

Legislative Retirement Study Commission
Joint Meeting with the Senate Subcommittee of Governmental Operations on Pensions
St. Cloud State Reformatory
September 25, 1973

The chairman of the subcommittee, Sen. Kleinbaum, opened the meeting.

PRESENT:	<u>Senators</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
	Jack Kleinbaum	Cal Larson
	Edward Gearty	Al Patton
	Mel Hansen	
	Eugene Stokowski	
	J. Robert Stassen	

Mr. William McRae, Superintendent, explained that the meeting was called to explain why the correctional employees want to be in the correctional plan--are asking for this because of the danger and strain of working in this institution--are subject to the same amount of danger as the correctional officers.

The following correctional teachers testified:

Rogers Erskine	MEA Government Relations Consultant
William McRae	Superintendent
Francis Kedrowski	Vocational Printing
Loren Hennes	Remedial Education
James Wicklund	Vocational Baking
Marth Hollencamp	Vocational Welding
LeRoy Schiller	Remedial Education
Michael Loso	Vocational Auto Mechanics
Al Ethen	High School History
Cliff Eisenreich	High School Sciences
George Rosenberger	Vocational Butchering
Francis Kedrowski	Vocational Printing

In the testimony of the correctional teachers, the following data and points were discussed:

1. Teachers at the reformatory teach on a 12 month basis and take vacations at the discretion of the institution.
2. There are 33 special teachers - 65% of the inmates attend the classes; 20% on a part time basis.
3. Students have access to the tools in the shop areas.
4. Only 2 living instructors have retired. The rest either dropped dead on the job or died before retirement.
5. They want to be able to retire at age 55, but leave the date of retirement up to the discretion of the superintendent or civil service.
6. Teachers on a 12 month basis earn an average salary of \$16,548 after 18 years of service. New instructors can be hired at \$9,992 per year. Therefore, the state would be making a savings on social security and salaries for the new employees.

7. 61% of the teachers are on medication for nerves, etc.
8. At the present time, there is no sick leave provision.
9. State needs a younger group of teachers.
10. There is on the average one serious escape attempt about every 2 months.

Several of the teachers described how they were injured by inmates.

There are not enough custodial people because it takes 4 to 4-1/2 months to train people for this job.

There are about an equal number of accidents and injuries to the teachers and the custodial staff.

It was concluded that there is need for a report as to how many accidents or injuries are reported in each department.

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