

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION  
JANUARY 20, 1971

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on January 20, 1971 at the offices of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Room 2520, 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Present were Messrs. vanden Heuvel, DeMonte, Dribben and Mrs. Singer. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director of the Board, Lesley J. Spector, Executive Secretary of the Board, Miss Terry Strauss, Research Assistant, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Mr. Abraham Lass, Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School, and Messrs. Jonathan Dolgin and Lewis Korman, attorneys. Mr. vanden Heuvel acted as Chairman and Miss Spector as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 4:20 P.M. He then introduced Messrs. Lass, Dolgin, and Korman to the members of the Board, and explained that he had asked the three gentlemen to work on a task force to study the treatment of adolescents at the Rikers Island Reformatory, specifically in the area of education. Messrs. Lass, Dolgin and Korman discussed the progress of their efforts and noted that the initial report of the task force should be ready some time in February. Messrs. Lass, Dolgin and Korman then left the meeting. It was generally agreed by the members of the Board that it would be acceptable to have the State take over the administration and expense of the Reformatory at its present location.

Mr. DeMonte asked about overtime pay for correction officers. The Chairman stated that he would address a letter to the Commissioner of Correction (with a copy to the C.O.B.A. President) asking what steps must be taken to insure prompt payment of these funds, and how the Board can help in expediting payment.

Mr. Brickman reported on the status of the volunteer doctors to work in the prisons. Although the proper forms have now been completed by the physicians, there is a problem concerning malpractice insurance. Mr. Brickman stated that he had been informed that the City would not indemnify physicians who were not on the City payroll. It was suggested that the City might pay these volunteers \$1/day or \$1/year so that they would qualify for insurance. Mr. Brickman will be in touch with a member of the staff of the Health Department to discuss the possibility of such funding.

The Chairman stated that he would send a letter to the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, with copies to Messrs. Aurelio, Dontzin and McGrath, and notification thereof to El Diario

and El Tiempo, requesting the following information: (1) How many employees in the Department of Correction are qualified as bi-lingual? (2) Is it possible to arrange to have Civil Service examinations given in Spanish with qualifying English examinations? The Chairman will also Communicate with the Director of Personnel in the Department of Correction with respect to the matter.

The Chairman then introduced for discussion the Day of Hope. If it is agreeable with the Cardinal, the Day will be March 10. The general purpose of this Day of Hope will be to re-assert the commitment by the community to human values and social objectives in the prisons. Following is an outline of the activities of the Day to which the Board agreed generally:

1. Spiritual leaders of all faiths will visit prisons throughout the City and conduct special services in each of the facilities.
2. Workshops will be set up in various parts of the City. Several were suggested, but it was agreed to limit the number to four, -- clergy, libraries, narcotics and the correction officer.

Mr. Dribben suggested that one "medical" group which should be invited to participate is the physicians who direct research and development divisions of pharmaceutical companies.

The Chairman suggested that librarians and book publishers be asked to contribute to the library workshop.

The Chairman advised the Board that the clergy were already working on a program with the chaplains.

Mr. Dribben again raised the issue of periodic visits to the City's prison facilities by Board members. At the request of the Board, the Secretary will communicate with each member, asking that new members of the Board visit each prison facility at his or her earliest convenience, and asking old members to visit at least one facility a month. So that the Board of Correction shall have an accurate file of these visits, the Secretary will also ask to be notified of the date of each visit and the facility inspected.

The vacancy on the Board of Correction was again mentioned. The Chairman will discuss the matter with the Mayor and urge the appointment of a qualified individual at the earliest possible date.

The Chairman stated that there was a possibility that an individual would be willing to donate money toward a "low-bail fund," i.e., a fund which might post \$50 bail for detainees who are unable to raise the money. At the request of the Board, Mr. Brickman will

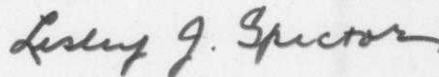
ask for an opinion of the Corporation Counsel as to whether the Board of Correction has tax-exempt status. Alternatively, the Chairman suggested that the Board might establish a tax-exempt foundation for this bail money.

Mr. Dribben commented that it might be wiser to provide such bail money to detainees being held on higher bail if they have jobs to which they can return before they are tried, since many lower-bail detainees often jump bail. It was generally agreed that a full-time staff person to investigate the bail problem would be helpful. Miss Strauss stated that the Board might be able to get additional funding for this individual from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on February 3, 1971, at 12:30 P.M., in the Manhattan House of Detention for Men.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Lesley J. Spector  
Executive Secretary