

Legislative Committee to Look Into Prison Employee Complaints

Senate President John D. Burns (D-Portland) and House Speaker Robert F. Smith (R-Burns) have appointed a special legislative committee to investigate recent complaints of a lack of employee safety at the three major institutions under Oregon's Corrections Division.

Burns said he and Smith appointed the committee in response to a resolution drafted by OSEA and adopted by Corrections Division employees following the death of Lt. Robert Geer, a correctional officer who died of stab wounds April 7 at the penitentiary.

Chairman of the committee is Sen. C.R. Hoyt (R-Corvallis). Other members include Sens. Betty Browne (D-Oakridge), Wallace P. Carson Jr. (R-Salem), and Reps. Hugh McGilvra (R-Forest Grove) and Bill Stevenson (D-Portland).

Hoyt said the committee will meet June 30 in room 20 of the Capitol. He said all employees who work for the Corrections Division will be informed of the meeting and invited to testify.

Hoyt also has invited Enright and Field Representative William D. Kalibak, OSEA's staff member assigned to represent employees of the Corrections Division, to testify.

"While an enlightened program of care and rehabilitation of society's offenders is a laudable aim, it requires adequate facilities and careful

administration and should be accompanied by an equal concern for the safety and well-being of employees performing necessary custody services," the resolution says.

It calls for the following measures to be taken:

(1) "That the governor, administrator of the Corrections Division and superintendents of the correctional institutions be asked immediately to review existing security and inmate discipline procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to protect employee safety under existing conditions."

(2) "That the Grand Jury of Marion County be requested to inquire into security provisions in the correctional institutions, including but not limited to the adequacy of procedures and facilities for the separation of potentially violent inmates from those requiring a lesser degree of custody."

(3) "That the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House be requested to direct the appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly to consider the need for additional facilities to allow for the separation of incorrigible from rehabilitatable inmates and for additional staffing in the absence of such facilities."

A number of changes have been and are being made in the policies and procedures of the Corrections Division and the penitentiary, correctional institution and women's correctional center, according to Amos Reed, head of the division.

He said conduct standards to govern inmate behavior are in the process of being established by each institution. In addition, he said, future disciplinary reports submitted by correctional officers will be acted upon by disciplinary committees and the action taken will be communicated back to the officer who submitted the report.

A committee of employees has been established at the penitentiary to hear and act upon employee complaints and suggestions regarding security and other matters.

Marion County District Attorney Gary Gortmaker indicated that an inquiry by the Grand Jury will be held in abeyance until administrative action can be taken and until after the hearing by the legislative committee appointed by Burns and Smith.

Council Will Honor 6 More Recruiters

OSEA has increased from 9 to 15 the number of its top membership recruiters who will be honored at the General Council this fall.

In past years, the top new-member solicitor from each of the Association's nine district has been invited to attend a special dinner at the annual convention.

This year, however, in addition to the top recruiter from each district, the six members who have enrolled the greatest number of new members during the past year will be chosen from among the membership at large and invited to the dinner along with their spouse.

The change was recommended by OSEA's Membership Committee and approved by its Board of Directors.

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Employee Retirement Accounts Valued

Editor's Note: In an effort to keep OSEA members informed of the value of their accounts in the Public Employees' Retirement System, the OSEA News publishes the following table.

Both the "variable annuity" portion of the account (which is invested in common stocks and short term notes) and the "fixed" portion of the account (which is invested in long term bonds and mortgages) are listed. The table shows the value of each \$100 invested in either the variable annuity or fixed account on the date listed.

	VARIABLE ACCOUNT	FIXED ACCOUNT
January 31, 1972	\$101.89	\$100.52
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