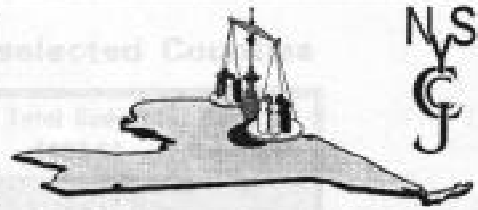


UPDATE



Summer 1994

Prison As Industry

by Jim Murphy

Discussion of criminal justice policy in New York generally passes over one of the most driving elements in the State's criminal justice policy—the prison industry. Obviously, the enormous amount of money which has and is being spent to build and operate prisons has a major effect in local economies, benefitting a large number of people. It will come as no surprise that many of those people want the spending to continue.

Running Prisons —

Take the 1993-94 DOCS budget for example. The state funded 70 prisons in 31 of the State's 62 counties at a cost of about \$1.2 billion dollars. More than 26,000 people were employed in those prisons (central administration not included). In the 14 counties where the state spent over \$40 million in 1993-94, prison employment accounted for more than 2% of the labor force in 11 of the counties, over 4% in 5 counties. Wyoming at 8% and Franklin at 6% led the list.

The following table (A) lists those counties by the size of the expenditure. The Chart includes: 1) the number of facilities in the county; 2) The county's labor force in 1991; 3) the number of staff employed in the county's state prisons; 4) the % of the labor force employed in prisons; 5) the total prison budget for the county; and 6) the party affiliation of the county's Senator(s).

Continued on Pages 2 and 3



Table A - Spending by DOCS in selected Counties

County (# of Facilities)	91 Labor Force	Facility Staff	%LFr	Total Budget 1993-94	Party of Senator(s)
Dutchess (4)	125,600	2,590	2%	\$116,511,756	R
Oneida (5)	106,400	2133	2%	\$96,621,553	1R & 1D
Westchester (3)	454,700	1,725	.3%	\$77,862,324	3R & 2D
Clinton (3)	37,100	1,567	4.2%	\$68,945,819	R
Ulster (4)	84,200	1,543	1.8%	\$68,868,736	R
Wyoming (2)	17,200	1,390	8%	\$81,084,374	R
Franklin (4)	22,100	1,342	6%	\$80,940,256	R
Chemung (2)	42,900	1,081	2.5%	\$49,650,182	R
Washington (2)	27,100	1,126	4.2%	\$49,397,605	R
Erie (3)	460,200	1,121	.2%	\$48,582,394	2D & 2R
Cayuga (2)	37,400	1,034	2.7%	\$47,535,036	R
St Lawrence (3)	48,500	1,057	2.1%	\$47,382,290	R
Livingston (2)	29,800	1,057	3.5%	\$46,756,968	R
Greene (1)	19,800	1,047	5.2%	\$46,669,535	R
TOTAL	1,513,000	19,803	1.3%	\$886,808,827	17R & 5D

UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE
COALITION FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**Building Prisons —**

Of course, in addition to the running of prisons is the cost of building them. In the nine budget years 1983-1992, the State spent about \$1.5 Billion expanding the prison system by somewhat over 25,000 beds. Construction occurred in 22 counties with 12 receiving more than \$50 million in construction.

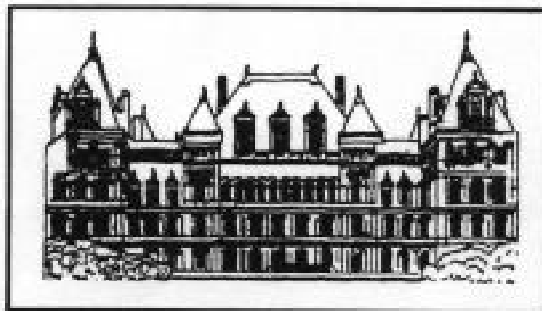
The following table (B) lists the capital expenditures in those counties. It also lists the distance of the county from New York City and the party affiliation of the County's Senator(s). (*New York City sends about 80% of the imprisoned.*)

Table B - Capital Expenditures 1983-1992 in selected counties.

County (# of Facilities)	Capital Expense 1983-1992	Mile Distance from NYC	Party of Senator(s)
Oneida (5)	\$252,000,200	240	R
Franklin (4)	\$175,300,000	350+	R
Ulster (4)	\$125,500,000	100	R
Livingston (2)	\$122,200,000	300+	R
Erie (3)	\$102,700,000	350+	2D & 2R
St Lawrence (3)	\$90,900,000	350+	R
Chautauqua (1)	\$83,000,000	400	R
Chemung (2)	\$77,800,000	240	R
Greene (1)	\$60,400,000	125	R
Wyoming (2)	\$60,100,000	300+	R
Sullivan (3)	\$58,300,000	90	R
Cayuga (2)	\$50,000,000	240	R

The capital construction of the past 10 years has largely occurred in rural counties represented in the State Senate by Republicans. That is no accident. Seen as economic development, the Republican-controlled Senate has made prison construction in their rural districts as a priority in budget negotiations. In fact, in the years I worked for the Coalition, the message was clear: No prison construction in Republican districts, no budget.

Budget constraints are, perhaps, lessening the ability to continue massive prison construction, but the dependency of so many county's economies on prison construction and jobs continues to dominate the debate and forestall more positive responses. ☐



Legislative Report

by NYS Criminal Justice Alliance¹

The NYSCJA, of which the Coalition is a part, sponsored a second lobbying day in Albany this June 7th; representatives from Prisoners' Legal Services, Women's Prison Association & Home, the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, the Correctional Association, the Fortune Society, and the CA's Women in Prison Project argued in

favor of Alliance recommendations in several areas (a summary of the legislative response is italicized in parentheses following each recommendation):

"Three Strikes"

The legislature should reject all "three strikes" proposals. We cannot continue to simply warehouse offenders. Funds that are available to house prisoners for longer periods of time would be far more wisely spent by providing meaningful programs for those same inmates so that they can conquer the problems which led them to commit violent crimes. Effective and comprehensive programs, group and individual mental health counseling, drug and alcohol abuse programs and

¹NYSCJA may be contacted at the Correctional Association of New York, 135 State Street, New York, NY 10003; (212) 254-5700.