

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

July 10, 1972

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Monday, July 10, 1972, in the 14th floor conference room, 100 Centre Street, New York, New York. Present at the meeting were Messrs. vanden Heuvel, Dribben, DeMonte, Becker, and Mrs. Singer. Also present by invitation of the Board were Arden Culver, Executive Secretary of the Board; Mary Pickman, Legal Advocate Program; Board of Correction; Jeffrey Siger, Clergy Volunteer Program, Board of Correction; John Martinez, Law Interne, Board of Correction; Joel Sperber, Literacy Program, Board of Correction; Joseph D'Elia, Director of Operations, Department of Correction, John Buchholz, Director, Building and Maintenance, Department of Correction; Richard J. Aneiro, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Correction; Ronald Zweibel, Director of Legal Affairs, Department of Correction. Mr. vanden Heuvel acted as Chairman and Miss Culver as Secretary.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

The Chairman stated that a letter was being sent to Justice Samuel Rabin, informing him that 50 volunteers would be organized by the Board of Correction during the month of August to supply assistance to the Brooklyn Office of Probation in preparing pre-sentence reports.

The Chairman declared that the Board was going ahead with the Chaplaincy Task Force Report. The Chairman further stated that he believed the present system of part-time chaplains should be abolished and that instead there should be ecumenical full-time chaplains, with individual clergy contributed by the churches to perform religious functions.

The Chairman then stated that a report would be issued by the Prison Death Review Board shortly. He further stated that there had been 14 deaths during the first six months of 1972 (6 suicides and 8 others) and that the release of this report would be an important step. Included in the report would be a report on Demetrico Perez, who had been awaiting sentence for five months.

The Chairman then introduced Dr. Joel Sperber and announced his pending appointment as Director of the Literacy Program. Dr. Sperber has a background in the remedial reading field. Dr. Sperber's approach, the Chairman stated, would center on the teamwork of the volunteer, the correction officer, and the inmate. The Chairman stated that this was a short-term project that would work.

The Chairman then stated that in the report to the capital budget for the coming year, he believed that it should be reorganized so that any new facility that would be built would be for the housing of mentally ill prisoners. He stated that no one ever commits suicide in Bellevue and that every detention facility is upset by the mentally ill. The Chairman further stated that Commissioner Malcolm felt that nothing could be done to change the courts and so wanted an appropriation of \$23,000,000 for building on Rikers Island.

Mrs. Singer stated that she had just returned from California where she had visited the Chino Prison, a long-term prison facility 35 to 40 miles outside of Los Angeles, which consisted of three different institutions. Mrs. Singer gave a full report of her visit to the Board.

At 4:10 p.m., Commissioner Malcolm and other members of the Department of Correction, together with Mr. Dickstein, entered the meeting.

Commissioner Malcolm then introduced Richard J. Aneiro, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Administration, whom, he said, was starting his sixth week.

Then Chairman then introduced Dr. Sperber to Commissioner Malcolm and the members of the Department, saying that the correction officer would be brought in as a part of this program.

Commissioner Malcolm discussed the capital budget and an alternative to C79, showing how, with the addition of another runway, 900 more cells could be added to the Adult Remand Shelter at Rikers Island.

A general discussion then ensued as to the Adult Remand Shelter, with the Chairman asking if it would be possible to run each block as a separate prison, and the Commissioner answering that it would be impossible because of budgetary problems. For this and other reasons, such as the remoteness of Rikers Island, the Chairman objected to the expansion. Mr. Dribben mentioned that he never saw prisoners out of doors when he visited. The Commissioner stated that additional staff was needed and that he realized the prisoners should be getting out of doors more than they were.

Members of the Board made several suggestions as to ways in which the Department might allow for the prisoners to go outside more often. The representatives of the Department did not respond affirmatively to any of these suggestions.

Mr. Dribben declared that members of the 11th and 14th Army Reserve could be called in on weeks to help with routine medical examinations, and Commissioner Malcolm said that he would be interested.

Commissioner Malcolm stated that the capital budget would be over \$7,500,000.

Commissioner Malcolm then declared that there had been a meeting on June 26, 1972, of the Brooklyn Inmate Council. The main issue, he stated, discussed at this meeting was the problem of dealing with the courts. He said, to the end of bringing about some solution, letters had been sent to three judges and that he had personally spoken to Justice Rabin. Commissioner Malcolm stated that of the 100 prisoners sent over in a day, only 50 get to court.

Commissioner Malcolm then discussed the Intermittent Sentencing Law (which was passed in 1970) and said that the Department now had a place ready and available to house that type of prisoner, the Branch Queens House of Detention.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.