

# California Correctional Supervisors Organization, Inc.

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## *“Supervisors Representing Supervisors”*

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### **WEEKLY UPDATE -FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006**

By: Pat Le Sage, Chief Operations & Financial Officer

#### **Senate Hearings to Determine Secretary Rod Hickman and Undersecretary Jeanne Woodford’s Confirmation or Departure:**

Senators have until this July to confirm CDCR Secretary Hickman and Undersecretary Woodford’s appointment to head the nation's largest state corrections system, one that consumes \$8 billion of the state's \$125.6 billion budget. Romero's Select Committee on the California Correctional System is holding hearings to determine whether the Senate Rules Committee recommends the two correction veterans to be confirmed or relieved of their appointments. As their job descriptions changed last year, the Senate must again confirm them this summer.

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, criticized, in the Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing, a lack of progress since Hickman's previous confirmation in 2004 to head the old prison agency. He was appointed in November 2003, following Schwarzenegger election. She and other critics spent the four-hour hearing outlining the department's failures, as Hickman and Undersecretary Jeanne Woodford highlighted the agency's progress.

Romero and Hickman sharply criticized each other during the hearing. Romero dismissed Hickman's "glossy, pretty pamphlet," while he accused her of reducing the agency's problems to media-friendly "sound bites."

Senator Romero lambasted Hickman and Woodford for the 70% of inmates still returning to prison within 18 months of being released, which is twice the national average. She blamed them for the lack of inmates participating in the already established programs. Hickman replied that his “agency was not to blame for the growing number of prisoners. We do not produce inmates.” He further stated that, “his department alone cannot rehabilitate inmates, which would require the cooperation of local governments and community and faith-based social organizations.” He told Senator Romero that his agency cannot reform an inmate who does not want to be reformed and sleeps during the program. "We are building the foundation for sustainable change," he said. "These efforts will not happen overnight."

“Yet the fault is not all Hickman's,” Donald Specter, Director of the nonprofit Prison Law Office said. “The corrections secretary is overruled by other agencies and lacks sufficient staff and money even with a budget that increased by \$2 billion in two years. Reforming such a massive, entrenched bureaucracy from within may not be possible and could require additional court oversight.”

#### **Thoughts from CCSO:**

It appears that Senator Romero is out of touch with reality in prisons. Additional money and staff is necessary for a well-run institution, but legislators such as Senator Romero balk at the salaries and benefits peace officers are receiving in corrections. Senator Romero is quick to criticize staff and appears to exalt the inmates. She told Secretary Hickman to take responsibility, but the Senator must also take responsibility as a legislator that should be pushing for necessary funding to correct the problems in corrections. Romero is focused on reform of inmates, and is neglecting the need for additional funding to improve inmate reform programs,

fill vacant staff positions, repair old and decaying institutions, educate and train staff, enhance the workplace for staff, and secure the safety of staff as well as for the inmates. The Senator does not appear to notice that the supervisors and managers also need reform in their wages and benefits and reforms in a workplace that is currently decaying and is a health hazard in some institutions.

One man and one woman cannot be blamed for the crime rate in California or all the problems in corrections. **One man and one woman with the support of California legislators can, however, begin to make positive changes.**

#### **State Board Member Chris Gold Reports:**

“On Friday, January 27, 2006, the CCSO lobbyist Paul Curry and I sat at the table in the State Capitol with our friends from the **Unions Coalition**. The Unions Coalition encompasses supervisors and managers statewide. As we sat directly across from Assembly Member Jerome E. Horton’s Administrative Assistant Adam C. Gray, we made ourselves heard regarding the issues of supervisors and managers. During this meeting, it was obvious that the concerns we expressed from the CCSO side of the table were the same issues echoed throughout the room from every other Union and/or Organization’s representatives in attendance.

Many of the issues that were discussed consisted of disparity in pay/compaction, the new retirement formula as well as an overwhelming support for Assembly Bill 1186 (AB 1186). It was also agreed upon by the Unions Coalition members that we needed to take an aggressive approach to these issues at hand, and hold the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) accountable. Furthermore, there was a consensus that we would take whatever actions necessary to get the Governor’s attention.

CCSO’s recommendation was to PICKET. We informed attendees that CCSO had used this approach in the past and it had been effective. The Unions Coalition like this idea, and stated they could add many additional members in support of our cause standing shoulder to shoulder in front of the State Capitol. A tentative date for an informational picket has been set for April 5, 2006. This date was selected because it is the date that the Alliance of Law Enforcement (that we belong to) has its legislative day. The second scheduled date for the Unions Coalition has been set for February 21, 2006. CCSO will host this next meeting in Sacramento in our Lobbyist’s conference room.”

#### **San Quentin Riot:**

Sixteen inmates were injured Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at San Quentin State Prison in a riot, which started before 8:45 a.m., in a dining hall for new inmates. The rioters were believed to be Latinos affiliated with the “Nortenos” gang and a rival group of black prisoners. The noise of the rioting and responding officers then sparked a similar riot in a nearby dining hall, officials said.

About 400 inmates were in the dining halls, and an estimated 86 fought Thursday morning, Sgt. Messick said. The injured inmates were treated and returned to their cells. No staff members were hurt. Authorities said the lockdown, of 900 inmates, will be reviewed every 24 hours.

This is the second riot within a few weeks. On January 12<sup>th</sup> two officers were injured when eight inmates were slashed or stabbed during a riot. The riot involved at least 23 inmates that were initiated by a group of Hispanic inmates who all stood up at the same time in a crowded dining hall around. It was unknown who the target of the attacks were, because inmates of all ethnicities were involved, stated officials.

**Fire Chief's Annual Conference:**

Administrative Field Services Representative Bill Braden and Chief Operations and Financial Officer Pat Le Sage attended on February 1<sup>st</sup> the Fire Chief's Conference held in Folsom. The conference allowed us to network with our Fire Chiefs and attain problem areas that they wish CCSO to address this year. The conference centered on "Institutional Fire Safety and Occupancy, Statutes, and Regulations". It was an informative day, and we thank Assistant Secretary Karen Wong and Staff Services Manager Weaver Rhyne for allowing us to attend and speak to our Fire Chiefs at this conference.

**Supervisory Release Time Bank Meeting:**

CCSO representatives met on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, to discuss the changes, which became effective February 1, 2006, regarding procedures to the supervisory release time bank. It appears no major changes will occur regarding donating and obtain release time via our time bank, but there will be a closer monitoring of usage and donations to the bank. CCSO believes monitoring and tracking time donated and used should have been occurring right along and finds no problem with the changes. A major change will be the transfer of monitoring both the CCPOA and our (CCSO) supervisory time bank from CDCR to DPA. CDCR will continue to handle the rank and file bank, but DPA will handle the tracking of supervisory hours as supervisors are excluded employees and do not fall within collective bargaining negotiations.

The meeting ended with one formal objection by CCSO, whereby the Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage allowed for the new form to be used only through the end of February. Le Sage objected to the member and CCSO organization signing a form that had language referencing collective bargaining negotiations. CDCR representatives agreed the language needed to be corrected.

**ISU Meet and Confer – Report by Ford Canutt:**

On January 27, 2006 President Rich Tatum, Administrative Field Services Representative Ford Canutt and Chapter 1 President Jim Russell met with CDCR Labor Relations Representatives concerning the reassignment of some ISU lieutenant positions. The positions in question were taken from several institutions and reassigned to OIA to help them with their over burdened case load. However, some of the institutions could not afford to lose the lieutenant position, and it was found that other institutions should have been targeted for the reassignment instead. The CDCR representatives agreed to review this problem and make any needed adjustments to the list of reassigned ISU lieutenant positions.

**Coretta Scott King Passes Away:**

Governor Schwarzenegger released on January 31<sup>st</sup> a statement on the death of Coretta Scott King. In his statement he cites "she was not only a leader in the civil rights movement but the epitome of a remarkable woman. Mrs. King will live in America's memories for her unfaltering dedication to the cause of equality, her noble character, her graceful resolve, and her generosity of spirit."

**Site for Locating District Legislator(s):**

A great site for locating your district legislator(s) is <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/portzipsearch.html> once in the site, just type in your zip code.

**Welcome New Members:**

The State Board and staff, welcome the new members who have joined CCSO.

**Thought for the Week:** "No man ever listened himself out of a job." – Calvin Coolidge