

Memorandum

TO: Office of the Governor

DATE: July 11, 1980

FROM: R. K. Procnier



Background

Because of the outstanding administration of the prisons in Oregon the present "conditions" suit in Judge James M. Burns' court is very hard to understand, particularly for those involved directly with running the system. This has in turn created a very strong resistance to cooperate with correcting the one valid concern encompassed in the suit -- that of overcrowding. Without exception the other issues in the complaint are not true and in my opinion are pure fiction.

The judge appears to understand this as indicated in his recent order to submit a plan related only to correction of the overcrowding condition. The present overcrowded condition is not cruel and unusual punishment but is severe and requires a reasonable plan to eliminate the conditions within the context of the regular and orderly process of state government. To do anything less than submit a plan would be to endorse the continuation of a situation that is simply not acceptable. In so doing the state of Oregon will lose control of a very sound system.

The solution to the problem is not as complicated and expensive as it appears at first. This is especially true if it is planned and implemented by Oregonians and not by some "hot-shot" outsider. To allow the present issue to go by default will provide a great deal of justification for the cry of "foul" but will turn over the creation of Oregon public policy to the federal judiciary unnecessarily.

The Plan

Between 55 and 60 percent of the inmates at OSCI can, while maintaining the present level of public safety, be placed in well run properly supervised forestry camps. By establishing four - 80-man camps at the initial cost of \$75,000 per camp (see attachment), the population of OSCI will be at or below the designed capacity for the foreseeable future. This camp system must be administered by the present warden and become an integral part of the continuum of treatment for the present population housed at OSCI. This is absolutely essential to the success of this move.

OSP presents a different and somewhat more complicated problem that should be approached in two phases.

- I. A) Increase the Forestry Camp Program attached to the OSP by two - 80-man camps.
- B) Revise the classification process to provide for personal appearance reviews of custody to ensure the proper classification of the population.
- C) Provide a monthly review of a selected group of OSP convicts by the classification staff of OSCI.
- D) Eliminate the Board appearance for final review of parole plans unless the staff of the OSP requests the hearing.
- E) Continue the present Parole Board practice of case review of dates already set.
- F) Establish a population quota for OSP consistent with acceptable management conditions.
- II. A) Immediately update all projection statistics and appoint someone to develop a realistic plan for facility expansion including the type custody required of any new facility.
- B) Request money from the Legislature for site purchase, plans preparation and construction of required facility.

The above plan outline should be put into a realistic time frame and submitted to the Court. Anything short of this would not be acceptable, anything more at the present time would be submitting to pressure toward a goal not necessarily in keeping with the state's best interests.

cc: Attorney General

COST OF OPERATING A CAMP PER YEAR

1st Year

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Corrections	\$200,000.00	Forestry	\$265,000.00
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EQUIPMENT

Corrections		Forestry	\$400,000.00
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Corrections	\$395,000.00	Forestry	\$113,000.00
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INMATE PAY

\$ 33,000.00

Total	\$628,000.00		\$778,000.00
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2nd Year

Corrections	\$400,000.00
Inmate Pay	33,000.00
Forestry	410,000.00

Total	\$843,000.00
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