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[Summary report 1949/50]

June 26, 1950

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CONTROL:

During the five years that I have been working with you it has been my practice to submit, at the end of each year, a brief report recounting the principal items of progress that the Department has achieved during the year just closing.

I have the honor, therefore, to submit such a brief outline for the year ending June 30, 1950, and to say once more how deeply I appreciate the unfailing understanding and support which the members of the Board have accorded to me.

I. TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLAR BOND ISSUE APPROVED BY THE VOTERS:

Of course, the most outstanding accomplishment during the year is the securing of the approval by the voters of New Jersey of our referendum for a State welfare building bond issue. This accomplishment was all the more remarkable in that the measure was defeated the year before when linked with the needs of another department. This year it passed by a better than two-to-one vote and received a majority in every one of the twenty-one counties. This result is due to the unremitting work of the staff of our department, the

officials in our institutions, and the magnificent support given us by members of the boards of managers, many of whom undertook the arduous job of chairman of their local committee. We had an active and enthusiastic committee in every one of the twenty-one counties, and the work which they did in their own sections, combined with the unanimous support of the newspapers and the organizations of New Jersey, accomplished this desirable result.

II. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WAS PASSED FOR THE BOND ISSUE:

Legislation was adopted appropriating the twenty-five million dollars to the needs of this Department and a committee of thirteen, including six legislators, was provided for. This committee has been appointed and has held several meetings. Plans are under way for the economical and efficient utilization of the funds placed at our disposal.

III. DIAGNOSTIC CENTER OPENED:

On November 30, 1949 the Diagnostic Center at Menlo Park was officially opened, with the attendance of the Governor and other high State officials.

Since that time it has evoked much favorable newspaper and other comment. All the Judges of the State have visited it and the project has been written up in several of our New Jersey newspapers and also periodicals with a Nation-wide circulation.

Doctor Brancale has built up an excellent staff and while even now the physical quarters permit only a limited number of persons to be taken care of, valuable advice is being given to the courts and other public agencies in the State. It is confidently believed that this will be hailed as one of the outstanding contributions of New Jersey to the solution of the problem of crime and delinquency.

IV. PROBLEM OF THE SEX CRIMINAL WAS RECOGNIZED AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WAS TAKEN:

After an illuminating report, a copy of which has been sent to the members of the Board, by a distinguished commission, the legislation which they recommended passed the Legislature and the New Jersey report is being hailed throughout the county as a common-sense and yet determined approach to the problem of the sex criminal.

V. "HIGH-FIELDS" PROJECT INAUGURATED:

For several years, under the leadership of Lt. Lloyd W. McCorkle, "group therapy," or group interaction activity, has been carried on in some of the institutions, notably, Bordentown, Annandale and Clinton. It has proved so successful that the Commissioner and Dr. Bixby approached two foundations, with the result that twenty-five thousand dollars has been contributed by the New York foundation, through the courtesy of Mr. Sam S. Lewisohn, and fifty thousand dollars for research has been contributed by the Astor Estate.

This has made it possible to hire Mr. McCorkle and we have taken over the Lindbergh house in Hopewell, known as "High-Fields," and the project will get under way there in the latter part of June.

This also helps us to carry out suggestions of the Judges of our County courts, that arrangements should be made to provide a shorter and more intensive course of treatment for adolescents and first offenders than is possible at our regular training schools and reformatories. The idea will be to put these young offenders on half time work and half time "group therapy" and attempt to turn them out in about one-quarter of the time that would be involved in a straight commitment to the reformatory.

This project has likewise occasioned much comment and Mr. McCorkle has been awarded a twenty-five hundred dollar prize by THE READER'S DIGEST for his work as disclosed by an article appearing in the May number of the DIGEST.

VI. ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR MUNICIPAL AID:

On recommendation of the Governor, following the filing of the Bane-May report on welfare in New Jersey, the Legislature passed an act transferring responsibility for municipal aid from the Department of Conservation to the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

Supervision of this work had been in two places. There were sixteen municipal auditors connected with the Department of Finance, and a field and office staff connected with the

Department of Conservation. An amount of money upwards of \$150,000.00, annually, was involved in paying this personnel. The only money in sight for this Department is the \$100,000.00 referred to in the basic legislation and which we believe will be set up in an account for us to use. This has made it necessary for us to select, with the advice of the two departments mentioned, the most suitable employes in these two groups.

We will commence the supervision to the best of our ability and the work will be put under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Andrews beginning July 1.

This will be another important step towards the integration of welfare in New Jersey.

VII. FURTHER INTEGRATION OF WELFARE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT:

The Board of Control, on the 8th of March, announced the establishment of a Division of Welfare within the Department of Institutions and Agencies, and the designation of Mr. Elmer V. Andrews as Director of the Division, as well as Deputy Commissioner in charge of welfare activities.

Later on the Legislature confirmed this in an act which set up the Division of Welfare and provided for the inclusion within it of certain bureaus, such as the bureau of assistance, bureau of blind assistance, and the bureau of child welfare. Further plans are under way to make administrative and legislative changes in the administration of assistance within the Department, so that the time is not far distant when this work will be completely integrated.

VIII. TRANSFER OF DIVISION OF ARCHITECTURE:

This can hardly be classified as an accomplishment as it will result in a serious diminution of efficiency in the supervision extended by the Central Office over our twenty-two institutions. However, in pursuance of a belief that economy and efficiency would be served if all architecture was done in one place, on the recommendation of the Governor the Legislature has attempted to transfer the Division of Architecture, Construction and Maintenance to the Department of the Treasury. I say "attempted to transfer," because a careful reading of the bill designed to do that, leaves some doubt as to whether this has been legally accomplished. However, there seems no purpose to be gained in contesting the matter further, and as of July 1 the whole Division of Architecture will be taken off the payroll of the Department and transferred to the Division of Purchase and Property of the Department of the Treasury.

Unfortunately, there was included in the Division of Architecture a number of maintenance men, who, for convenience, had been placed under the Division with the inclusive title given above. At first the entire appropriation for these maintenance men was eliminated, and only after strong representations on our part did we succeed in having about \$25,000.00 re-inserted in our personnel appropriation.

Some of the positions involved have practically nothing to do with architecture, such as the superintendent of transportation, the power house inspector, and so forth, and it has been an unpleasant and difficult job to select those of our loyal and competent employees who are to stay with us out of this greatly reduced amount of money.

IX. JUDGES' REPORT AND MEETING:

For the first time in the history of the Department, and following a report made by a committee of judges through the judicial council, which had some unfavorable implications in it as to the policies of the Department, the officials of our institutions have met with a committee of the judges of our county courts. This has been followed up with other meetings until a relationship of improved understanding and rapport has been arrived at. This was definitely demonstrated when, a few days ago, the committee of judges filed their final report with the Chief Justice, intimating on several points that they had been convinced of the inaccuracy of their original conclusions and speaking very highly of the cooperation evidenced by our officials in meeting with them.

As soon as this report is published, copies will be sent to the members of the boards. It suffices to say at the present time that it was an achievement of no mean merit on the part of Deputy Commissioner Bixby and his staff to place before these judges so clearly and convincingly the policies and principles governing the correctional administration of our institutions.

X. MEETING WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS:

Another first occurred when Commissioner Bergsma and seven top members of his staff met with the institution superintendents in a discussion of improved and revised health measures in our institutions.

As a result of the meeting a joint liaison committee, including three members of each department, has been formed. Manuals will be produced and wholehearted cooperation carried forward between the two departments, to the end that our health and sanitary procedures may be standardized and improved.

XI. PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Important personnel changes were recorded during the year, including:

The appointment of Mr. Andrews as Deputy Commissioner in charge of welfare, to succeed Dr. Ellen C. Potter;

The appointment of Dr. Archie Crandell to succeed Dr. Marcus A. Curry, after forty-six years of service at the Greystone Park State Hospital;

The appointment of Mr. George F. Mufson to the State Board of Control; and

The resignation of Warden Page, following his election to the office of City Commissioner, to take effect upon the qualification of his successor.

XII. HOSPITAL PROGRESS:

The Hospital Survey and Construction Division has continued to perform excellently under the supervision of Edward A. Mooney, Esq., and reports the total allocation of Federal money, including the amount pledged for ensuing years, in the amount of \$10,671,845.43 . This provides for a total

addition of 2,696 beds to the hospital facilities of New Jersey and should result in very materially easing the pressure upon our overcrowded general hospitals.

XIII. HOSPITAL LICENSING ADVANCED:

A splendid piece of work is being done by the Division of Inspection, under the leadership of Mr. F. Spencer Smith and Mrs. Martha Trainor, R. N., with the advice and approval of the Hospital Licensing Board.

All hospitals and nursing homes in the State have now been inspected, and although we have had to put considerable pressure on some of them, it has not been necessary as yet to revoke the license of a single non-profit hospital.

XIV. TRANSFER OF FIELD INVESTIGATORS TO DIVISION OF INSPECTION:

Another move in the direction of efficiency and integration took place on April 1 when the group of field investigators, formerly under the supervision of Dr. Ellen C. Potter, who worked with the homes for the aged, the nursing homes and children's agencies, was transferred to the Division of Inspection under Mr. Smith.

XV. LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT:

The following is a brief recital of legislation passed or defeated which affects the Department of Institutions and Agencies:

Senate 89

Nursing home fees in State fund, also
license hospitals.

Chapter 38

Senate 92

Child adoption fees in State fund.

Chapter 41

Senate 137

Authorizes boards of chosen freeholders to establish
county hospitals for the sick, aged, mentally ill,
etc. (Extends to all counties, provisions of
Chapter 23, P.L. 1947)

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Senate 164

To retain title Principal Keeper of State Prison;
provides for Chief Executive Officer.

Given 2nd reading.

Senate 193

For treatment in sex crime conviction.

Chapter 207

Senate 195

Commutation for third offender imprisonment.

Awaiting Governor's signature.

Senate 269

Allows county to contribute to old age Welfare Home.

Chapter 218

Senate 288

Grants institutions \$25,000,000 voted in bond referendum.

Chapter 57

Senate 300

State Appropriation.

Chapter 236

Senate 349

Transfer architects to Purchase Division.

Chapter 227

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Senate 361

Parole in concurrent sentence.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Senate 363

Blind, children and old age in welfare act.

Chapter 166

Awaiting signature of Governor.

SJR 8

To study alcoholic and drug problem.

Joint Resolution 13

Assembly 7

To appropriate \$500,000 for institution treatment of sex offenders.

No action.

Assembly 18

State Office Building Authority.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Assembly 200

To allow child support when father is held for desertion.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Assembly 249

For court control in juvenile and domestic case..

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Assembly 319

To admit patients to Vineland School when room is available.

Did not pass.

Assembly 322

To place under Civil Service Economic Development employees now having tenure.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Assembly 377

Appointment of board of trustees members of the parental school in counties of first class.

Chapter 121

Assembly 398

To permit hospital reimbursement for indigent in first class county.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

Assembly 437

To have county welfare department act in child adoption.

Did not pass.

Assembly 446

To give prisoners \$3.00 daily credit towards fines.

Chapter 56

Assembly 447

To parole indeterminate sentence prisoner.

Chapter 30

Assembly 487

To permit State to sell land at Rahway Prison farm to PRR at \$1,000 per acre.

Awaiting signature of Governor.

AJR 2

Continues committee for study of habitual sex offenders.

Joint Resolution 1

AJR 11

For commission to study needs of mentally deficient.

Joint Resolution 15

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