

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bremner
Vice Chairman Hickey
Mr. Bergevin
Mr. Brady
Mr. Coulter
Mr. Glover
Mr. Horn
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Marvel
Mr. Rhoads
Mr. Robinson
Mr. Vergiels
Mrs. Westall

Speaker Barengo

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst
Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Charles Wolff, Director of Prisons
Mr. Perry Comeaux, Department of Prisons

Chairman Bremner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS

Mr. Perry Comeaux, Assistant Director, Department of Prisons, addressed the budgets and stated that the Department of Prisons uses a curve fitting technique in projecting inmate populations, taking into consideration data gathered from the past, applying a mathematical formula and projecting the data into the future. He stated that certain inaccuracies have shown up in this method of calculating prison population because the data supplied to them has been inaccurate. He added that the Department is attempting to secure a graduate student from the University system to assist them in building a better model to project future populations, but this project has not been finalized. He commented that the inmate populations that developed for the upcoming biennium have been distributed among the institutions, and the budget figures have been computed on those projected figures.

Mr. Comeaux stated that the operation categories for the budget accounts are generally requested on the systemwide average of fiscal year 79-80 expenditures with inflationary rate of 22% and 10% added in. He added that a few of the line items in the operating category are based on the 79-80 expenditures at the specific institutions and adjusted for inflation. He stated that supplemental amounts are added into some of the requested figures. He stated that the contractual services line item is based on a list of specific contracts which will provide for maintenance agreements on equipment and other necessary services which cannot be provided by the Department personnel. He added that the law library category for each institution is based on a minimum that the Department is required to provide by court decision.

Mr. Comeaux stated that the inmate recreation program request includes funds for each institution to maintain the general reading library and to purchase recreational equipment for the inmates use.

Southern Nevada Correctional Center

Mr. Comeaux stated that the Governor's recommended budget provides for the continuation of 127.5 of the existing 139 positions,

the transfer out of 2½ medical positions and one Chaplain and one Counselor II, the transfer in of three Storekeepers and one Principal Account Clerk position and the deletion of seven positions. He further stated that the positions recommended for deletion are one Licensed Practical Nurse, two Counselor I's, two Cook III's, one academic teacher and one Sergeant; the recommended new positions are one Heat Plant Engineman, one Lieutenant, one half a locksmith to be shared with the Southern Desert Correction Center, one Registered Nurse and one Personnel Technician. He commented that a salary differential of \$6.60 per day in fiscal year 1981 and \$7.26 per day in fiscal year 1983 is included in the figures indicated because of the extensive commute of the employees.

Mr. Comeaux stated that in addition to the inflationary increases explained above supplemental amounts are being requested in janitorial supplies, security expense, equipment repair, buildings and grounds maintenance, vehicle operation, inmate transportation, radio maintenance. Mr. Comeaux referred to a handout that was distributed and is attached as an exhibit to the minutes of February 5, 1981, for further detail in the supplemental areas.

Additionally, Mr. Comeaux stated that the funds requested for education category is for the acquisition of materials and supplies for academic and vocational education programs. He added that a separate one-shot appropriation requests funds for the acquisition of equipment for the vocational program.

He stated that in the inmate recreation program the funds will provide for magazine subscriptions, additional books for the reading library and additional funds for sports equipment.

He added that the funds requested for utilities provides for substantial rate increases for water and sewer, adding that the company that provides these services has asked for a rate increase, which, if approved, will increase water rates 82% and sewer rates 95%.

Chairman Bremner asked why six color television sets at an expenditure of \$3,000 should be replaced and asked their age. Warden Wolff stated that the sets are 2½ to 3 years old and added that the sets are operating from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. in most instances. Chairman Bremner stated that the institutions had better plan on fixing up the sets instead of expending funds to purchase new ones.

Mr. Robinson asked who grants the water rate increases. Warden Wolff stated that PSC grants these increases, adding that if the rate increases are not granted, they will return to the expenditures of \$170,000 to \$200,000 per year. He stated that an increase was just recently granted and the owner of the services is now requesting an additional increase.

Mr. Robinson stated that Mr. Simon, the owner of the water and sewer services, in originally offering his land for construction of the prison, made many promises for supplying such services to the state. Mr. Robinson asked if any contracts were secured for the supply of water to the institutions at that time. Warden Wolff stated that the original agreement the legislature considered and accepted was found not to be enforceable in several areas, stating that subsequently Mr. Simon's business became a public utility. Mr. Wolff explained that in so doing he negated the original agreement and applied for and received rate increases basically skipping out of the contract.

Chairman Bremner asked for Warden Wolff's thoughts on a proposal to buy the system. Warden Wolff stated that there are

four options: pipe water in and bypass Mr. Simon's system; put a utility equivalent to his side by side and have it owned by the state; buy Mr. Simon out; and go on as is being done at the present time.

Chairman Bremner asked why the Governor was not recommending the proposal to purchase the system. Mr. Alastuey stated that the capital improvement proposals being recommended by the Governor are principally repair, maintenance, and renovation of existing facilities; the only recommended proposals for acquisition or construction are for new housing units for the prisons. He said because this acquisition was not for new housing, it was not given priority. Chairman Bremner stated that this priority just doesn't make sense, stating further that if the state were to buy the system, it appeared as though a major savings would be made in the long run. Warden Wolff stated that in talking with Howard Barrett, he made a recommendation of having a bond issue to acquire the money to buy the utility, stating that this would be the most feasible way. Mr. Alastuey stated that this is not the type of proposal which could lend itself to a bond issue, several problems being that the interest rate that was available to municipal AA's at the time was 9 5/8 and is beyond the ceiling at which the state can float, the cost is relatively high and the bond market is poor at this time. Mr. Alastuey stated that if the interest rate were raised, reconsideration could be given to the buy out suggestion.

Chairman Bremner stated that reconsideration should be given to the purchase proposal because benefits far outweigh the detriments when compared to the way we are doing it now.

Mr. Marvel asked what the utility would cost to be purchased. Warden Wolff stated that the purchase figure was \$1,464,000, excluding the cost of additional staff to supervise the utility and maintain it; adding, however, based on the new rate of increase, it would pay for itself in six or seven years.

Mr. Bible added that correspondence was received by the Public Works Board that the price of the system is now \$1.6 or \$1.8 million. Mr. Comeaux added that this price does not include the well.

Mr. Robinson asked if the tapes of Mr. Simon's testimony would still be available, stating that it would be beneficial to listen to the tapes at this time, since it appears that Mr. Simon has not kept any of the agreements he made six years ago. He stated that he would like to see the State of Nevada build a facility right beside Mr. Simon's adding that he resented Mr. Simon's approaching the legislature and softsoaping them into putting the prison on his land and then turning around and charging exorbitant utility fees. Mr. Alastuey added that the purchase figure does not include all components of the system necessary to deliver water, adding that the water rights and the well itself would still be another factor to consider. Mr. Wolff stated that Mr. Simon would not release the well rights, but would sell the water to the state for use in the institution.

Mr. Robinson asked if anyone could estimate the cost of tapping into the Las Vegas Valley water system with an above ground pipeline. Warden Wolff stated that he has heard everything from \$15 to \$25 per foot up to \$1,000,000 per mile, adding that even at these prices, it would pay itself out in a 20 year period.

Mr. Hickey asked for additional information concerning the new Lieutenant position. Warden Wolff stated that this will

bring into balance the number of sergeants and lieutenants that there are in the different institutions; adding that overall, there is a net loss in the number of positions in this institution over the work program level. Additionally Mr. Hickey asked why the salary of the new lieutenant is recommended to be lower than that of a sergeant. Warden Wolff stated that the figures in the budget for the new positions are entry level figures, further stating that the person will be promoted and his salary will be raised in the same manner as any state employee. Warden Wolff stated that the sergeant that would be promoted as a lieutenant would normally go into that position at a 10% raise. Mr. Alastuey stated that this is a new hire position and it is budgeted at entry level, when in actuality it may well be that an existing position in the system who qualifies at a slightly higher salary level by virtue of their advancement and step increases, could be hired at a slightly higher level.

Mr. Hickey asked who is now doing the locksmith work at the institution. Warden Wolff stated that the locksmith that is assigned to the Northern Nevada Correctional Center is doing the work; adding that the request for the 1/2 time locksmith for the Southern facility is because they will have as many locks as in the North. Warden Wolff added that 90% of the locks are worked on at the prison.

Mr. Hickey asked who was performing the duties of personnel technician and prerelease supervisor at this time. Warden Wolff stated that staff currently employed within the prison are performing these functions. Mr. Hickey asked that the subcommittee look into this.

In addition, Mr. Hickey questioned the change from an LPN to an RN. Warden Wolff stated that the Southern Desert Correctional Center's original plans included an infirmary to accommodate the population. The Governor's Management Task Force recommended this be deleted and that anyone with a problem serious enough to require hospitalization be transferred to the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. The requested RN will provide adequate medical coverage 24 hours a day.

Mr. Hickey asked how many television sets were in the units and whether the institution is required to provide telephones for the inmates. Warden Wolff stated that there are two television sets in each unit, one on each side, and also that the institutions are required to provide telephone service for inmates. He said that there are pay phones in the institution for this purpose and the phones are placed there at no cost to the state.

Mr. Horn asked what it would cost to build the water plant. Warden Wolff stated that figures from the Public Works Board indicated that it would cost \$1.5 million to build, adding that it would probably cost at least as much to buy the existing plant not including the well. Mr. Horn asked if the state could drill their own well. Mr. Wolff stated that this could be done with authority from the State Engineer. He added that in California, approximately 15 miles from the institution, a coal generating plant is being built and 150 wells will be drilled, thus tapping drastically into the basin's water storage and perhaps effecting the water supply for the institution.

Mr. Glover asked if the quality of the water is what is corroding the pipes at the institution. Mr. Wolff stated that this is correct, the water is very acid and it eats up

the metals that it is being passed through. He added that a study is being done with the Public Works Board to determine what the damage has been to the system. Mr. Glover asked if it is possible to sue Mr. Simon for not providing good water as he agree to do. Mr. Wolff stated that this would be up to the Attorney General.

Mr. Vergiels asked if Mr. Wolff received a copy of the letter he sent to the Governor relative to the drug usage and narcotic problems in the institution. Mr. Wolff stated that he did receive this letter and that several employees were questioned and took polygraph tests. Subsequently several people resigned their positions. He added that screening on hiring has been tightened and spot shakedowns have been implemented as examples of the procedures that have been implemented to curb problems. Mr. Vergiels asked if the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance's drug-sniffing dog has been used. Mr. Wolff stated that the dog has been used at least once in all of the institutions and is becoming more available for use.

Mr. Vergiels asked what has been done to tighten up the personnel selection procedures. Mr. Wolff stated that the screening and personnel interviews are very thorough, including a background investigation on each employee. He added that sometimes these procedures were done before hire and some after hire.

Chairman Bremner asked if the theft of food from the institution has been curbed. Mr. Wolff stated that the controls are in, the inventories are set. Additionally Chairman Bremner asked what the cost per inmate is for food. Mr. Wolff stated that for the first six months of this fiscal year, the cost for food per day was \$2.42 per meal at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center; \$2.40 at NSP; \$2.31 at NNCC; and \$2.04 at NWCC. He added that the meals operate on a 21 day master menu cycle, excluding the women's facility which requires more salads, etc.

Mr. Hickey asked for further information on the holiday pay line item in the Southern Nevada Correctional Center budget. Mr. Comeaux stated that this is pay for custody officers, nurses, and cooks that have to work on holidays. Mr. Hickey noted that the holiday pay being recommended is almost double the amount spent in fiscal year 1979-80, and two cooks are being recommended for elimination from the budget. Mr. Alastuey stated that the charging policy for holiday pay in the actual year differs from the budgeting policy in fiscal year 1982-83. He directed the attention of the committee to a narrative on page 628 explaining the holiday pay procedures.

Mr. Robinson noted the increase in the stipends and travel recommendation and asked if this includes tobacco for inmates. Mr. Wolff stated that tobacco is provided for indigent inmates and those inmates under psychiatric care, diagnostic reception and protective custody. Mr. Robinson asked how much is spent on tobacco per year. Mr. Wolff stated that he would provide this information to the committee.

ONE SHOT APPROPRIATIONS

Verbatim Transcript

MR. WOLFF: The \$25,500 is moneys that we requested for equipment for vocational training at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center -- that equipment specifically was to purchase some small tools and equipment so that we would be able to take and provide vocational training for the individuals that are interested in certain categories down at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. What's our breakdown of equipment? The bakery, automotive repair, landscaping, building trades, laundry and dry cleaning are the areas that are included in that. Bakery was for \$5,200, automotive repair \$4,000, landscaping for \$2,800, building trades for \$9,500, laundry and dry cleaning for \$4,000. In the bakery that includes a mixer, bread slicer, bakery pans

and cooling racks. Auto shop would be tire changer, alignment tools and power impact tools. Landscaping, spray compressor, edgers, trimmers, lawn mowers; building trades, paint compressor and spray gun, power hand tools, drills, sanders, saws and routers, radial arm saw, band saw, drill press, felt sander and table saw. The laundry is four sewing machines and those are used to train them on sewing machines and also to repair the inmate clothing in the institution. The total is \$25,500.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Are you aware of the subcommittee report? It states that in the 1977-79 biennium \$60,000 was appropriated for education materials and \$55,000 of it was spent in other areas.

MR. WOLFF: I am.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Is this material that we have appropriated money for before that we are having to buy now?

MR. WOLFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just one more time I will say this and I think it's going to fall on deaf ears, but I used that money in those accounts on a priority basis: I either fed them and clothed them or I bought tools, and I decided to feed and clothe them based on the budget constraints that I had, and that the --

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: I know that the transfers were approved. I'm not insinuating that you did something illegal.

MR. WOLFF: Okay. But we certainly did that and if we had used that money in the right way we would have bought tools with it.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Well, that just that - you know - we come up with a budget. We appropriate money for certain things and then all of a sudden it is spent in other areas. It's kind of frustrating for us as committee members to see this go on.

MR. BERGEVIN: If we approve these, and you get these things in place, are these going to reflect a savings in your other budgets, food department, automotive repair department and the laundry department? Or are we just dishing out something for these guys to play with? Is it going to reap a benefit to the State of Nevada?

MR. WOLFF: Well basically they are education.

MR. BERGEVIN: You are going to help the prisoner. Are they going to help the budget otherwise? What are you going to do with the bread you bake, throw it out the door, or use it for prisoners? What are you going to do with the automotive repair, farm your automotive repair out or are you going to let them do it?

MR. WOLFF: We'll use the bread for the prisoners and if we have the tools to do it, we are going to do all of our own maintenance. For example, the one that is easily apparent is in the laundry. If we buy four sewing machines we are going to repair the clothes and reissue them instead of throwing them away.

MR. BERGEVIN: There ought to be some cost effectiveness in this.

MR. WOLFF: I think there will be gains, but the preliminary deal is to teach them how to use it.

MR. BERGEVIN: You know it's really great to take tax payer's money and dish it out to somebody just to be dishing it out.

MR. HORN: What are the possibilities of a food strike in Northern Nevada Correctional Center? Are there possibilities of food strikes?

MR. WOLFF: Sure.

MR. HORN: Is it because of the quality of food or just because of the treatment in general.

MR. WOLFF: Well, there is a variety of things, one of the things that we have done, we were asked to cut back our food costs and we did and part of the food cost cut back was to take and feed less. The three things that you are going to deal with in institutions that usually surface are food, medical and general conditions. Those three are the three that will be in any group of things you want to resolve. We may have, we have had a minimal amount of this sort of thing. We had one last year down in Southern Nevada based on the fact that we pulled our menus back to a point where they were quite rigid. We continue to take and try to do as well as we can with -- we feed good meals, they are nutritious meals, and generally speaking our meals will compare pretty well with the menus around the country, better than some.

MR. HORN: Twenty-one day cycle?

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

MR. HORN: Could we see copies of the menus for the last 21 days or whatever the current cycle is?

MR. WOLFF: Certainly.

MR. HORN: Will you provide this to the subcommittee for each institution?

MR. WOLFF: Well, they are all the same, it will be the same menu.

MR. COULTER: I'm curious about what happened to the work program that Jan Stewart headed last time in the judiciary. Does this reflect part of that? You remember we saw the movie and you were there testifying about how we were going to get the inmates doing things so they could make enough money to pay for or do some of the things to help pay for their keep.

MR. WOLFF: With who?

MR. COULTER: Jan Stewart introduced the bill, you came and testified last time, it was a work program dealing with prisoners getting employment with the prison system so that they could raise money and I'm just curious if this is part of that or what the status of that is.

MR. WOLFF: I'm sorry. The industry bill that passed is what you are addressing.

MR. COULTER: Yes.

MR. WOLFF: Right, we have a -- during that period of time recognizing that that bill had no money attached to it in other words -- Well, I said I'd take it without the money, and I

received it and we didn't receive any funding for it but we have developed a complete furniture line, we have our own mattress factory now that produces all of the mattresses for the institutions. We have developed an office furniture line now that we are selling. We are producing 90% of the furniture we are using in the prison system, and we are having routine orders from other tax supported agencies throughout the state coming in now. We are producing a good deal of these products. Part of it is produced in our metal operation, part of it is done in upholstering and furniture making. In addition to that, we have worked with two firms from outside that come in to our institutions and have worked with us on a competitive basis having the inmates receive minimum wages or better. They worked out quite well but production fell off in those particular factories, and they decided not to continue and of course they shut off some months ago. The experience was a good one. We have had people working in factories in Carson City and in Las Vegas in terms of commercial industry receiving competitive wages and so forth -- that's worked out quite well, some of it is ongoing at the present time. Depending upon how much an individual makes, a percentage of their pay is charged to what we call institutional maintenance -- in other words we are charging them for keeping them once they start making minimum wage or better and it's worked out quite effectively. They have had money in their bank accounts for release purposes, they have been able to take care of their needs, they are better equipped to go back out into the community and generally speaking it has been a good experience for the staff and for the inmates that are participating in the programs. It's working and we are expanding it -- it's just how fast can we expand on limited dollars. There is a line item in our budget that addresses the prison industry revolving fund and that will be coming up.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, how many inmates are in the prison in Southern Nevada?

MR. WOLFF: 451, I believe, is the count in Southern Nevada Correctional Center.

MR. HICKEY: Alright, would you give me a breakdown on how many people are in each vocational program. How many are in the bakery program?

MR. WOLFF: If you want a breakdown of the various programs, Mr. Hickey, I'd have to get that for you. I don't have the figures, I will, sure.

MR. BERGEVIN: I'm looking in the section for \$409,000 and then \$46,000 for an additional law library collection and also in the Desert Correction Center you have the governor recommending an additional \$6,200 for law library. Are we, by law, required to put a law library in every state institution.

MR. WOLFF: Yes sir. That's case law.

MR. BERGEVIN: You mean the governor's budget recommendation of \$6,200 plus \$46,000 in a one-shot?

MR. WOLFF: Well the \$46,000 I would believe that is the Southern Desert Correctional Center isn't it, yes. We took and had our librarian pare this down to the bottom line, in other words, this is the least number of volumes and the least number of subscriptions that we could have to meet the minimum requirement for a law library as stipulated by case law, by federal law.

MR. BERGEVIN: He's got money both in the governor's budget and in the one-shot, I'm wondering if both of those are necessary.

MR. ALASTUEY: The one-shot is intended to cover initial acquisition costs of the volumes which should be on hand at Southern Desert. The program statement for Southern Desert indicates that the first year is strictly for subscriptions and in the second year an increased amount for replacement, supplements concerning the volumes originally purchased, two separate things.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: The prisoners are stealing the law library.

MR. WOLFF: It's not a preferred matter with us, it's just a matter of law.

MR. COULTER: I'm curious about, in terms of the library, do the books have to be physically in place at each prison or can't you operate like libraries normally operate? You want a particular book, you call the library and they get it from another library. Isn't that possible?

MR. WOLFF: No, not basically when you have a long term institution. They have decided that you will have an acceptable library meeting minimum requirements in place in that institution. No, see, within the institution people can check the books out to various locations, but that library has to basically be in place in that institution. It, for an example, if we have the restitution center or an honor camp, these people don't have a law library as such. Those type people, if they were requiring use of the law, or something, they would have to be removed from that particular activity and put back in a long term institution so they would have access to it.

MR. BERGEVIN: Could you furnish me with the federal statutes and regulations that cover that.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Yes, I wish you would and I would also suggest to Mr. Horn that your subcommittee look into the possibility of doing what Mr. Coulter is suggesting until the feds tell us that we can't. Let's go on to the next appropriation for the Department of Prisons, Southern Desert Correctional Center, \$409,430.

MR. WOLFF: This is basically the \$409,430 recommended to purchase start up equipment, as well as the initial collection of law library books and library books for the Southern Desert Correctional Center general library. It should be noted that the recommended appropriation provides for equipment other than that provided by the Public Works Board furnishings budget and the Public Works contingency fund for the Southern Desert Correctional Center. A detail of these is a sedan for administration of \$6,000, two transportation vans for \$22,000, a 20 cubic yard compacter, a trash compacter truck, a used fire truck, a half-ton compact pickup, two to three yard trash compactors, hand tools and equipment, electric warehouse forklift, four pallet racks, one floor scale, two hand trucks, \$109,408; two heavy duty vacuum cleaners, one industry wet-dry vacuum and six floor buffers, 12 laundry carts, \$8,150; radio equipment, pager units and base station, \$23,696; custody and security equipment, rifles, shotguns, revolvers, handcuffs, belly chains, and so forth, \$8,985; ID equipment which includes cameras and other supplies, \$1,825; pharmacy equipment, \$950; office equipment which includes typewriters, calculators, cassette recorders, etc., \$17,428; education and vocational equipment, \$43,500; recreational equipment \$13,100; initial collection

for the law library, \$46,146; initial collection for the library books in the general library is \$15,000; culinary equipment at \$72,399; medical and dental equipment at \$20,843, for a total of \$409,430.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: You, no doubt, read the Task Force recommendations?

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Are you familiar with the recommendation 141?

MR. WOLFF: That states --

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: That's the one that says that you are building an infirmary and small hospital in the Southern Desert Correctional Institute and were not using the one at Jean?

MR. WOLFF: We crossed that off, it's been replanned and we're not going to take and have anything but a basic examination and minor treatment area, all of the people are going to be transported to Jean.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Then we can take that \$410,000 and pay for this, is that right, we can just transfer?

MR. WOLFF: I don't know, that's in Public Works so --

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Would you inform Mr. Hancock that that's what we intend to do?

MR. VERGIELS: I was wondering if the prisoner's are stealing these small items, etc., isn't there some way you can actually project out a steady rate upon which they are stealing so that as you come back from time to time you're not just coming in to replace, and then you tell us because the prisoners are doing something with it. Ought to be able to project it out like you do any kind of attrition -- must steal at a steady rate.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Vergiels, I'm not saying my prisoners are stealing anything, they can't steal something if it's never been given to us. Such as at Jean. We've never had hand tools and equipment and things like this, and basically I think the theft of tools is a very minor item by in large, because there isn't enough to steal.

MR. VERGIELS: The reason I'm asking the question is because when the prisoner's were able to cut that fence out here, they obviously were able to steal a small hand tool.

MR. WOLFF: We are fortunate to have a lot of construction work going on at the present time. There's vehicles inside with tools on them every day, and there is little question in our mind but what the inmate lifted a tool from one of the workmen's truck or tool box or from one that was laying there where they were working. That's the problem of having people working in a maximum security institution at the same time you are housing inmates.

MR. VERGIELS: Maybe that's why their construction estimates are so high because they take into consideration the number of items that will be lifted while they are inside the grounds.

MR. WOLFF: If you will review the construction budget for all the institutions that we have been building and working on

in this state, you will find that everything we have done at the maximum security prison has come in over budget. It is more expensive in that institution than any other institution we've got. No question, and I don't know that that is part of the contingency for their bid, but --

MR. HICKEY: Maybe we are just in semantics here, but I keep seeing vocational education programs, vocational educational equipment, and in this recommendation 139 it says to seek recommendations from the State Department of Education regarding vocational education activities. I assume that that was agreeable with you. This is the kind of thing that irritates me seeing these terms appear, have you read this?

MR. WOLFF: Yes, I have, but Mr. Hickey we're not talking about vocational training. The thing that I addressed to the chair yesterday -- Well, let me correct the statement first. As I addressed the chair yesterday, I have no objection to some other agency or school district or whatever taking over our academic programs, and that's what I addressed. I did not address vocational education, we expect to continue with that and naturally work in cooperation with the Department of Education, but we expect to have continued some vocational training throughout the system. Ultimately--

MR. HICKEY: It says here the Department of Prisons operates a number of vocational education programs including auto repair, auto body shop, dry cleaning and laundry; however, none of these activities offer substantial potential future employment, nor are they cost effective. Now, hereafter, if we continue to use these terms, \$43,500 for that kind of thing, it just doesn't seem like its a fair presentation for us to make a judgment. The subcommittee should look at it.

MR. WOLFF: Well, the -- vocational training --

MR. GLOVER: What guarantees are we going to have this year that this money isn't spent for something else.

MR. WOLFF: My word, well no, I've already been proven to be a poor businessman, but Interim Finance has such a close screening procedure, I don't think I could spend 15¢ in my budget in the Department of Prisons other than what it has been allocated for without coming back to that committee, and I have absolutely no intention of over getting into that crack again.

MR. GLOVER: Obviously we can't do anything about what happened last time. You know, if that money would have or could have been spent in these programs, we wouldn't be back looking at these figures, that we can down the line -- you know -- what are you going to do if you get in a bind again? Are you going to come to see us, say I need money for food, I need money for clothing, I am going to spend these moneys of these programs here for this equipment?

MR. WOLFF: Well, somewhere along the line you folks are going to have to start trusting me again. All I can tell you is what we plan to do and what we expect to do with the dollars. We are asking for a reasonable budget for each of these institutions and each of our budget entities. We expect to be able to go through, I think in the past year on the over \$800,000 we turned back to the general fund, indicate our sincerity in meeting the budget constraints and the only thing I can tell you is we have every intention to do just exactly that. I don't see any reason that we know of today why we can't.

MR. ROBINSON: Going back to the other thing where you had to use up the money that the committee had evidently decided should go into educational materials, I can't understand why those weren't purchased right at the beginning as soon as those were authorized so that you had them. Why did it go along to the point where you ran out of money for food and had to use that for food? Why when that was authorized why didn't you purchase that stuff right at the beginning to get -- if we authorize it this time I would hope that the first thing you do is get a purchase order to buy this equipment because you can't feed it to them once you have bought it. Then you would have to come back and justify the need for more food.

MR. WOLFF: No question, we went into the last biennium with pretty strong feelings that we were going to have budget problems and we hesitated to go in and expend moneys for anything that we didn't have to initially until we saw where we were at. That was our posture at that time. We're not in that posture at this time. We're able to take and we're doing a much better job of managing our money, of controlling it, of following and tracking our billings and our receivables and payables, and we've got an item in the budget which is automating the accounting system that is going to make it much more effective for us. Mr. Comeaux is on top of the direction we are going on this, and this is what we intend to do. We simply didn't do as good a job as we could have done back then and we admit it.

MR. ROBINSON: It appears to me you have kind of programmed the committee to be skeptical about these things.

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, I think we've done a pretty good job of that.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: The problem is that the budget -- what they have spent and the budget they present have very little comparison to each other over the past six years. That's the problem, and that's why the committee is upset. Alright, there is another Department of Prisons, Southern Nevada Correctional Center, \$81,000.

MR. WOLFF: Oh yes. This area that we are talking about here with regard to the \$81,000 -- this item for Southern Nevada Correctional Center is for replacement of carpeting in the visiting area, the dining room area and some of the areas of the housing unit. What we are recommending is that we put a 1/16th inch, commercial grade tile into these areas so that we can have a long life surface to be able to utilize for the areas of high activity. The carpeting that went in there was unsatisfactory when it went in there.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: I went through that one before. It was open when you had the grand tour, and we were told that this carpeting was going to save all this maintenance money because it was so much easier to maintain than tile.

MR. WOLFF: That's a standard -- it's more economical to put in and easier to maintain and all that stuff -- now let's go on the record one time -- I did not design that institution and I did not put that carpeting in there.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: I'm not blaming you, I'm telling you what we were told.

MR. WOLFF: Okay, I don't deny that. That's a standard architectural statement.

MR. HICKEY: Are we asking for more carpet?

MR. WOLFF: No sir, not a square inch. That's all tile -- long life tile that will take and last between 10 and 20 years and all you have to do is clean it. It's low maintenance and it's tile. Sure it destroys some acoustical balance but quite frankly, it's not something you should have in a long-term institution. Carpeting is for administrative areas and that's about it.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Well, who sold us on the bill of goods on the carpeting.

MR. WOLFF: Talk to Architects By Five, they are the ones that did the design work.

MR. ALASTUEY: I don't know exactly who proposed the carpeting but in certain environments carpeting is the right way to go maintenance wise and cost wise. Apparently the application was-- its effectiveness was overestimated in the prison system.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Obviously.

MR. WOLFF: In 25 years of my career, that's the only institution that I've got carpeting in or ever had carpeting in those areas.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Maybe we ought to be a little more careful in the architects we choose. This guy obviously didn't know anything about prisons either.

MR. GLOVER: What are we doing at the new prisons?

MR. WOLFF: Concrete. Well, we've proven it. It's easier to maintain. Concrete or tile is your best surface for high activity areas. It's just as simple as that and it's the one that saves the dollars in the long run.

MR. HICKEY: Are we going to buy them cable TV?

MR. WOLFF: No sir, we're not providing cable TV anywhere. There will be TV there, but it will be an internal deal just like you have in your house. You've got an antenna on the roof.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Who's designing Southern Desert Correctional Center?

MR. WOLFF: Dolvin, Larsen, Daniels in cooperation with Hendrickson, Derman, Richardson. Dolvin, Larsen, Daniels has produced most of the facilities that we have at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center that you have been through and that you know are functional and meet our needs or do not.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Who designed Jean, who were the architects?

MR. WOLFF: Architects By Five.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Alright, it's a different outfit then, but it's a different outfit doing Southern Desert then?

MR. WOLFF: Completely and different contractors.

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment on that tile. It might be prudent if we tested that tile and linoleum down there with some of the Peter Simon water before we put it in. I'm serious, it just might dissolve it or you might consider importing water before you make any cement either for fear that the whole thing will disappear over night sometime.

MR. WOLFF: Well, we've had enough stucco problem down there.

MR. ROBINSON: Tile is put in with mortar --

MR. WOLFF: No sir, this is dymal asbestos, this is laid with a mastik, this is not ceramic, which would cost considerably more than that. That's why we went this route.

MR. HICKEY: My question is the water located in this prison system. Are we going to get a request for additional money for that system? I'm talking about down there in Southern Nevada -- (inaudible)

MR. WOLFF: As I'm told by the Public Works Board we have more than enough water capacity in that institution to take care of that population very easily.

MR. HICKEY: Do you feel confident to stake your reputation that you're not going to come to us for any more money?

MR. WOLFF: For water?

MR. HICKEY: With what you know now, you're not going to come for any more money or one-shots or through Interim Finance for support of water to that prison -- an adequate water supply for that prison -- have there been tests made for that?

MR. WOLFF: Yes.

MR. HICKEY: How about the quality?

MR. WOLFF: The quality and quantity of water that I'm told of today at that facility, I will not be back to the Legislature for anything with regard to the water system.

MR. HICKEY: Will you furnish our subcommittee with proof of those statements.

MR. WOLFF: Sure, I'll get that report from the Public Works Board, yes.

(End of verbatim transcript)

Supplemental Appropriations
Southern Nevada Correctional Center

Mr. Wolff addressed the supplemental appropriation requested for \$113,194 to continue the payment of travel differential to employees at the Southern Nevada Correctional Center. He added that this differential has helped to increase morale of the employees.

Mr. Glover asked how long it will be before an increase is requested. Mr. Wolff stated that the rate increase for the next biennium will be from \$6.00 to \$6.60 for 1981-82 to \$7.26 for 1982-83.

Southern Desert Correctional Center

Mr. Wolff addressed the supplemental appropriation requested for the travel differential to be paid to the employees of the Southern Desert Correctional Center as of May 1, 1981. He added that through salary savings in this account, enough funds will be generated to pay the differential without the supplemental.

Chairman Bremner asked that Mr. Bill Hancock step forward for questioning.

Verbatim Transcript

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Are you familiar with the Task Force Report?

MR. HANCOCK: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Alright, their recommendation 141 says that we should not build the hospital at the Southern Desert Correctional Center, these prisoners should be transferred to Jean, and this would result in approximately \$410,000 savings. We want to know if we can use that money to buy equipment for that prison. Instead of -- buy it out of the savings that are generated from this recommendation.

MR. HANCOCK: Well, the \$400,000 that you are referring to -- I don't think exists -- It's a construction savings. We're talking in terms of a \$150,000.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Would you supply the exact dollar amounts to this committee.

MR. HANCOCK: Yeah, as soon as we arrive at it with the contractor. He's --

CHAIRMAN BREMNER. Where do I get the figure \$410,000.

MR. HANCOCK: I don't know. I assume that's some sort of an operating figure as well, isn't it?

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: This is a one time savings of \$410,000 and that's not an operating cost.

MR. WOLFF: Basically maybe they simply took and said 205,000 square feet of floor space is going to be saved or whatever it was and they multiplied that by the projected cost of building and said that it is a one time savings of \$400,000. But when you cut back and do a change on a construction project, it doesn't work out that way.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Will you get us that exact figure as soon as you can?

MR. HANCOCK: Sure.

MR. ROBINSON: How far along are they in building that?

MR. HANCOCK: I think the ten bed hospital part of the project -- that the upper part of it -- the upper half of it is got the footings in on the upper slab. They haven't done anything to the best of my knowledge on the lower half.

MR. DICK BAKER: This portion of the building has been stopped for some time pending the decision on whether or not to change. Before they stopped they dug the footings for the infirmary part of the building and graded it, but that's all.

MR. ROBINSON: (Inaudible) Have they put the bid for purchase orders for the equipment?

MR. DICK BAKER: That's part of the general contract, it's sort of the furnishing of the beds and like that.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Where did the Task Force come up with the \$410,000 figure?

MR. HANCOCK: I don't know, Chuck's explanation sounds as good to me as any, they took certain areas.

MR. ALASTUEY: I don't know where the \$410,000 figure came from.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: I wonder how many other inaccurate statements are in the Task Force Report that we are supposed to rely on to make all these improvements.

MR. ALASTUEY: Well, as mentioned, Bill will explore the cost differential from a construction standpoint and we will get the other information.

CHAIRMAN BREMNER: Get us that information. I'll direct Bill to get ahold of Bill DuBois and have him come over here and explain where he gets some of these figures.

(End of verbatim transcript.)

Southern Desert Correctional Center

Mr. Comeaux addressed the budget requests and stated that the Governor's recommended budget provides for the continuation of the four existing positions approved by the 1979 Legislature. In addition he recommends a total of 158 new positions to man this institution; adding that 119 are custody staff. He directed the attention of the committee to the handout (attached as EXHIBIT C to the minutes of February 5). He added that start up costs are reflected in the operating categories for the first year and additionally, calculations were based on past experience in other institutions, considering this is a new operation at the Southern Desert Correctional Center.

Mrs. Hayes asked what specialized equipment the Department had requested but the Governor had not recommended. Mr. Alastuey stated that the specialized equipment item has no recommendation as it was put in as a one-shot item.

Mr. Bergevin asked why the Governor is recommending such large amounts for vehicle operation considering the new vehicles that are being recommended in the one-shot. Mr. Alastuey stated that it is anticipated that some vehicle repairs will be completed under new vehicle warranties in the first year. Mr. Bergevin stated that it seems that \$36,000 to operate three vehicles is an exorbitant amount of money. Mr. Comeaux stated that there are funds available this year to buy some equipment for the institution including a sedan and one pickup truck for the maintenance man.

Mr. Wolff added that this institution is out of town and a great deal of traveling is done each year, adding that in two years the vehicles are just about worn out.

Mr. Wolff addressed the hiring dates for the SNCC, stating that the first hire will be September 1, 1981 and the second hire will be December 1, 1981, the third hire will be January 1, 1982, and the last person to come on will be on April 1, 1982. He added that this is a staggered hiring for economy more than anything else.

Mr. Robinson asked why the fire chief position was being deleted and the safety and health position was combined into one person. He asked if fire equipment is being bought as indicated in the one-shot and who was going to run it.

Mr. Wolff stated that an inmate crew under the supervision of the safety and health coordinator will operate the fire department.

Mr. Robinson asked how close this equipment will be to the nearest county equipment. Mr. Wolff stated that it is 35 miles. He said that the Air Force has a fire truck in Indian Springs and the institution will serve as backup to them. He added that the Division of Forestry will assist in the training of the crews in fire safety. Mr. Bremner observed that the state

had recently participated in the construction of the Lee Canyon fire station for the Forestry Division that was certainly closer to the SDCC than 35 miles and suggested the institution's fire protection could be supplied from that source.

Mr. Hickey asked why the travel differential for the SDCC is so much higher than the prison at Jean. Mr. Wolff stated that there will be more employees at the SDCC than there will be at Jean.

Nevada State Prison

Mr. Comeaux addressed the Nevada State Prison budget request and stated that the Governor's recommended budget provides for the continuation of 152 1/2 of the existing 153 positions, transfer out of a 1/2 time painter to the director's office, transfer in of two academic teachers and one storekeeper from the director's office and transfer in of a 1/2 time locksmith. He added that the governor recommends 11 new positions in 81-82 and an additional eight new positions in 82-83. He stated that the increases requested in the various operating categories are based on historical expenditures, adding that there are a few supplemented requests combined with those figures. He stated that the higher rate is used on the clothing allowance because the inmates at NSP are required to wear uniforms.

Mr. Comeaux referred to EXHIBIT C of the February 5 meeting and the detailed list of equipment items requested for this institution.

Mr. Glover asked what type of magazines are purchased for the libraries throughout the institutions. Mr. Wolff stated that the standard conventional magazines are purchased, no pornographic magazines are allowed.

Mr. Hickey commented that delays getting into the institutions are being experienced by visiting clergy. Mr. Wolff stated that some of these delays are due to the construction work that is going on at the various facilities, but that the problem is being addressed at this time and within a few weeks it should be corrected. Mr. Hickey requested a letter stating that the problem has been corrected as well as a copy of the visiting regulations. Mr. Wolff stated that he will provide this information.

Mr. Bergevin asked if it was the intent of the prison system to have more secure units that were less labor intensive. He continued that if this was the intent, he questioned the request for so many additional employees. He asked if it is necessary that there be almost double the number of employees than inmates at this institution. Mr. Wolff stated that he never gave anybody the illusion that he would save positions by getting new housing units. He added that it simply takes more personnel to supervise the maximum security institution because this is where the most dangerous people are.

Mr. Bergevin asked why it is necessary to expend \$11,000 for a dishwasher when there are so many people there who could supply the labor. Mr. Wolff stated that this could not be done.

Mr. Robinson asked for further information on the building and grounds and maintenance line items. Mr. Wolff stated that some of the maintenance activities are being consolidated but the painter position that is being transferred will be available to all of the institutions in the system. He added that maintenance personnel are critical and are needed at each institution, adding that there are even some on 24 hour call.

Mr. Robinson asked if the funds approved in these categories would be used to buy other items, as some of the funds have been in the past. Mr. Wolff stated that the committee would just have to trust that the funds would be used for what they are allocated for. He added that if the committee didn't think he could handle it properly, they could specify the purposes for which the money was allocated so it couldn't be used for anything else.

Mr. Hickey asked what is covered by other contract services. Mr. Comeaux stated that a specific list of the contract services will be provided to the subcommittee, adding that some maintenance of office equipment is included in the figure.

Northern Nevada Correctional Center

Mr. Comeaux addressed the budget and stated that the Governor's recommended budget provides for continuation of 162 of the existing 173 positions, transfer in of 1 Counselor II position for the SNCC, and four academic teachers and one storekeeper from the Director's Office, transfer of one psychiatrist and 1/2 time painter to the Director's office, 1/2 time locksmith to NSP and four positions to the prison dairy account. He added that five existing positions are recommended to be deleted. He added that an additional 25 new positions are recommended in 1981-82 and an additional ten positions in 1982-83. He stated that increases in the operating category are based on historical expenditures and have supplemental amounts combined with them. He stated that EXHIBIT C of February 5th meeting minutes provides a detailed list of the items requested.

Mr. Robinson asked for further information concerning the Parke Davis revenue line item. He noted that the program narrative said this income was to pay for a correctional officer and the cost of utilities at the plasma center and noted that the request shows no increase to cover these increased costs to the department. Mr. Wolff stated that the correctional office operates full time to maintain the security of the plasma building while inmates are in the plasma center. He added that he did not know what the governor's proposal included. He stated that he would provide the committee with the information concerning this item.

Mr. Hickey asked how many inmates are in the institution. Mr. Wolff stated there are 811 inside the institution and probably 100 at the honor camp.

Mr. Marvel asked what the client income is. Mr. Comeaux stated that it is basically the money that is collected from inmates who are participating in some kind of outside work program. He added that they are charged for their keep.

Mr. Hickey asked if the inmates received outside benefits like Social Security, etc. while they are incarcerated. Mr. Wolff stated that no Social Security disability benefits are paid but Social Security Retirement Benefits as well as private pensions are paid to the prisoners. Chairman Bremner asked if there is a possibility of the state intercepting these funds to pay for the cost of housing the inmate by the State of Nevada. Mr. Comeaux stated that a program in Florida where inmates assets were traced and the inmate was charged for his keep in the institution was an administrative nightmare and was totally unsuccessful. He added that the percentage of funds that was collected in relation to the cost of the program was not cost effective.

Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Wolff to return to the committee on Wednesday, February 11, 1981 to complete the budgets. The meeting was adjourned.