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

MEMORANDUM

S

By Dale S. Thompson

Date June 4, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

Barbwire Society's Inmate Counselling
and Community Reintegration Project

*See basic letter and
Pachel reply 3-15-74
+ page 3 of evaluation*

On September 15, 1971, the Governor's Justice Commission awarded DE-168-71 to the Bureau of Correction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The award was in the amount of \$73,270 for the period September 1971 through December 30, 1972. Federal expenditures amounted to \$70,784 and the Bureau of Correction was expected to refund \$2,486 of unused funds.

The Bureau of Correction contracted with the Barbwire Society to provide counseling service to residents and former residents of the State Correctional Institution at Graterford. The basic staff of the Barbwire Society counselling service will be composed of five paraprofessional counselors and one professional supervisor trainee. The counselors were to be ex-offenders. Community volunteers would be developed, trained and integrated into the program as needed.

The Barbwire Society planned to operate within the institution and also in the communities to which Graterford prisoners returned after their release. This was supposed to provide a continuous counselling service to the inmates during and after their incarceration.

This grant was audited by the State Auditor General who advised that \$97⁰⁰⁰ million in Federal and State funds were wasted on this project. He further reported that the project was evaluated by the International Prisoners Aid Association (evaluation attached) and severely criticized the project from both the administrative and program standpoints.

The report states that the Executive Director of the Barbwire Society was arrested on a charge of bank robbery and, as a result, the project came to a virtual standstill and ceased to function. The project completely failed to improve the attitudes of Graterford residents. More than half of the counselled residents, who had been released at the time of the evaluation, were arrested within a period of 1-1/2 years. 11

January 31, 1974

Graterford Inmates -
Musical Group's Trip to New York

C. Paul Brubaker, Jr.
Deputy Auditor General

Joseph J. Caputo, C. P. A.
Audit Specialist

Joseph J. Caputo

On January 3, 1974 a musical group from the State Correctional Institution at Graterford made a one-day trip by chartered bus to New York City to record part of a commercial album. This group is called the "Power of Attorney". It consists of 5 present residents and 4 former inmates of Graterford. They were escorted by six correctional employees (the Director of Activities and 5 men classified as correctional officers). All of these employees were recorded as working on their regular scheduled day off. All expenses connected with this trip are to be reimbursed by the recording company. Also on this trip was State Representative James B. Kelly and Mr. Steven Simpson, attorney for the musical group.

Officials at the Institution stated that the trip was authorized by the Governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Corrections Commissioner Stewart Werner. All 9 inmates signed waivers of extradition back to Pennsylvania in case they should become involved in any crimes. All 6 state employees signed statements that they had no financial interests in the "Power of Attorney".

The group has signed a contract with the recording company, Sleeping Sun Incorporated, 337 East 54th Street, New York, New York. Royalties go to the nine men of 5% of 90% of retail sales (less taxes). However, the superintendent has not given his final approval since his cooperation will be needed. The superintendent understood that the Inmates General Welfare Fund was to receive part of the profits and he intends to have this done.

Correctional Employees

Theodore Wing (activities director)
Ralph Pearcy
James Salvi
Bernard Brennan
Antonio Webster
Robert Williams

Graterford Inmates

Wilbur Brown
William Smith
Marion Wilson
Charles McDowell
Ronald Aikens

Former Inmates

Edward J. X. (Smith)
Gilberto Albizu
Stanley Watkins
Otis Graham

JJC:ps

cc: J. Dial ✓

E. Heim



GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Milton J. Shepp
Governor
Israel Packel
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Attorney General

August 8, 1973

E. Drexel Godfrey, Jr.
Executive Director
(717) 787-2040

Mr. Chris Martin
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
United States Department of Justice
928 Market Street, Second Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

*Grant
Packel*

Dear Chris:

Re: DE-168-71

Attached is copy of the above-identified grant with related financial reports and correspondence as regards the Barbed Wire Society.

This grant was awarded to the Bureau of Corrections, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and they are the initial subgrantee. The Barbed Wire Society was contracted by the Bureau of Corrections and it is my understanding that the Bureau of Corrections took immediate action on this incident.

This grant is undergoing an audit at this time in reference to the OMB lapse date on these funds.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Berard
Director of Administration

TCB/lf
Enclosures
CC: Dr. Godfrey
File ✓

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

MEMORANDUM

By Dale S. Thompson

Date May 8, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

Department of Justice
State Correctional Institution at Graterford

A review of the audit report (copy attached), issued in April 1974 by the Pennsylvania Auditor General, reveals:

1. The audit report is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973.
2. Funds available for expenditure by the institution during the fiscal year amounted to \$9,182,915. Of this amount, \$5,900,438 was expended for salaries, wages and benefits during the year.
3. In addition to an audit of the regular funds available for the operation of the institution, an audit was conducted of the Inmates General Welfare Fund subparts as follows:
 - A. Inmates Reserve Fund
 - B. Inmates Cash Fund
 - C. Officers Canteen Fund

Also, an audit was made of the Correctional Industries Manufacturing Fund.

4. The 14 audit findings, most of which are related to fiscal matters, were:
 - A. This 40-year-old institution has deteriorated over the years from a lack of a good preventive maintenance program and from the failure of responsible authorities to systematically provide for modernization (See Pages 6 and 7 for details).

- B. Failure to fill authorized security positions (61 vacancies) resulted in performance inefficiencies and large overtime costs in the amount of \$852,298. This item of the report received considerable newspaper publicity and was the subject of immediate legislative hearings.
- C. There were many apparent shortcomings with regard to individual safety and hazardous conditions; the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry had not performed annual inspections.
- D. The four Community Treatment Centers in Philadelphia virtually had no system to provide for the proper accountability of loans and rents; no definite responsibility and authority had been established.
- E. There was a lack of cooperation and communication between industry and institutional officials at Graterford.

- F. \$97,000 in federal and state funds were wasted on the Barbwire Society's Inmates Counselling and Community Reintegration Project.

This project was evaluated by the International Prisoners Aid Association (evaluation attached) and severely criticizes the project from both administrative and program standpoints. The report states that the Executive Director of the Barbwire Society was arrested on charges of bank robbery and, as a result, the project came to a virtual standstill and ceased to function. The project completely failed to improve the attitudes of Graterford residents, and more than half of the counselled residents were arrested within a year and a half.

- G. The institution failed to maintain proper control over employee hours worked.

Governor's Justice Commission - 3
May 8, 1974

- H. The Department failed to comply with encumbrance instructions issued by the Office of Administration.
- I. The institution failed to maintain strong internal control over physical property.
- J. The institution had weaknesses concerning its stores inventory, especially relating to narcotics and certain drugs.
- K. Unauthorized loans had been made to residents in the pre-release program from the Inmates Reserve Fund, and loans totalling \$6,995 were considered uncollectible.

Also, unauthorized credit was extended to State employees for services performed by residents, such as car washes, car repairs, flowers, barbering, etc. and some of the outstanding balance of \$2,550, as of June 30, 1973, was considered uncollectible.

- L. The inventory system of the Inmates Reserve Fund (over 250 personal items for sale to residents) should be improved.
- M. There is inadequate accounting for cash receipts and disbursements in the Inmates Cash Fund.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
HARRISBURG, PA. 17120

ISRAEL PACKEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 15, 1974

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1974
DEPT. OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
BUREAU OF AUDITS

Honorable Robert P. Casey
Auditor General
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
229 Finance Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Bob:

I cannot agree with the conclusion in your letter of March 13, 1974, that the money expended for the Barbwire Society's Inmate Counselling and Community Reintegration Project was a total loss. It does not mean that money is wasted because the project did not meet its stated aims, i. e., to change the attitudes and behavior of hard-core clients.

I do regret, and agree with you, that it is a shame that the immediate supervision was not what it should have been. It should be kept in mind, however, that we learn from the results of a project, even though it may not have accomplished what it hoped to prove.

Sincerely,

Israel Packel
Attorney General

IP jg
cc: Commissioner Stewart Werner

cc: Legal Bureau
Mr. Klein
3-20-74 *Mr. Dial 3-20-74*

AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
MAR 20 1974
STATE OWNED INSTITUTIONS

AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
MAR 20 1974
PENNSYLVANIA

*Ed.
Senator Holl to get copy of
report*

Attorney General Israel Packel
Department of Justice
Room 1 Capital Annex
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Packel:

During our recent audit of the State Correctional Institution at Graterford, we reviewed the contract for The Barbwire Society's Inmate Counselling and Community Reintegration Project. As the attached evaluation report clearly states, the program failed to achieve its aims, and the \$97,000 expended represents a total loss.

It appears that this program failed because the Bureau of Correction did not actively supervise the same.

I would appreciate it if you would advise me as to what steps will be taken to prevent a reoccurrence of this type of waste.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey

RPC:ETH/co

Attachment

cc: Mr. Brubaker
Mr. Lawley