

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

June 18, 1974

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Tuesday, June 18, 1974 at Mr. Tufo's office, 645 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Lehman, Fr. Rios, Mr. Schulte, Mrs. Singer, Mr. Tufo and Rev. Wilson. Present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director; Mary D. Pickman, Assistant Executive Director; Kenneth Nochimson, Co-Director, Investigation and Reporting Unit; Greg Harris, Director, Clergy Volunteer Program; Barbara Allen, Secretary to the Executive Director; Stuart Endick, Barry Gottfried, Martin Krutzel, Myles Lynk and Miles Stuchin, summer law internes.

Mr. Lehman served as Chairman and Ms. Allen as Secretary of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Brickman introduced the summer law internes and noted that there were still more students expected to join the staff in the next week to ten days. At Mr. Tufo's request each of the students gave a brief description of the projects he was engaged in. Mr. Tufo asked Mr. Brickman to elaborate upon the radio program which Mr. Stuchin had mentioned he was working on, and after Mr. Brickman's description he asked that the Board be sent a notice as to who the guests would be each week.

The Chairman stated that he would like to see a small unit in the staff set up to handle inmates' cases needing special attention. Mr. Brickman stated that if any Board member encountered such a case, he or she should call Eileen Shanahan.

At 2:25 p.m. Mr. Schulte entered the meeting.

At 2:30 p.m. Messrs. Endick, Gottfried, Krutzel, Lynk and Stuchin left the meeting.

The Chairman stated that Ms. Pickman would be leaving the Board staff this coming Thursday, and that Mr. Nochimson would also eventually be leaving. He noted,

however, that Mr. Nochimson had agreed to continue working out of his present office since it would be several weeks before his new offices were ready, to assist Mr. Brickman until Ms. Pickman's replacement had started working and was fully oriented. The Chairman stated that he had interviewed one person already, and had another interview scheduled, to find a replacement for Ms. Pickman.

Mr. Brickman noted that Ms. Pickman's departure would mean that the position of Assistant Executive Director would be vacant. He declared that he had appointed Mr. Nochimson to fill the position on an acting basis, and asked the Board to ratify the appointment. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED THAT effective at the close of business on Wednesday, June 19, 1974, Kenneth G. Nochimson is appointed Acting Assistant Executive Director of the Board of Correction.

Mr. Nochimson stated that he only expected to serve in that capacity for a short period of time, pending his appointment as Director of the Youth Board. Mr. Brickman declared that he hoped that after Mr. Nochimson left the Board staff, he might be appointed volunteer consultant to the Board, since it would be most useful to have available the services of someone with his experience and background.

Mr. Brickman then declared that it would be in order to take up the issue of compensatory time for senior members of the Board staff. A general discussion then ensued.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED THAT the present incumbents of the positions of Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director who resign from the Board of Correction shall be entitled to terminal leave compensatory time at the rate of one hour of such compensatory time for every hour worked beyond 35 hours per week, consistent with law and City rules and regulations.

Mr. Brickman then suggested that a resolution regarding Ms. Pickman's resignation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Correction accepts with extreme regret the resignation of Mary D. Pickman, who has served as Assistant Executive Director since June 1, 1972. Ms. Pickman's commitment and devotion to the ideals shared by each of us, her sensitivity to people and their problems, and her capacity for hard work, instinct for wise counsel and administrative leadership were manifested to the highest degree. Although we are sad at her departure, we are proud of her new appointment. We know that she will exercise her duties at a level of highest competence, and we wish her the best of luck.

The Chairman stated that he, Mr. Brickman and Ms. Pickman had met with Presiding Justice Frank Gullota and representatives of the Legal Aid Society to discuss problems related to the provision of legal representation to indigent defendants.

The Chairman asked Mr. Harris to describe the problems Clergy Volunteer Program members were currently having. Mr. Harris stated that the problems resulting from faulty computer printouts, etc., were still continuing. He noted that if the whole situation were not resolved by Labor Day, it was quite possible that the Clergy Volunteer Program members would prepare a petition concerning their complaints and submit it to the Mayor. Mrs. Singer declared that a letter Mr. Harris had received in response to a letter he had sent to Deputy Commissioner Birnbaum and distributed to the Board members was conciliatory to Mr. Harris, in that it was not at all specific in responding to Mr. Harris' remarks in his letter to the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Harris stated that at present there are 504 volunteers involved in the Clergy Volunteer Program (70% of these being clergy), in 13 institutions. He added that the Department was asking him to expand the program to three half way houses and the hospital prison wards. Mr. Schulte asked if the Department wasn't asking Mr. Harris to expand the program on the one hand and fighting the program on the other hand. Mr. Harris replied in the affirmative.

The Chairman stated that perhaps any time someone encounters trouble it should be reported to the CVP office. He said that each case should be handled individually, and when a significant number of cases with specifics were gathered they should be presented to the Commissioner. Mr. Brickman declared that he would assign a student interne to get the specifics in each case.

The Chairman stated that it might be helpful if a couple of the clergy who have encountered problems meet with Commissioner Malcolm. Mr. Harris stated that this had been requested by several of the clergy involved in the program, but that he had tried to put this off. He declared that he felt the best course of action would be for the Chairman and whomever else he felt appropriate to meet with the Commissioner. It was agreed that such a meeting should be arranged and that Mr. Harris, Mr. Brickman, Rev. Wilson and Fr. Rios would attend with the Chairman.

Mrs. Singer stated that she had recently accompanied Mr. P.A.N. Heald, Governor of Pentsonville Prison in England, on a tour of the Adolescent Reception and Detention Center and the House of Detention for Men, and had met with Wardens Oslyn, Thomas, and Buono. Mrs. Singer declared that while they were at the House of Detention for Men they observed Judge Sandifer teaching classes on the law to inmates and trying to help them with their cases.

The Chairman stated that at a recent meeting with Deputy Mayor Cavanagh regarding the future of the Tombs, which he and Mr. Brickman had attended, Mr. Cavanagh declared that he did not want to make any recommendations or come to any conclusions about the future of the Tombs until he had heard from Corporation Counsel Burke. Mr. Brickman stated that Mr. Cavanagh had since spoken with Mr. Burke and that a number of options appeared open to the City.

The Chairman noted that Commissioner Malcolm had stated that he would like to close the Tombs and send the inmates housed there to Rikers Island or Sing Sing.

Mr. Brickman stated that the Department would not be required to submit a plan for the future of the Tombs to Judge Lasker until late July, and as long as the Board's report was issued before then, it would be timely.