a career for his old-age, a future, security, responsibility. If he isn't taught this time in prison to hape up, he won't make it the rest of the way in life. If he continues to have a lovely home in Prison, he will not be able to cope with the world and you will have him back again with an excellent possibility of a more serious charge. I would hate to be an Administrator or even a guard at that prison with the public rying how mistreated the poor darlings are when the prisoners, have a BOYS CAMP going for them.

This is my last shot in trying to help my husband because as it stands with the prison system as it is, there isn't any reason why I should wait and go through the heartaches and expense that I have been through the past six years. If the prison systems is not a reform system, there is no cause for a wife to wait for the impossible to happen, listening to promise of being good that are broken the minute an inch of freedom is given. On this trip to Prison, it will take tremendous convincing and a show-me attitude for me to continue with a marriage as I, like many other wives have had.

My job as an Employment Counselor, gives me the opportunity daily talking to parolees and it is shocking listening to their attitude after being in prison. They all admit it is like a High School for boys there, with no rehabilitation problems solved. Whether they are fit for society or not, they are released as they have good time in and were good little boys at the prison.

The divorce rate on prisoners will climb because a wife can see her husband is being a good little boy for the guards and prison, but is as unrehabilitated as a thirty dollar bill. By being a good boy, they get out of prison so they can have their fun again.

Is it fair to bring further children into the world of an already existing nightmare that wives are up against when their husbands are in prison? Will there marriages make it after a man has already been in prison. Very few unless he has profited by his mistake which is unlikely with the system too lenient as it now is.

When you cast your vote on this bill for cohabitation, as most of you are men, it would be difficult to put yourself in a womans place but would you like to make love to your wife and conceive a child in prison, the coldness of the atmosphere, the public domain for a bedroom. How many wives are going to be confronted with DUTY AND OBLIGATION by their husbands rather than for the love of sexual relations for which God intended?

If this letter can help families of prisoners, I am glad that I wrote it because it will help save marriages if the prison system is changed, and give a woman a reason to wait but if the prison continues to be run as a BOYS CAMP, a family has nothing to look forward to upon the release of the prisoner but future headaches with a tremendous possibility of a returned prisoner to enjoy his irresponsibilities further at the cost of the State of Nevada.

Isn't it an incentive for you or I to break the law so we could have a comfortable home at the Prison and not worry about housepayments, bills, income, children, food, responsibilities?

It would be greatly appreciated if you would be kind enough to take this letter to heart when you vote on the cohabitation bill.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marianne Theresa Crumley*  
Marianne Theresa Crumley  
Wife of Grant L. Crumley  
323-5186

COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOLUTION  
approved by  
The State Board of Education  
on February 24, 1977

WHEREAS, Community Education has the potential to foster lifelong learning experiences that are meaningful and relevant to children, youth, and adults in the school, the home, and the community, and

WHEREAS, Community Education relies heavily on the people becoming involved in the determination of their needs and desires and share in the decision-making, planning, and implementation necessary to meet those needs and desires, and

WHEREAS, Community Education attempts to make maximum use of all available resources in a community in an effort to provide meaningful and accessible services to all members of a community, and

WHEREAS the Nevada Revised Statutes provide for cooperation between and among agencies by allowing political subdivisions to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance of various governmental functions as defined in NRS 277:045, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Nevada Legislature endorses and supports Community Education and encourages governmental agencies and organizations to enter into cooperative agreements that will foster Community Education.

JON:mm