

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING COMMISSION
203 State Capitol
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

The Legislative Building Commission held a two day meeting on February 2-3, 1962, at the state capitol, the Minnesota soldiers' home, and the Ramsey county preventorium annex to the Cambridge state school and hospital (Lake Owasso children's home).

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The meeting was reconvened at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Knudsen at the Ramsey County Preventorium Annex to the Cambridge State School and Hospital (Lake Owasso Children's Home) in the administration building.

Present in addition to the Commission members and staff were Lake Owasso Children's Home Administrator Norbert K. Johnson, Senior Nurse Irene Monitor, Chief Engineer Robert L. Como, Cambridge State School and Hospital Superintendent Galen H. Adkins, Assistant Hospital Superintendent Trainee John Stocking, Business Manager Donald J. Wujcik, Department of Public Welfare Commissioner Morris Hursh, Deputy Commissioner Ove Wangensteen, and Children's Mental Health Services Director Richard E. Bartman.

Copies of the home's brochure are in file in the offices of the Commission at the state capitol.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the history of the home and described the present operation. Since the opening of the home as a children's home in 1955 there has been a change in population from 88 boys to 130 female residents because, to best utilize the facilities, it was felt that the patients should be older, better able to take care of their physical needs, and less in need of medical attention. In August, 1958, the shift from younger boys to older and less destructive girls was completed. The ages range from 18 to 60 years. In July, 1961, the administrative responsibility for the operation of the home was transferred from the Faribault state school and hospital to the Cambridge state school and hospital. Admission is by transfer from the Cambridge institution and discharges are handled by the social services division at the Cambridge institution. Under the conditions of the first lease the lessor (Ramsey county) was charged no rent but the state was to pay for needed modifications and repairs to the premises and equipment. The present lease dated July, 1959, is for a period of five years with a rental charge of \$1 per year for each of the first two years, dependent upon improvements to the porches of the Davis and Taylor buildings in the amount of approximately \$65,000. The rental for the three years thereafter is to be renegotiated between the state and the county. There are seven buildings located on the ten acres which comprise the home's campus.

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Mr. Johnson then reviewed recent building projects completed, projects authorized by the 1961 Legislature but not yet begun, and projects authorized but dependent upon the passage of Constitutional Amendment No. 2.

The 1963 requests for the Lake Owasso children's home are as follows:

1. Correction of electrical system deficiencies	\$2,000
2. Construction of sidewalk	500
1963 Total	\$2,500

Detailed justifications for the requests are contained in the brochure.

The brochure also stated that because the home is owned by Ramsey county and because the present lease expires June 30, 1964, no requests are being made for future years at this time.

Mr. Johnson then presented to the Commission for possible discussion the installation of a sanitary sewer system that can serve the home.

JOHNSON: "We have, under special problems for information purposes, listed the fact that the village of Shoreview has installed a sanitary sewer system which can serve this institution. At the present it is not hooked up. The residents of this area have been advised that they can hook up whenever they wish. They have a year in which to do this. The village of Shoreview has certified to the Ramsey county auditor an assessment of approximately \$14,000. Department of public welfare officials have attempted to meet with county officials to discuss this assessment and to renegotiate the present lease which expires in 1964, but adequate county representation has not yet occurred."

Representative Basford asked for further details on the failure of the county officials to meet with the department personnel. Mr. Wangenstein advised that after two unsatisfactory attempts to meet with the county officials the department asked the county attorney to arrange for a meeting. Mr. Wangenstein advised that in his opinion there has been no deliberate attempt by the county to avoid such a meeting.

Several members asked for further detail on the lease arrangement.

HURSH: "After a couple years of the state leasing this institution from the county the county began to say that the state should pay something. Indication was that they would talk about \$1,000 a month. About that time we were going to spend about \$60,000 on remodeling so we sort of agreed that they would give us credit instead of charging us. So for the next five years we would assume that we were paying \$12,000 a year by virtue of adding the improvements. I do not think that the five years have ended yet so there is the factor of whether we do not have some credit against the \$14,000 assessment. I suppose sooner or later the question of the state paying rent will arise."

Dr. Adkins suggested that the home might be considered in the statewide long range planning as a research center for the problems related to the mentally retarded.

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Commissioner Hursh stated that he did not think the amounts paid for improvements at the home to date have been unreasonable if those funds are considered to be in lieu of rent. The commissioner said that he did not think that the department should be held responsible for the sewage charge on property which does not belong to the state. He also stated that the constant renegotiation of the lease is not desirable and he suggested that a long term lease similar to the Glen Lake 35 year lease be considered. The department at present is in a position where the county can at any time according to the commissioner "tack on an assessment or change the rental agreement".

It was pointed out by Chairman Knudsen that approximately \$152,000 has been expended on the home since its occupation by the state.

POPP: "Commissioner Hursh, do you propose that we continue to improve without a long term lease?"

HURSH: "We did something like that with regard to the Sandstone facility. We kept up the normal repairs and the only assurance we ever had from the federal government was that they would give us about two years notice. It seems to me with Ramsey county that we should be able to get a much better arrangement. I certainly would like to get away from this two year basis."

There followed further discussion about obtaining a long term lease from the county. Representative Knudsen and several other members suggested that the department of welfare attempt to obtain a long term lease from the county.

The members were then taken on an extensive tour of the home. First toured was the Taylor building where older patients live. Dayrooms, dormitories, and administrative offices were visited. The school building was also toured. Davis building for younger patients was then visited. Its design is similar to Taylor building. The administration building houses about 18 patients and employees quarters, kitchen, dining rooms, gymnasium, laundry, offices, dental clinic, and various storerooms. All buildings are two story, brick structures except the school building which is one story and brick. The exterior of the administration building was examined and Mr. Johnson pointed out the need for parapet repairs as well as repairs to the west porch. He reported that funds for these projects were provided by the 1961 Legislature in the amounts of \$9,000 and \$3,800, respectively. The poor sidewalks were observed by the members and Mr. Johnson remarked that funds in the amount of \$1,000 were provided by the 1961 Legislature for sidewalk replacement and that he expected the work to be accomplished as soon as weather permitted.

Following the tour the members returned to the meeting room.

Representative Luther suggested that the Commission make an effort to hear further from the department of public welfare in order to develop more background for long range planning of building needs in the field of mental retardation. She suggested as possible points of interest Dr. Bartman's recent

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classification of institution populations, apparent planning for conversion of the children's home to a research facility, local efforts in the field of mental health, and population trends in the mental hospitals.

BARTMAN: "You might be interested in what the classification survey covered, and this might give you a basis for deciding whether you would like to take a considerable piece of time to go into it in some detail. What we did was set up a rating scale in three areas - intellectual handicap which was measured on the basis of IQ, emotional disturbance which was measured on the basis of aides' intimate knowledge of patients in terms of mannerisms, etc., and physical handicap which was measured on the basis of functional basis in terms of whether patients can use their legs, take care of themselves, etc. Each of the three areas was divided into four grades - none, moderate, mild, and severe. On the one hand this is quite a crude analysis, but on the other hand it keeps things in a proportion where you can at least think about them. There are 64 different categories into which patients may fall, each one quite different from another. The kinds of information we are getting from this is very helpful. For instance, at Cambridge there are over 100 patients who have no intellectual handicap meaning that they all have an IQ over 80. This is a reflection of the fact that Cambridge has taken in epileptic patients who are not retarded. A considerable number of these patients are not physically handicapped to the extent that they cannot take care of themselves and get along. This is a group which we have to study much more intensively. Although it was felt at one time that they should be in an institution, we now know that they do not need to be. Owatonna has over 100 patients who were rated as mild intellectually handicapped, meaning that they have IQ's over 60, and mildly emotionally disturbed, meaning that they may be a little hard to get along with or are nervous or anxious, but have no physical handicap. Many such children could be living in their home communities now. All told we have about 700 patients who we could say almost categorically even with this crude survey in terms of the ways in which we see the institutions functioning now that do not need to be in an institution to get what they need. You can see how this would affect our waiting list. Of course, as Commissioner Harsh said, this is only one half of the problem. Now we have to look into the potential for expanding of the community resources. It is hard to think about one side without the other.

"The survey results are on IBM cards and can be sorted many ways. We can find out if there are more of these mildly retarded patients from communities that do not have special education classes. If so, this is an arguing point for the setting up of special education classes in some of these communities. We also will need the backing of parent groups. We will have to be very careful how we explain this to the parents. They have been told for years and are still being told that they should put their children in institutions. Now we might turn around and tell them that they should not. We also know that nearly two thirds of the patients were rated as severely handicapped in one or more of the three areas. This is helping us already in terms of planning the building at Faribault state school and hospital.

"We have been able to do this just from the gross data we have from all the institutions. When we are able to break this down in terms of age, community, length of institutionalization, etc., we will be able to show some

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real trend in the admissions. We can get a rough idea, by eliminating the cards for those patients admitted during the past five years, of what the patients were like before that time and compare it with what it is like now - in one or all categories. There are many applications of the data."

HURSH: "For years we have been building just as fast as we could get the Legislature to appropriate the money, and they have been very generous in that respect. All the time we have been sitting here with 850 to 1,350 on the waiting list and constant pressure from everybody. I think this survey will be very valuable in the long run. We need to know how many buildings we will need and what type of building we will need. Then perhaps we can slow down this building program and start putting our emphasis on the community resources. I think the data when it is refined and analyzed further will be a great help to the profession. Hopefully we will be able to stop some of the building or at least see light ahead where we will be able to stop building. Until now we haven't had time to sit down and think about it because we were so busy taking care of all these cases on emergency basis and explaining to people why it takes two years after commitment to get into an institution. There has been very little thought on the characteristics of these people and who could come out and who could be kept out."

LUTHER: "Do you think, Mr. Chairman, that it would be interesting to put in a morning in six weeks or two months to hear some discussion on the findings of Dr. Bartman's survey, the expansion of local centers, and a more studied look at the long range implications?"

KNUDSEN: "I cannot speak on behalf of the balance of the Commission, but I know that I am interested in knowing where we are going in this field."

Representative Basford suggested that the Commission during its regular tours contact some of the local people interested in the day care centers and have a meeting with them. Representative Luther also suggested that the Commission visit the Worthington residential school for the physically handicapped child.

BARTMAN: "We have started having meetings with the central office people who are in charge of institutions who have programs for children including corrections, special education, etc., to study the sort of problem to which Representative Luther is alluding. For instance, I am sure that we have patients at Faribault state school and hospital who could benefit from the kind of program Worthington has. We have some patients who are listed at the worst as mildly retarded but severely physically handicapped who are most likely cerebral palsy patients. (We know what group to look into now to make sure of this.) The braille school is getting more and more emotionally disturbed children, some with mild degrees of retardation. They have information which would be helpful to Faribault state school and hospital, and Faribault has psychiatrists who could help the braille school in managing some of their cases. We are trying to get a kind of integrated structure to pool what we have. We are approaching this on a cooperative basis rather than on an administratively set up basis."

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Representative Luther suggested that the recent education study pertaining in particular to the braille and sight saving school and now in the hands of the department of public welfare be made available to the Legislative Building Coraaision.

HURSH: "The department of education set up a committee of fairly well recognized authorities which made a study of the whole education system and also a study of the child care aspects and the department's school curriculum. The survey made a large number of recommendations and Mr. Lysen has been very fine about cooperating in putting a lot of these into practice. There is about 41 percent of the braille students which the committee says does not need to be at the school because they could be at local schools if the schools are available. There are about 90 students enrolled at the school. This has a lot of bearing on that school. It is rather difficult for many people to recognize that within the next five or ten years the school might go out of business for that particular purpose. This is all a part of the larger problem. I think before you conclude your recommendations on the braille school requests you should see that report."

BARTMAN: "I was talking with Leo Feider, the director of rehabilitive services in the department of welfare, about this the other day. There probably are enough blind retarded children so that the braille school could operate for evaluating these children. We could decide which children the braille school could help and return the others to the institutions from which they came with recommendations aimed toward helping them there. At least this would be one kind of function which would be extremely useful and about which we can do nothing right now."

Representative Knudsen suggested that the department of public welfare bring such information before the Commission from time to time. He stated that he thought it would be difficult to include detailed welfare studies in the Building Commission's crowded tour schedule, but that further consideration should be given to currennt developments and changed thinking in the field of mental health before allocations are made.

LUTHER: "I am hoping that unless there is an objection from the Commission we are all registering assent to the idea that the planning of agenda as far as possible should include some consideration of these larger views as we have discussed. It does not have to be put in the form of a motion if there is general agreement to that kind of thinking."

KNUDSEN: "I think that this will be done; we did some of this in the past."

Senator Erickson commented on the favorable attitude of the children at the Lake Owasso children's home toward the people in charge and added that he had noticed this attitude and the lack of this attitude on the part of patients at other state institutions.

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During further discussion of the lease from the county, Commissioner Hursh stated that he would convey to the county officials the Commission's feelings and the department's feelings on the need for a more clearly defined lease particularly with reference to the term of the lease. The commissioner will inform the Commission of the results of his department's further negotiations with the county.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Skeate
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Secretary