

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1977

The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A. M.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator Eugene V. Echols
Senator Norman D. Glaser
Senator Norman Ty Hilbrecht
Senator Thomas R. C. Wilson
Senator C. Clifton Young

OTHERS: Charles L. Wolff, Jr., Warden, Nevada State Prison
Michael L. Medema, Business Manager, Prison
Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Deputy, Fiscal Analyst
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Judy Matteucci, Budget
Cy Ryan, UPI

Mr. Barrett explained that the prison budget is now broken down into 5 separate budgets. Senator Lamb asked the warden to speak. Mr. Wolff said he would just make a few introductory remarks and let Mr. Medama answer questions in detail as to the budgets.

Mr. Wolff said this is the budget which has been recommended by the Governor. It represents the needs of the system; it is austere in ~~the~~ effect that it contains the operating needs which are felt to be necessary for the system during the next two years. Mr. Medema gave each of the Senators a memo on the budget presentation.

Mr. Wolff explained that they were trying to provide additional facilities for proper housing for the inmates; develop and expand the work and training programs and, as much as possible, to bring back the work ethic into the institutional setting. They wanted to develop physical and administrative responsibilities and controls in all of the institutions incorporated under the present system and as much as possible to prepare the inmates for their return to society.

The budget represents 5 areas:

1. The Directors Office
2. Nevada State Prison
3. Northern Nevada Correctional Center
4. Nevada Womens Correctional Center
5. Southern Nevada Correctional Center

The overall budget is looking at an increase in the population within the prison system. That has occurred now and is greater than was initially anticipated. He referred to the breakdowns on page 2 of the memo giving statistics on this. The capital improvement program is also outlined in detail on page 2 of the memo.

Mr. Wolff stated that they wanted to involve themselves in projects that have meaningful results. Some of these projects are listed on page 3, and the details of the 5 budget areas are listed on pages 4 and 5. Mr. Wolff said he thought it best if Mr. Medema reviewed the budgets and answered any questions the Committee might have, unless they had questions they would like to direct to him.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR - NEVADA PRISONS: Due to expanding areas of responsibilities, including widening geographic areas, it is recommended the Nevada State Prison's accounting maintenance be broken down by institution to provide closer control and supervision over each institution's budget.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1977
PAGE TWO

This account is the main administrative account for the Nevada State Prison System. It includes the warden, business manager, personnel offices, food manager, maintenance supervisor, and their related staff plus all professional, medical, clerical and library personnel.

Mr. Medema discussed the new positions requested and the needs for them within the system. He explained that the psychiatrist position was authorized in an earlier budget but they could not fill it so they were using contract services. However, they now felt they could fill the position and they were asking that it be restored in the budget. He explained the \$93,000 listed under Crime Commission in the budget, saying that this was originally intended for 10 correctional officers. When the warden joined the staff in August, he changed the concept and asked that this money go into programs such as vocational training and yard programs. The Warden explained that one of their training courses had been approved by the Community College for 8 credits to any individual that takes the basic training course that was presently being offered. Senator Glaser asked if they could get any matching federal funds for vocational training. The Warden said they did not know but they were exploring the possibilities

Mr. Medema explained the Stipends and Travel item in the budget and said they were not related. The stipend was used to pay inmates for work. This amounted to about \$1,000 a year. The travel referred to the transportation of prisoners from jails and other facilities to the prison system.

Senator Lamb asked about the drug problem at the prison. This was discussed in detail: the availability of drugs and methods of controlling their entry into the prison, such as trained dogs. The Warden said they had a drug problem at the prison, not as serious as in most prisons about the country but one on which they had to practice surveillance 24 hours every day. He said the drugs used in the Nevada prisons were generally pills and marijuana. He felt it would be impossible to control the entry of drugs to the prison as long as there were visitation rights and general access with deliveries to the prison. He said they had some programs planned and this budget would allow them to carry them out. He particularly endorsed a correctional officer search and seizure team that could be used on a full time basis who would be able to work on control of areas where there was a suspicion of drugs being introduced and the particular people from the outside they suspected of bringing them in. This team would work with intelligence agencies in the local community because there is a tie-in with who has drugs available, where they are getting them from and how they get into the institution. Also he felt that they should establish drug programs within the institution for the inmates. He believed that it could be controlled better than it is being controlled today; there is sophisticated equipment that can be used. He said the possibilities were endless and he hoped he could give a more positive report to the Committee in another two years.

Senator Young asked about the OBSCIS program. Mr. Medema said this was a federal grant initially. It will give the prison authorities information on when people are sentenced, how long they are in; it will track them while they are in, give the institution to which they are assigned, any problems they have, when they go on parole and what their success rate is. The program is in operation now. For the first year of the biennium it will be federally funded; beginning the last year the state picks up half of it in the general fund. Mr. Medema stated that at present there is data available but it has never been brought together, never consolidated so it is useful. This program will give the state information as to value received from the money being spent.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1977
PAGE THREE

Senator Young asked if there was any indication of any federal money now in operation what would be cut off in the near future. Mr. Medema said they had no knowledge of it. Senator Glaser asked if they kept records from the time the prisoners went in, their training, their probation and their return, if they did or did not. He asked if this was in the file or on a computer. Mr. Medema said this is part of what they are doing with OBSCIS, trying to get computerized so they don't have to go back and hand reference everything they want to evaluate on the statistics that are available.

In answer to Senator Wilson's question he explained that the \$138,000 listed in the budget is money generated from other states. Generally if they get a man from California, they send one back so that it is a trade-off. This is known as outside agency care. The \$102,000 is money the state pays to other states. The difference in the figures comes from money that they receive when they take extra men from other states, when they have space available. Senator Echols asked if the structure at the maximum prison created problems. The Warden replied that it did. The prison was very restrictive, no separation of housing. It was a patch work of additions done to support the population.

NEVADA STATE PRISON: In this budget of the prison, which served as the maximum security facility for the Prison system, the funding breaks down as follows:

Power: This is reimbursement from the Department of Motor Vehicles for power used in manufacturing license plates.

Parke Davis: As in other prison accounts, this revenue represents reimbursement from Parke Davis (a plasma laboratory/corporation) for the costs incurred in conducting a plasmapheresis program at the Nevada State Prison and the Northern Nevada Correctional Center, including salaries for custody personnel at the Center, and operating costs. Each donor receives \$4.75 per plasma donation.

The other expenses come under salaries and operating expenses. Mr. Medema said that meals are made available at the institution for the employees to decrease traffic of people in and out of the institution. These meals generate some funds into the system.

Mr. Medema discussed the new positions requested and explained the needs and uses for various items of new equipment that had been requested.

Senator Hilbrecht asked about the modification of the existing facilities at maximum or the possibility of building a new facility. He asked if this would impact the budget. Mr. Wolff said it would not, this budget was static. He discussed the alternative of remodelling or building new and indicated that he could live with either.

The cost per man at the maximum prison was discussed, and the numbers who would be housed there until the new facility at Jean was ready for occupancy. Mr. Wolff said he felt a realistic projection would be 300; the authorities would be pleased if they could hold it at this level. At the time the new facility is completed it will decrease the population at maximum because some men are presently housed there who do not belong in maximum. Senator Wilson asked if the new facility would be operating, in part, as a maximum prison. Mr. Wolff said, as he understood it, these facilities would take care of people from Clark County. The diagnostic facility would accommodate 25 and this would be a holding area. When classified, the maximum prisoners would be sent to Carson City to the maximum prison.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1977
PAGE FOUR

NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER: This prison serves as the Medium Security Institution for the prison system. Mr. Medema explained the funding in this program, the new positions requested, the operating budget, the use and needs for mechanical equipment. This prison has an 1100 acre farm and the income generated from this operation comes from the sale of milk to the Children's Home, the State Hospital and the excess cattle sales. Senator Glaser mentioned that the dairy farm showed a profit; Mr. Wolff said he would rather discuss the dairy farm in two years. He did not feel they were doing as much as they should be doing with the facilities and he wanted to take a look at it and see how it could be built up to employ more men and increase the profits of the operation.

Senator Hilbrecht asked about the teaching program. Mr. Wolff said they are providing remedial teaching for illiterates, for people who need vocational orientation, math, vocational English, whatever is needed. This is a regular academic program.

The population of the prison was discussed. Mr. Medema said the cost was about \$8,400. per inmate at this prison, exclusive of capital investments.

Senator Glaser asked if they had figures on the rehabilitation ratio; of those paroled, how many come back. Mr. Wolff said they had no accurate figure, using a rule of thumb they think it fluctuates somewhere around 45%. Senator Glaser asked if they could keep accurate records on this so the Legislature could determine if the money they were spending on these programs was successful or not. Mr. Wolff said with the computer they hoped to always be able to have current projections.

The subject of correctional officers was discussed. Mr. Wolff said he believed there was about a 25% turnover, which was not excessive by some standards but he felt it was excessive of what it needed to be. He said a part of this was the salary. After they trained a man, he had offers to go elsewhere at more money and he left. In answer to questions he said the men were hired by sheriff's offices, by parole and probation, by state agencies and in other areas where their experience and training were needed.

Senator Lamb asked for the ratio of staff to prisoner and Mr. Madema said it was about 3 to 1.

SOUTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER: The construction of this facility is currently underway and is projected for completion in the spring of 1978. The facility is designed for offenders who are trainable and relatively unsophisticated in crime. This facility will house 250 inmates.

Mr. Medema explained the budget and the staffing. There are no real full time positions in this budget as some of the present employees will transfer to this facility when it becomes operational. The date of completion is still uncertain. They are presently recruiting for the positions that are difficult to fill, but are doing no new hiring. There were no questions on this budget and the Committee moved on to the next budget.

SOUTHERN NEVADA PRE-RELEASE CENTER: This center is operated in Las Vegas. It is federally funded. The program was designed to take individuals that were less than 6 months from being released into the Community and phase them in. Due to the classification problems and restrictions upon who could be sent down, they determined that the program was too costly and it will be discontinued in fiscal year 1978 - 1979.

NEVADA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER: Mr. Medema went over the budget and said there was not much for the ladies to do and there was no training being given them. This was the reason they wanted to hire two teachers, on a part time basis. One in the business type training and the other in the home economics field. He said they needed more staffing in the control center of the institution. Some women who live in the cottages work in state offices in town doing clerical work. In answer to a question, Mr. Wolff said that women were more responsive to instruction and change and they seemed to benefit more from a correctional experience than men do.

Senator Lamb asked if there was a trend to parole people to lessen the burden on the institutions. Mr. Wolff said he had not seen any indication of this.

Senator Young wondered what kind of capital improvement program had to be considered in the near future. Mr. Wolff said he could not even guess, they would have to look at it during this year and look at the situation a year from now. He cited legislation being introduced that he felt was significant that could have a specific impact on the prison population.

Senator Glaser asked how many were on death row. Mr. Wolff said three, but the law is in jeopardy so he did not feel there was anybody there right now. They would wait until the Attorney General's office said they were still on death row.

Senator Lamb directed the Committee's attention to S. B. 116. Mr. Wolff stated that the intent of the bill was to provide a more effective, organizational structure in the administration of the correctional system. It places increased emphasis on the integrated operation linked to a variety of classification requirements and programs and the need for a coherent and consistent administrative and legal frame work to cope with the demands that are placed upon the correctional institutions today. It brings into perspective some of the things recommended by the legislative audit and other things that are just good sound organizational steps to run a correctional system. There are four fundamental areas. The obligation to protect the public by providing institutional confinement and care and training. To provide persons in correctional institutions with adequate educational and vocational counseling and training in other services so they are prepared to be placed effectively back into the community and earn a livelihood. Upgrading of the correctional institution in services really deserves a priority consideration at the present time because of the fact of the population problems confronting prison authorities. And hopefully through good programming it will be possible to impact more of the youthful first offenders into preventing them from going into careers of crime. The correctional institutions services should be diversified and programmed to personnel, to facilitate individual custody care and training and to meet the needs of the major portion of the population. It also takes in some refinement of putting safe guards into the areas of accounting and fiscal control throughout the institutions and administrative offices. It consolidates a number of things.

Questions followed on the bill. Senators Hilbrecht and Wilson were concerned with some of the language in the bill. They recognized that it was not in the province of the budget area but they felt it should be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee. Senator Lamb said they could refer the bill to the Judiciary. Senator Young suggested that they read the bill in detail. Mr. Wolff said as he understood the bill, there were no substantial changes, it was just putting it all together; so in terms of fact there is now a Department of Prisons instead of the Nevada State Prison.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1977
PAGE SIX

It refines the terminology and it sets up a couple of areas refining the department's accounting. It incorporates legislation introduced at the last Legislature. This was voluminous and it has been refined down. He said he felt it was a good bill and refines a lot of areas. It streamlines the Department in terms of being able to have a good fiscal approach to what needs to be done.

General questions on the bill followed.

S. B. 116: Establishes the Department of Prisons. Senator Young moved that the Committee refer the bill to the Judiciary; Senator Hilbrecht seconded and the motion passed.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR - NEVADA PRISONS BUDGET: Senator Young moved the Committee approve the budget; Senator Wilson seconded and the motion passed.

NEVADA STATE PRISON BUDGET: Senator Wilson moved that this budget be approved; Senator Young seconded and the motion passed.

NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER BUDGET: Senator Young moved the budget be approved and Senator Hilbrecht seconded. The motion passed.


SOUTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER BUDGET: Senator Glaser moved that the budget be approved; Senator Hilbrecht seconded and the motion passed.

SOUTHERN NEVADA PRE-RELEASE CENTER BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved the budget be approved; Senator Wilson seconded and the motion passed.

NEVADA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER BUDGET: Senator Glaser asked what the number of correctional officers requested in this budget was based on. Mr. Barrett said it was based on the ratio of 1.6 for staffing. Senator Glaser moved that the number of new correctional officers be reduced from 4 to 2. Senator Young seconded the amendment and the motion passed. Senator Glaser moved for approval of the budget as amended; Senator Echols seconded and the motion passed. Senator Lamb announced that the meeting scheduled for later in the day at 12:00 noon would have to be postponed until 1:00 P. M. Senators Young and Wilson said they would have to leave at 1:30 P. M. Senator Lamb said he thought they could finish the business in half an hour. Senator Lamb reminded the Committee that they were scheduled to go to Lahontan at 12:30 on Tuesday. He also announced that the Finance Committee would meet at 8:00 A. M. on Friday as there would be a quorum available. The meeting could be scheduled from 8:00 A. M. to 11:00 A. M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A. M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


MURIEL P. MOONEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN

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

BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Nevada State Prisons has grown to the status of being a prison system composed of:

1. Directors Office
2. Nevada State Prison
3. Northern Nevada Correctional Center
4. Nevada Womens Correctional Center
5. Southern Nevada Correctional Center

The mission of the Prisons is:

"To provide proper supervision of the persons entrusted to our care, to meet their basic human needs, and to provide meaningful programs that will instill values essential in the development of positive change in attitude and behavior."

Recent events have brought to the public's attention the crowded conditions of the Prisons. The primary problems faced by the Prisons are where to put inmates and how to keep them active. The population problem is addressed by the Governor's recommended operating budgets for the Prisons and the capital improvements. If the Governor's proposals are enacted, the Prisons will have temporary relief of the problem of over population.

To assist your understanding of the magnitude and seriousness of the population problem, we have prepared the following occupancy chart.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity</u>	<u>Operating Capacity</u>	<u>Feb. 1, 1977 Population</u>	<u>Population Projected</u>	
				<u>FYE 6/30/78</u>	<u>FYE 6/30/79</u>
N.S.P.	460	350	401	352	476
N.N.C.C.	512	450	505	512	512
N.W.C.C.	48	40	48	52	60
(1) S.N.C.C.	250	220	-0-	240	240
(2) S.N.P.R.C.	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total	<u>1,305</u>	<u>1,095</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>1,156</u>	<u>1,288</u>

This does not include over 90 inmates in outside treatment, court appearances, or housed in other states for security purposes. Obviously the present facilities are inadequate.

- (1) Available 3/1/78
- (2) Program ends 9/1/77

If you enact the Governor's recommended capital improvements, the picture changes as follows:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity</u>	<u>Operating Capacity</u>	<u>Population Projected</u>	
			<u>FYE 6/30/78</u>	<u>FYE 6/30/79</u>
N.S.P.	460	350	366	350
N.N.C.C.	602	530	530	570
N.W.C.C.	48	40	52	60
S.N.C.C.	<u>350</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>308</u>
Total	<u>1,460</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>1,156</u>	<u>1,233</u>

This does not include over 90 inmates on outside treatment, court appearances or housed in other states for security purposes. The \$14,000,000 plus in capital improvements leaves the institutions 60 inmates over operating capacity within the biennium. The populations are based upon present trends. Legislation proposed this session such as AB 182 calling for determinate sentencing and a birth of legislation strengthening prison penalties for offenses, if enacted, will significantly impact the Prisons population. Each inmate added by these measures will cost approximately \$8,400 per year or \$23.00 per day while in the institution.

The problem of how to keep inmates active while in prison is partially addressed in the Governor's operating budgets. The primary goal of this administration is to teach the inmate a job skill and respect for the work ethic. The amounts recommended for inmate programs will provide the prisons with minimal resources to engage in projects such as:

1. Mattress production - This program was initiated by the Prisons this winter. We now have the ability to produce our own mattresses at half the cost on the retail market. \$5,000 invested in used equipment will be recovered prior to the end of this fiscal year. If allowed to engage in prison industries, further projects will be undertaken. We have submitted a request for legislation allowing Prison Industries which we understand will be introduced to this Legislative Session.
2. Land development - This program is being implemented at the State Prison on 5th Street. We have inmates draining the swamp area in front of the Prison to develop a visitors park. The border of the park will consist of a rock wall from the Prisons old rock quarry. We have inmates working in the quarry cutting rock blocks by hand for the wall at the present time.
3. Roadside cleanup - Potential exists for roadside cleanup crews of prison inmates. The inmates could engage in cleaning up litters and trash along side Nevada's highways thus easing the eyesore of littered streets and roads.
4. Forestry Field Camps - We are in the final planning stage for starting up forestry field camps for inmate crews. We hope to have 30 to 50 inmates engaged in this program within a year.
5. Fort Churchill Restoration - The last Legislature appropriated funds for the restoration of Fort Churchill and other projects. Included in the plans was to have the inmates of the Prisons make adobe blocks for the restoration. This program has not been implemented at the present time but is a type of program that fits within the goal of teaching a job skill and respect for the work ethic.

The following are brief descriptions of the components of the Prisons system:

1. Director's Office - The basic components for the Director's office include the Warden's office and immediate staff. The medical staff shared by the three northern institutions, professional non-medical staff shared by the three northern institutions, and the Business Office of the Prisons. Four of the staff included in the Director's Office staff are assigned to the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. These staff are under the control of the Business Office to facilitate our control of the finances during the two year decentralization of financial responsibilities. During FYE 6/30/77 the Prisons initiated a decentralization program which has resulted in cost awareness by the staff of the institutions. This program is proving successful beyond initial hopes. Within two years, the Prisons will be able to accurately project the costs of operating of each institution.
2. Nevada State Prison - The Nevada State Prison is the old prison facility located on 5th Street in Carson City. The institution has buildings constructed prior to 1900 around an old rock quarry. Inmates within this institution have few activities available. This institution has been slated for abandonment or major rejuvenation by the Governor. He has left the decision to the Legislature.
3. Northern Nevada Correctional Center - The Northern Nevada Correctional Center is located near Stewart, Nevada on approximately 1,200 acres of land. The facility was built in the mid 1960's as a medium security prison. Included in the institutions operations is the dairy farm which supplies milk and dairy products to the Prisons, the State Mental Hospital and the State Children's Home.
4. Nevada Women's Correctional Center - The Nevada Women's Correctional Center is located adjacent to the Nevada State Prison. This institution houses all female inmates of the State of Nevada. The population projections for the institution exceeds capacity. The Prisons has initiated "honor housing" in former prison residences for inmates assigned jobs outside the institution.

- 5-
5. Southern Nevada Correctional Center - The Southern Nevada Correctional Center will be operational about March 1, 1978. This institution is a medium security prison planned to program youthful offenders. All intake and reception of inmates from Clark County will occur at this institution.

Further growth of the Prisons system can be expected until at least 1985 based upon the national indications.

(Please Print)

Names	Organization	Address	Phone
CARL LOVELL	C. LAS VEGAS	400 E. STEWART	386-6201
Ron Lurie	"	"	386-6405
Don SAYLOR	"	"	386-6011
Bill Wood	STATE Parks	Nye Building	885-4370
John Richardson	State Parks	" "	" "