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I. UNSANITARY AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SERVICES RESPONSE TO
ALLEGED UNSANITARY AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Unsanitary And Unsafe Conditions:

11) The cells are infested with roaches and mice. There is also a fungus which frequently grows on some walls of the jail during periods of high humidity and heat. Whenever this fungus is present, there is an increase of respiratory ailments among the inmates.

Response: Interviews with St. Louis County Jail Staff indicate roaches and mice are not present in the jail and fungus does not grow on the walls. The jail is serviced monthly by Sanders Pest Control Services. Respiratory ailments are not high among the inmates. Mr. Corzine inspected the jail March 5, 1980 and saw no evidence of roaches, mice or fungus. See attachment A-1, A-2, A-3, A-6, C-1.

12) Windows in the jail vary in their condition. In 1975 a majority of the windows were blocked up and air conditioning units installed. The exhaust vents on the roof provide the only source of ventilation in the cell areas. This lack of ventilation causes foul odors to collect and constantly permeate the air.

Response: Staff interviewed during this investigation stated that the air is not foul, however the ventilation could be improved. See attachment A-1, A-2, A-5, C-1.

13) The mattresses for the bunks are filthy, foul-smelling and never cleaned, aired out or disinfected. No mattress covers are furnished and there is often a long period of time between changing of sheets.

Response: Interviews with County Jail staff indicate that all mattresses are changed yearly. Mattresses are not aired out or disinfected, mattress covers are not issued. See attachments A-1, A-4, A-5, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7, B-8, B-9.

are solely responsible for their cells. Inmates who are not trustees frequently have difficulty obtaining the proper cleaning tools, such as mops and brooms.

Response: Dorm workers (prisoners) are responsible for assigned cleaning tasks which include cell areas, halls and common areas, all prisoners are responsible for maintaining their respective cell area in a clean safe and sanitary manner. Sufficient cleaning supplies are issued to prisoners three times each day. See attachments A-2, A-5, A-6, B-11.

15) Showers and open toilet areas are contained in each cell except for the women's cell that has a separate enclosed bath room. The only cleaning of these areas is done by the inmates occupying the individual cells who are seldom provided with the proper materials to adequately clean these areas. Consequently these areas are breeding grounds for bacteria and fungus.

Response: Proper cleaning materials are provided to all prisoners three times each day for the purpose of maintaining their living area in a clean, sanitary and safe manner. See attachments A-3, A-4, A-5, B-11.

16) Inmates are required to eat their meals in their cells, which are usually in a dirty and unsanitary condition due to the limited amount of cleaning previously described.

Response: Proper cleaning materials are provided to all prisoners three times each day for the purpose of maintaining their living area in a clean sanitary and safe manner. See attachments A-3, A-4, A-5, B-11.

17) There is insufficient hot water for inmates to take showers. Normally an inmate must shower in cold water or remain dirty.

Response: The shower water is automatically premixed at the appropriate temperature for showering. Prisoners may take as many showers as they like. See attachments A-1, A-2, A-5.

18) Personal hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and combs, are sometimes difficult to obtain. No razors are given

to any inmates, except during sporadic times when groups of inmates are allowed to shave in one common room.

Response: Soap and toilet tissue are available for all prisoners. Indigent prisoners are provided with tooth brush, tooth past, comb, stamps, pen and writing paper. The cost of these items are deducted from the prisoner commissary account if he receives money. Razors are available in the prisoner commissary for .25 - .30 cents, all prisoners may shave six times each week at regular supervised times. See attachment A-4.

19) Laundry is supposed to be done once a week for all inmates by the trustees. However, because of breakdowns in the equipment, washing is often done only once a month. Also inmates must wash their own socks in the sink without any detergent.

Response: All linen and resident clothing are laundred at the Adult Correctional Institution once each week. A washer and dryer are available for use by all prisoners. Dorm workers are assigned to wash and drying clothing for other prisoners upon request. See attachments A-5, C-1.

20) There are heating and cooling problems, causing the jail to be unreasonably cold in the winter and unreasonably hot in the summer. At all times, the temperature varies from floor to floor. Inmates often suffer the harsh physiological effects of temperature extremes.

Response: County Jail staff interviewed stated that there are no extreme temperature variation. See attachment A-3, A-5, C-1.

ATTACHMENT A-1

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM BREEDING

Mr. William Breeding is the Chief of Custody of the St. Louis County Jail. In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mr. Breeding stated that he had never seen roaches or mice in jail, considered the air to be fresh rather than foul, that mattresses were changed yearly, no mattress covers are furnished, sheets are changed weekly, and there is sufficient hot water for showers.


Mr. Breeding was interviewed on March 5, 1980.


Mr. William Breeding

ATTACHMENT A-2

INTERVIEW WITH HARTLEY JOHNSTON

Mr. Hartley Johnston is the Assistant Chief of Custody of the St. Louis County Jail. In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mr. Johnston stated that he has not seen roaches or mice in the jail, there is sufficient hot water for showers, foul odors do not permeate the air and the jail is clean, safe and sanitary. This interview was conducted on March 2, 1980.



Mr. Hartley Johnston

ATTACHMENT A-3

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HARKNESS

Mrs. Harkness is the nurse at the St. Louis County Jail. In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mrs. Harkness stated that she has never seen roaches or mice in the jail, she has not seen fungus on the walls, respiratory ailments are not high (on Mar .5, 1980 three prisoners were being treated for colds) she is not aware of any bacteria or fungus breeding in the jail and the air is not foul.

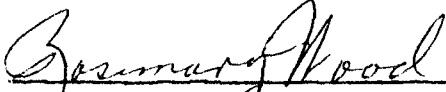
Mrs. Eleanor Harkness
Mrs. Harkness

ATTACHMENT A-4

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ROSEMARY WOOD

Mrs. Rosemary Wood is the Administrative Assistant at the St. Louis County Jail. In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mrs. Wood stated indigent prisoners are given toothpaste, tooth brush, combs, soap, stamps. Prisoners may purchase other items of their choice at the commissary.

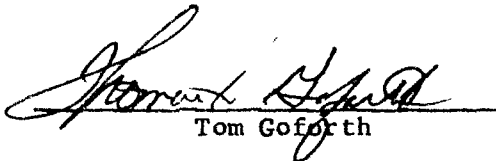
Mattresses are purchased for the County Jail to replace as needed. Cleaning supplies are procured which includes mops, buckets, brooms, disinfect, cleanser etc.


Mrs. Rosemary Wood

ATTACHMENT A-5

INTERVIEW WITH CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SENIOR TOM GOFORTH, ST. LOUIS COUNTY JAIL

In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mr. Goforth stated the air in the County Jail is not foul, the ventilation could be improved, supplies are made available to prisoners for cleaning cells three times per day, all clothing and linen are cleaned weekly in the laundry at the Adult Correctional Institution, a washer and dryer are available and dorm workers wash other personal items for prisoners in their dorms, dorm workers also maintain the dorms and halls in a clean manner and are given an extra visit each week for these labors; shower water is pre-mixed and sufficient for showering, prisoners may shower as often as they like, the jail is warm in the winter and cool in the summer; there is no extreme temperature change, hence no harsh physiological effects.


Tom Goforth

ATTACHMENT A-6

INTERVIEW WITH KEN RIGGS CORRECTIONAL OFFICER, ST. LOUIS COUNTY JAIL

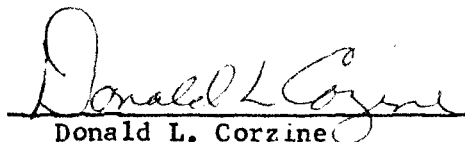
In response to questions asked by Donald L. Corzine, Mr. Riggs response was that he has never seen roaches or mice in the jail.


Ken Riggs

ATTACHMENT C-1

Results of inspection of the St. Louis County Jail conducted on March 5, 1980, by Mr. Donald L. Corzine, Work Release Coordinator, Department of Justice Services.

During the inspection which included the entire jail, I found no evidence of mice, roaches or fungus. The jail was clean, sanitary and safe. The jail was well staffed, the air was fresh and the temperature comfortable. The nurse was washing linens from the infirmary and prisoner personal clothing was scheduled for washing in the afternoon. The jail was well lighted and no prisoners registered any complaints with me.


Donald L. Corzine