

Committee in session 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 Thomas R.C. Wilson
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Clifford E. McCorkle

ABSENT: None

OTHERS Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Charles Wolff, Jr., Warden, and Director of Department of Prisons
Michael L. Medema, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Prisons
Cy Ryan, United Press
John Rice, Associated Press

Senator Lamb asked Warden Wolff about the site for the new prison. Warden Wolff replied the five possible sites consist of an area adjacent to North Las Vegas, next to the new institution at Jean, Reno or Washoe County, adjacent to the institution at Stewart, and Ely.

There are reasons why some of those sites cannot be used. Reno has a space and water problem, and also here in Eagle Valley (space and water problem). The two most practical sites are Ely, and adjacent to Jean. They have just acquired 480 acres from BLM at Jean. Both Ely and Jean want the new prison. Unless there is a water problem at Jean, those two areas are the most practical.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS - Page 801

Capital Improvements

79-1 Miscellaneous improvements, Northern Nevada Correctional Center and Women's Correctional Center, Carson City. This is for a fire alarm system and alternate fuel system; expansion of the walk-in freezer; and an expansion of the closed-circuit television system. - \$427,300.

79-7 Medium Security Prison - Ely. A projected medium security prison for approximately 400 male inmates and the capability to expand to 600 male inmates. The proposed site is approximately 10 miles north of the City of Ely.

Warden Wolff stated there has been some discussion that if it is at a different site, there is going to be a variation in the cost. The Public Works Board estimated that if the prison were located in the adjacent area of North Las Vegas, it would cost \$23 million. If it was located on the ranch at the institution at Stewart it would be \$20 million. They (PWB) are currently estimating a cost for the site at Jean. As of March 13, they did not have a figure.

Senator Glaser asked for projections on operation of the facility. Warden Wolff said he could do it in general terms, but not specific dollars and cents. He stated that, basically, the practicalities of it would be more economical if it was established in an area adjacent to one of their existing institutions.

The Budget Office estimated earlier this year that there was going to be a serious impact on budget dollars if the prison is established in one of the rural areas.

Senator Wilson asked when the Budget Office came up with their analysis. Warden Wolff guessed December or January. Ron Sparks explained that they (Fiscal) are, at the request of a legislator, preparing a cost estimate for various locations. Mr. Sparks repeated that it is very difficult to get accurate and meaningful information.

Senator Wilson asked why the Committee had not been provided any cost estimates, if the Budget Office had some figures since December or January. He stated there should be a hearing, and have that analyzed by the Department of Administration and the Finance Committee.

Senator Lamb mentioned that there is a capital improvement department and this is their job. They should be brought in to go over all these tentative sites and give the committee the overall package.

Senator Wilson said the last time they were in, they handed the Committee an analysis and his reaction at the time was that it was superficial. They agreed, and were going to come back with what the costs really were.

Senator Lamb reassured the Committee that the next analysis won't be (superficial).

79-8 Activity building, Women's Correctional Center, Carson City. A kitchen-dining hall complex with craft, music, activity and recreation facilities. The kitchen was originally designed to feed 17 people. - \$1,767,000.

79-9 Emergency Power Systems, Nevada State Prison and Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Carson City. One emergency generator, two automatic transfer switches and a stand-by portable emergency generator. - \$292,000.

79-12 Psychiatric Unit, Northern Nevada Correction Center, Carson City. This is a housing and treatment facility for inmates requiring psychiatric care. - \$1,352,000.

79-14 Expand education building, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Carson City. This is an addition containing classrooms, faculty offices and related facilities. - \$692,000.

79-15 Vocational building, Women's Correctional Center, Carson City. This is for multi-purpose classrooms and shop facilities for occupational training. - \$705,000.

79-18 Fourth Vocational Building, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Carson City. This is a multi-purpose vocational shop building. - \$696,000.

79-39 Medical Dental building, Women's Correctional Center, Carson. Infirmary facilities for examination and treatment. - \$138,000.

Michael Medema, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Prisons, presented their one-shot request, Assembly Bill 326, in the amount of \$200,458. It is for special use equipment, after remodeling of the maximum security unit. It is composed of security equipment which includes 36,000 lineal feet of razor wire, television monitors, and walk-through metal detectors, in the amount of \$55,096. It includes an X-ray unit for the hospital ward in the amount of \$70,000. It includes an entertainment center for the housing units, and equipment for transportation. It also includes a laundry panel truck, two station wagons, 2 pickups, and an alternating fork-lift. It also includes \$15,000 to replace their radios at the institution and provide radios for the housing units.

Mr. Medema explained that their next one-shot appropriation, Assembly Bill 328, is for equipment at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center in the amount of \$201,900. This also includes an X-ray package scanner for \$19,000. They use it to scan all incoming mail to inmates. It also includes a 5-yard dump truck for \$17,500. He stated it is impractical to have only one truck to bring back and forth between the northern and southern centers.

There is a mistake on page A21. Under the northern Nevada Correctional Center at the top of the page, the third item for the correctional

officers is not requested for the Northern Nevada Correctional Center. This was requested for the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. They have had a problem with staff turnover at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. Employees are complaining considerably about commuting the 60-mile round trip to the institution. These funds will be used to purchase a bus to be used in transporting employees to and from work.

They have requested a transportation van for the Northern Nevada Correctional Center to assist them in transporting inmates to the work projects that they have outside the institution. The laundry equipment in the amount of \$100,000 is to replace equipment that was purchased approximately 14 years ago. A cream separator is for the dairy farm. Additionally there is a 1-1/2 ton refrigerated truck to deliver milk from the farm to the Northern Nevada Correctional Centers and the Nevada State Prison as well as the Children's Home and the state mental hospital.

The next one-shot item is A.B. 363 for the prison warehouse fund. Through purchasing, they have 90-120 days to purchase their goods. The storage space inside the institution is inadequate. They requested that a fund be established using inventories at that time as the balance of the fund. It has not been successful and they would like these funds for the operating balance in the fund.

The next appropriation requested was in A.B. 533 in the amount of \$3,500. They requested that the department's revolving account be used for inmate release monies. They requested the account increase from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

On budget Page 823, they had a supplemental request in A.B. 73 for \$448,505. It represents a request for additional funds based on the inmate population. The population has continued to exceed their projections. They are requesting \$93,125 for increased costs at the Southern Nevada Correction Center. S.B. 274 covers the increase in utilities at Jean. S.B. 208 covers the warden's request for perquisites which were eliminated in error by the last legislature.

Finally, they requested funds for the salary of a psychologist hired as an emergency, at the request of the parole board.

Budget Page 482 is the evaluation of the number of inmates they expect to receive and release. The population will go up 19 percent. Presently all beds are full. In the next 2-1/2 years they will have to double bunk.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS

Office of the Director - Page 484

This office includes all central personnel and financial management, central food services, buildings and grounds and the central records office.

They have requested funding for a prison mediator and a secretary. The purpose of the mediator is to represent the inmates in matters dealing with the administration. They have requested a position of an accountant for the inmate trust fund to aid in handling all the inmates' personal finances while they are incarcerated. They also have requested a senior account clerk to work on their payroll system. Also needed is a pharmacy assistant. These positions are recommended by the Governor.

Senator Gibson asked Mr. Medema to explain the insurance increase. Mr. Medema stated this is billed out by the Department of Administration. They give the prison the guidelines as to what the department should include in the operating budget. Mr. Barrett explained this is due to an increase in insurance rates.

Senator Gibson asked about the travel increase. The prison has two transportation vans that handle the intake of the prison system.

This is the operating cost of operating the vans plus the cost of when they have to go out of state to deliver inmates to other prison systems.

Warden Wolff stated that the law requires that within 5 days of notification, they must pick up the prisoners from any sheriff's office.

Senator Wilson asked about the reduction in Contractual Services. Mr. Medema stated that the current work program is based upon an increase in cost. They have to pay the doctors on a contract basis at about \$30 an hour.

Senator Glaser asked about the aircraft expenses in the Equipment category. Mr. Medema explained that this is a typographical error. It should be Equipment Rental.

Senator McCorkle stated there seems to be an increase in data processing. Mr. Medema explained the increase in data processing is due to the 1977 legislature granting \$70,000 to convert the inmate trust fund from a hand posting system to a computerized system, which is now operational. However, it must be expanded because of the increasing prison population.

Southern Nevada Correctional Center - Page 488

This is an institution that was originally designed for 250 inmates that was expanded by the 1977 legislature at their request. They have over 330 inmates today and they expect to exceed the 350 bed capacity late this year. To do this they have to double-bunk inmates.

Mr. Medema stated that with the approval of the Governor's Office and Budget Office, they are adding 2-1/2 positions. One of the problems they are having is lack of direct supervision out of the director's office and therefore they are asking for an institutional business office. They are also asking for a half-time position for a reference librarian and they are requesting a half-time psychologist.

Mr. Medema said there is an increase in the utility account. In order for Peter Simon to recover his expenditures for the water system, he has requested substantial increases in water rates.

Senator Lamb asked if it was true that they bring all prisoners to Northern Nevada for a short time. Warden Wolff answered that all of them are brought here so that all of them get the same type of orientation.

Senator Wilson asked about the medical/dental increase from \$130,000 in the Work Program to \$182,000. Mr. Medema said the Governor's recommendation is based on a system of average cost per inmate. The increase is for the increased number of inmates.

Northern Nevada Correctional Center - Page 492

This is a major institution operated by the department. It has a designed capacity of 612. They have had in excess of 730 inmates in that institution.

Senator McCorkle asked about the problems of double bunking. Warden Wolff said the problem is that it's done without the consent of the inmates and eventually the Federal court requires so much space for each inmate.

Nevada State Prison - Page 497

This prison is referred to as "Max". The most significant increase in this budget is an increase in personnel in the second year of the biennium. These positions are necessary to man the facility upon completion of the renovation project. These housing units will give them a stronger control on the inmate population.

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Senator Lamb asked about the education. Mr. Medema said the education at maximum security unit is limited to a GED program with some high school courses being offered.

Honor Camp - Page 501

The 1977 legislature appropriated funds for the prison to re-establish the Honor Camp. They selected a site immediately adjacent to the Northern Nevada Correctional Center between the institution and the farm. They started out with 36 men in house trailers. They had originally planned to have a kitchen out there. They are requesting funding to increase the capacity of the Honor Camp from 36 to 72. This is one of their more successful programs which is at the direction of the State Forestry Division. Last session there were 2 forestry crews and now there are four. The stay at this camp is from 90 days to 6 months.

Senator Lamb asked if it was cheaper to keep them in the Honor Camp. Warden Wolff said after they get established it cost about half as much as it would in an institution.

Senator Jacobsen asked about using inmates in Buildings and Grounds. Warden Wolff said they are talking about a controversial thing. He said he is for it. He said that if the program is going to begin, it should be started the same way they started the Honor Camp. There has to be a correctional supervisor in charge of outside workers. The honor camp could be expanded to 100 beds.

Senator Lamb asked how far they could go if they had the money. Warden Wolff said they could probably accommodate, for the next biennium, up to 200 people statewide.

Nevada Women's Correctional Center - Page 503

Up to about a year ago, they had a population of 28. They have six cottages they are using for housing inmates, in addition to the institution, and the population is now over 95. They are adding a cook and a vocational instructor. They are also adding 8 correctional staff. The kitchen was originally designed for 22 and now they have to expand it.

New Prison - Page 507

They need four positions to start it. These people will be designing the programs to be offered at the new prison, supervising construction, and starting to recruit the employees. The housing units will be built first, and it is expected to be completed in late 1981.

Prison Warehouse Fund - Page 510

There is a one-shot appropriation requested to establish a cash balance. This is a flow-through account.


Senator Wilson requested projected estimates on medical expenses for all of the prisons.

Senator Lamb requested a study on the operating costs of locating the new prison at various sites. He also requested a water study on these sites.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:


Carol Lee Chavez, Secretary


Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

A G E N D A

Senate Committee on Finance

Date Wednesday, March 14, 1979

Time 8:00 a.m. Room 231

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
Requested*

Budget Page 482-510

Department of Prisons

*Please do not ask for Counsel unless necessary.