

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ANNEX FOR DEFECTIVE DELINQUENTS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman: Senator Walter J. Franz, Mountain Lake, Minnesota

Members: Judge Morris Wahlstrand, Willmar, Minnesota
Maynard Pirsig, Prof. of Law, University of Minn., Minneapolis
Allan C. Hubanks, Exec.Dir., Correctional Services of Minn., Mpls.
Paul Keve, Director, Court Services, Hennepin County, Mpls.
John Holahan, Minn. Assn. for Retarded Children, Minneapolis
Gerald F. Walsh, Exec. Dir., Minn. Assn. for Retarded Children, Mpls.

The Governor's Advisory Committee on the Annex for Defective Delinquents met four times as follows:

February 22, 1962	State Capitol
March 22, 1962	St. Cloud Reformatory
April 25, 1962	Faribault State School & Hospital
June 12, 1962	State Capitol

At the first meeting of the Committee, Senator Walter Franz stated that the Governor had appointed this Committee because he felt the need for a study of the functions and purposes of the Annex for Defective Delinquents. Senator Franz stated that this was not to be a long range study; however, it was felt that a small group could resolve the question of whether or not the Annex for Defective Delinquents should be continued at the St. Cloud Reformatory as it is presently constituted, changed in some manner, or discontinued.

Various material has been reviewed by the Committee and presentations have been made by staff members of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Welfare and by the Commissioner of Corrections, William Turnblad, and the Commissioner of Welfare, Morris Hursh. Some material from other states has been read and a special study was made by the Departments of Correction and Welfare and was reviewed by the Committee.

Since the Annex was opened in 1945, 288 men have been served. The capacity of the Annex is 75-80. In February of 1962, the population of the Annex was 59; as of July 1, 1962, it was 41.

The Committee visited the Annex at the St. Cloud Reformatory,

toured the dormitory facilities and visited the various Annex participants at their work assignments.

On its visit to the Faribault State School and Hospital for the mentally retarded, the Committee visited the building in which defective delinquents had been housed prior to their transfer to St. Cloud in 1945. This was a security type building, with barred windows. The patients had little opportunity for participation in institution activities, outside of their own building. Until 1945, when this group was transferred to St, Cloud, they created many problems for the institution, escaping over the high barbed wire fence, breaking windows, injuring aides, and, in general, were an extremely difficult group.

Indications are that the program at the St. Cloud Reformatory has been very successful and that these mentally retarded, once discharged, usually remained in the community without further trouble. Figures presented by Miss Frances Coakley, Supervisor of the Section on Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy of the Department of Welfare, showed that of one group of 16 former boys from St. Cloud, who are now under the supervision of the county welfare, 14 are employed. Only 2 from this group of 16 are receiving financial aid from their county or the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Committee recommends that Minnesota Statute, 1961, Section 243.75, be repealed by the 1963 legislature, effective June 30, 1963.
2. The Committee recommends that funds be appropriated to the Department of Corrections for a study of methods of treatment, care and custody of the mentally retarded who are convicted of a crime and are sentenced to the Department of Corrections.
3. The Committee recommends that the Department of Welfare establish and maintain a program for those mentally retarded under guardianship whose behaviour requires security facilities and who, however, are not sentenced for a crime.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The present population of the Annex is 41, as of July 1, 1962. Approximately 12 inmates are now under consideration for discharge in the near future.
2. The Minnesota Institutions for the Mentally Retarded are better able to handle the delinquent type mentally retarded who present behaviour problems than they were when the Annex was established in 1945.
3. There has been a steady decline in the population of the Annex since 1945, when the original act was passed, and it is felt that the same need for the Annex no longer exists.
4. The Minnesota Bar Association at their June, 1962, annual convention in Minneapolis, adopted a resolution urging the repeal of Minnesota Statute, 1961, Section 243.75 on the basis of the fact that persons are confined at the Annex without due process of law, without a jury trial, and without conviction of a felony or other crime.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

1. The Committee feels that the staff at the St. Cloud Reformatory, and in particular Ralph Rosenberger who has been in charge of the Annex program, have been especially diligent in their duties and have conducted a highly successful program.
2. The Committee contemplates that there will be a gradual reduction of the present population at the Annex and also that the Departments of Correction and Welfare will work closely to bring about the most effective treatment of the defective delinquents presently at St. Cloud and return of them to their community or other facility to meet their needs.
3. The Committee is aware of the fact that elimination of the Annex will create certain problems for the Department of Welfare which will need to be solved.
4. The Committee extends its appreciation to the Commissioner of Welfare, Morris Hursh, the Commissioner of Corrections, William Turnbladh, and their respective staffs for the aid to the Committee to Study the Annex for Defective Delinquents.