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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

May 17, 1974

TO: H. Joseph Hepford
Chairman

FROM: James R. Malley
Chief Investigator

Governor's Justice Commission
Allegheny County Prison

Representative Rhodes has made inquiries on two occasions concerning grants relating to the Allegheny County Prison inasmuch as he had received information that the grants previously given were going to be discontinued. His last letter, addressed to you as Chairman, was dated November 28, 1973. Mr. Rhodes was advised that as soon as the files of the Governor's Justice Commission were checked, he would be informed as to the status of these grants.

There is attached a memorandum covering the four grants that Mr. Rhodes inquired about. The memorandum was prepared so that—if the Committee desires—a copy of the same may be given to Mr. Rhodes for his information. However, it is noted that under the oral agreement between you and Attorney General Packel and the written agreement that Mr. Thompson was asked to sign by Mr. Snively, any information received from the Governor's Justice Commission files is to be made available only to the members of the Committee in executive session; therefore, a copy of this memorandum is not being turned over to Mr. Rhodes at this time.

JRM:rf
attachments

Governor's Justice Commission

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-101-72A

1971 - \$141,322

1972 - \$429,019

\$570,341

Date of Application - December 4, 1972

This grant was awarded for improvements in the Allegheny County Prison.

The file shows that the final payment on this grant was made on March 18, 1974.

In checking further on this grant, there was an additional grant, namely:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-202-73A

Amount - \$688,625

This grant was awarded on March 4, 1974.

Governor's Justice Commission

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-110-71/72A

1971 - \$86,190

1972 - \$96,528

This grant was awarded on January 8, 1973.

This project related to the institution of a diagnostic and classification system for the Allegheny County Prison.

A review of the file reflects that the grant was originally to run from October 1, 1972 to August 30, 1973 and was extended to January 31, 1974.

The file contained a letter to William B. Robinson, Warden, Allegheny County Jail, from Thomas C. Berard, Director of Administration, Governor's Justice Commission, dated March 11, 1974. The letter stated that there was enclosed an Interim Fiscal Review report of the Governor's Justice Commission on this grant. This Fiscal Review report points out a large number of deficiencies with respect to the handling of this grant on the part of Allegheny County Prison.

In checking further on this grant, it was determined that there is a continuation grant, namely:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-206-73A

Amount - \$189,892

This grant was disapproved at an executive staff meeting held on April 24, 1974. There was no information in the file other than the notation "disapproved" and the date.

Mr. Berard advised that for the past three months the minutes of the executive staff meetings are recorded on tape. They are not typed up unless some special reason arises where it becomes necessary to do so. He stated that the entire discussion is available if it is necessary to review the minutes.

No. 2 (continued)

From memory, Mr. Berard said that there was considerable discussion over this award. The discussion related to the fact that the average prisoner at the Allegheny County Jail is held for a period of approximately 18 days and a serious question was raised as to how much real value an educational program was to a prisoner who was held for such a short period of time and just how much could be accomplished that would be worthwhile. He stated that it was on this basis that the executive staff disapproved this grant.

It was also determined that another grant, namely,

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-222-73A

Amount - \$15,846

was received for action in January 1974. This was disapproved by the executive staff at a meeting on April 24, 1974, according to Mr. Berard, for the same reasons as set forth above.

No. 3

Governor's Justice Commission

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON

Grant AG-09A-69

Amount - \$11,602

This grant was awarded on May 4, 1970.

This grant related to an education program for Allegheny County residents to be conducted at the County Jail.

The file contained a letter, dated July 25, 1972, from Thomas C. Berard, Director of Administration, Governor's Justice Commission, to Leonard C. Staisey, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners, Allegheny County. The letter states that funds allocated to this project had a lapse date of December 31, 1971, and all monies not spent as of that date revert to the Federal treasury. As of that date, unexpended Federal monies were \$2,143.

Mr. Staisey, as Chairman, was directed to submit a check, in the amount of \$2,143, payable to the Governor's Justice Commission.

The continuity of the program was maintained by grant number, namely:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON

Grant AG-085-71A

Amount - \$14,812

This grant had a project period of January 1, 1972 to December 31, 1972. Funds in the amount of \$7,406 had been furnished to Allegheny County on the date of the letter (July 25, 1972). Copies of this letter and other correspondence relating to this matter are attached.

No. 3 (continued)

A further check concerning this grant reflects a subsequent grant, namely:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-156-73A

Amount - \$20,863

This grant was awarded on October 15, 1973.

Projected period - 12 months.

No. 4

Governor's Justice Commission

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-115-72A

Amount - \$11,670

This grant was awarded on November 13, 1972.

This grant relates to training officers for the Allegheny County Prison personnel.

The file contained a letter, dated April 29, 1974, from Thomas C. Berard, Director of Administration, Governor's Justice Commission, to William B. Robinson, Warden, Allegheny County Prison, stating that the grant is now complete. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the final independent audit report prepared by the Comptroller's Office, Department of Justice. This audit report reflects:

Quarterly fiscal reports were not filed since June 30, 1973, which is not complying with State Planning Agency fiscal reporting requirements. The report stated that the SPA has not remitted the last payment under this subgrant to the subgrantee, in the amount of \$2,917, because of this non-compliance.

(Copy of the letter and audit report were obtained and attached to this memorandum.)

A further check concerning this grant showed that another grant, namely,

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PRISON
Grant AG-205-73A

Amount - \$22,000

is a continuation of the above grant. This grant has not been acted upon, but is scheduled for review by the executive staff at a meeting to be held on May 27, 1974.