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# Oakland Jail Probe Delays Prisoner Shift

By JACKIE KLEIN  
 Two attempts by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to ease crowded conditions in the county jail have been stymied as investigations of mistreatment of prisoners continue. Commissioners abandoned a plan to use the Pontiac city jail to house female prisoners. It was proposed by Commissioner Dennis Aaron (D-Huntington Woods), chairman of the public protection and judiciary committee. Sheriff Frank Irons said he has found space in the county jail for 20 female prisoners and opposes using the city jail. Cost of renovating the Pontiac jail for use of women inmates was estimated at \$2,700.

A PROPOSAL for a county night court to enable prisoners to be arraigned quickly and put out on bail instead of being detained in county jail was called "within the jurisdiction of commissioners" by county civil counsel Robert Allen. Allen advised that district judges may, of their own volition, sit as a court during evening and weekend hours. Aaron's committee has been hearing charges of police mistreatment at the county jail. These have been denied by Sheriff Irons.

Investigation of "inhuman treatment of prisoners" stemmed from charges by Commissioner Charles Harrison Jr. (D-Pontiac), who was arrested last month as he stood in the parking lot behind the jail, tape-recording prisoners' yells and conversations. Harrison, who faces pre-trial examination Dec. 20 in Pontiac District Court, pushed

for the probe and began by testifying at an informal hearing before the judiciary committee. Harrison claimed he went to the jail when two women complained to him that there had been near-riots there, that prisoners had been forced to strip naked and had water thrown on them before open windows. He has called for immediate action to correct "overcrowded, unhealthy sanitary conditions, lack of medical attention, improper food and clothing, failure to separate inmates from sexual deviates, and those charged with misdemeanors from those charged with crimes of violence and acts of brutality." He contends he has a list of 30 former prisoners who are willing to testify to the mistreatment.

# 2 Anti-Bussing Moves Blocked

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is in a legislative stalemate over a pair of resolutions opposing bussing across school boundary lines. The resolutions, referred to three different committees last month, still have not been acted on. Commissioner Dale Burley (D-Hazel Park) and Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills) who proposed the resolutions asked last week why they were being held up. Burley's resolution, signed by seven Democrats, stated that bussing across school boundary lines causes "physical and mental discomforts as well as added taxes."

Legislative committee chairman Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) said his committee has been discussing county home rule, the County Area Development Act and the County Reorganization Bill. Kasper said his attempts were being stilled by "dilatatory tactics."

Human resources committee chairman James Mathew (D-Pontiac) said his committee could not muster enough votes to pass on the resolution. Legislative committee chairman Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) said his committee has been discussing county home rule, the County Area Development Act and the County Reorganization Bill. Kasper said his attempts were being stilled by "dilatatory tactics."

IRONS SAID that no medicine is authorized that is not prescribed by a physician and that his office has had to pay out \$25,000 a year for doctors and \$10,000 on pills. He said doctors make regular bi-weekly calls. He stated that the new \$9 million jail would be completed within six months and eliminate overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. It will hold 500 prisoners compared with the present capacity of 250. Just last December, Southfield District Judge S. James Clarkson vowed, "This court will no longer tolerate placing people on high bonds and putting them in jail with a bunch of animals." Clarkson's statement came after a 17-year old Niles youth was attacked by fellow prisoners in Oakland County jail, while awaiting examination.

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