# JFAC hears pleas for more money to keep best professors

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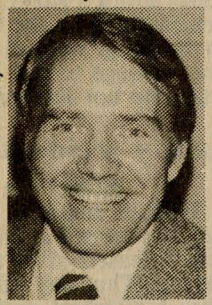
Pleas for more money to keep the best college professors in Idaho and for relieving overcrowded prison conditions were heard by members of the Joint Finance-Appropriation Committees in a tour of north Idaho state institutions this week.



Sen. Dane Watkins

State Sen. Dane Watkins, R-Idaho Falls, committee vice chairman, said Friday Dr. Richard Gibb, president of the University of Idaho, stressed the need for additional higher education funding to keep the best university professors and deans in the state.

I would like to reward our best professors with higher salaries," said Dr. Gibb.

Also emphasized was the need for more money Also emphasized was the need for more money to expand facilities at the former Idaho Hospital North at Orofino to accommodate minimum security prisoners and ease congestion at the Idaho State Penitentiary at Boise.

University of Idaho student leaders also said they supported increased student tuition fees, providing the money goes strictly for basic higher education purposes.

Fourteen of the 20-member JFAC committee toured the North Idaho Correctional Institution at Cottonwood, State Hospital North at Orofino, Lewis-Clark State College at Lewiston, and North Idaho Children's Home at Lewiston Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an annual tour of state institutions.

Also attending from east Idaho was Sen. Vearl Crystal, R-Rigby.

"You know," said Watkins, "it helps to see first-hand these institutions and how the programs are working, rather than sitting in our high ivory tower in Boise and appropriating money without knowing what it actually goes for. Such a tour is worthwhile to see the physical facilities and personally meet the state employees."

At the Cottonwood institution where there are 41 women and 86 minimum security prisoners, JFAC members were told by Al Murphy, state correction department director, there are plans to shift the women to facilities at Orofino so as to accommodate more of the minimum security male prisoners at Cottonwood.

"This would help ease the present overcrowded conditions at the Boise penitentiary," said Watkins.

Watkins said it is generally men with 120 days minimum prison sentences who are sent to Cottonwood.

"They are commonly referred to as the 120-day riders," said Watkins.

The institution located about 10 miles north of Cottonwood in scenic mountain setting was a former U.S. Army radar station and was sold cheaply to the state several years ago.

Watkins noted the present hospital facilities at Orofino are only partially occupied as alcoholic rehabilitation and psychiatric centers and a portion can be comfortably converted to an all-women prison.

They were told at Lewis-Clark State College that the school is the fastest growing higher education institution in Idaho, with 2,000 students.

Watkins said of the 13 UI student senators, five are from Idaho Falls.

At the UI, they were told some $120 million in grants, federal funds and sources aside from state money is used by the university for research and development and other special purposes.