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Former Employees Criticize CCA

Intense media attention following the escape of six inmates from CCA's Northeast Ohio Correctional Center in Youngstown has led former prison employees to speak out against the company.

One common theme was inadequate training. Former officer Linda Carnahan said she was assigned to armed perimeter guard duty despite her lack of firearms training. "I told my captain that if we had an escape, I didn't know how to pick up a gun and shoot it," she stated. "He said go out there anyway."

Former employees claimed the company didn't train many officers to use firearms because state certification can cost up to \$3,000 per person. According to Mahoning Co. Sheriff Philip Chance, CCA allowed untrained guards to carry firearms at least 13 times while transporting inmates to a local hospital.

Other former prison workers complained about CCA's emphasis on the bottom-line. "They don't care about the corrections officers and they don't care about the inmates," remarked Daniel Eshenbaugh, who

left the Youngstown facility to work at a state prison. "Everything there is about money," he concluded.

Said Robert Oliver, who quit in July, "They gave us a rundown saying two slices of bread per inmate costs this much. If you can cut corners here, it would mean a possible raise for us." Oliver and other former employees said toilet paper was rationed and basic materials such as pencils and paper for education programs were often in short supply.

CCA's Youngstown prison also has been hit by eight discrimination claims filed by former staff members, seven of which are pending.

Youngstown workers have criticized the CCA facility previously. Last April, following two murders at the prison, former and current guards described serious management deficiencies, including inadequate staff training and a high employee turnover rate. "The training we received was pitiful" said Don Lane, a former patrolman and chief of police who used to work at the prison. "If I was just off the street and didn't have my past training, I would have been in

trouble. They taught you just enough self-defense to get you killed."

Security issues are still a concern at Youngstown. Victoria Wheeler, a former employee at the CCA facility, was quoted in an August 30 article in Cleveland's *Plain Dealer* as saying, "There was no control there. They are very lucky that a staff member didn't get murdered."

Former CCA prison employees in Tennessee have expressed similar concerns, particularly regarding the company's penny-pinching policies.

Larry Adkisson, chief of security at the CCA-operated South Central Correctional Center in Clifton, said he wanted to buy a \$15 metal rod to probe a dumpster to ensure inmates weren't trying to escape. The warden said no. Two days later a prisoner hid under garbage in the Dumpster, leading to the facility's first breakout, in 1992.

Adkisson and other ex-staff said CCA officials left guard posts unmanned to avoid paying overtime, refused to buy a sufficient number of batteries for two-way radios, and cut corners in other [continued ⇨]

ADMINISTRIVIA

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P.C.I. News Bulletin, 3193-A Parthenon Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

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WANTED

Articles, clippings and news reports regarding the private corrections industry — please include the source and date of all materials submitted.

ways that presented security risks. They also said the company hired young, inexperienced guards, many just out of high school, and did not provide sufficient training.

Other former CCA staffers complained that the company skimmed on daily supplies. "We kept hearing, 'we've got to save money. We've got to make money.' They rationed everything from toilet paper to paper clips," said James Bevis, who supervised counseling services at South Central before quitting in 1993.

According to Mike Jones, who worked as a correctional officer at CCA's Mason facility, company officials discontinued paying to use firing ranges for firearm training and by last May had stopped all firearm training for new guards. "Like I tell everybody, CCA is not out to spend money; they're out to make their money," said Jones.

Former employees further complained that CCA provided less attractive job benefits than the state, ran an unprofessional operation and in other ways contributed to low morale that resulted in a high staff turnover rate. They said that CCA's health insurance was inferior and cost more, sick and vacation time were less generous, and employees were not fully vested in the company's stock plan for five years (the plan is solely invested in CCA stock, which has dropped almost 50% in recent months).

CCA refused to comment on the complaints and criticisms made by former employees; the company previously had said it would decline all interview requests indefinitely. □

Sources: *The Plain Dealer* (OH), April 27, 1998; *The Tennessean*, Aug. 31, Sept. 6, 1998.

Assault, Gang Fight at CCA Facility

Five correctional officers were attacked by prisoners at the CCA-run Torrance Co. Detention Center in Estancia, New Mexico on August 5; one was hospitalized in what CCA spokeswoman Susan Hart described as an "unprovoked assault." Some of the inmates involved in the attack had been transferred from CCA's violence-plagued Youngstown, Ohio prison earlier this year.

New Mexico Corrections Secretary Rob Perry said the incident may have involved a breach of security by prison staff, and officials questioned why the state police was not immediately notified of the incident. Eight days later, on August 13, five prisoners and two officers were injured in a gang fight at the detention center; afterwards, 55 inmates were locked in the gym where they started a fire.

State officials said CCA properly handled the latter altercation, though they intend to charge the company for the cost of responding to both disturbances. Perry estimated the reimbursement will be "somewhere in the thousands of dollars."

CCA agreed to the reimbursement, said they would notify state authorities of any future incidents in a timely manner, and agreed to let New Mexico officials review records of prisoners transferred into the state from other jurisdictions (though they can not disallow transfers).

The Estancia facility holds 825 federal, state and county inmates. □

Sources: *U.S.A. Today*, August 7, 1998; *The Jackson Sun* (TN), Aug. 15, Aug. 22, 1998.

In the News

A development council in Daviess County, Indiana has decided not to support CCA's proposal to build a privately-run prison in their area. Said Bob Barron, chairman of the county council, "We must establish priorities in using our limited resources for the best local benefits." Source: *The Tennessean*, August 14, 1998.

In late July CCA opened a new prison in Whiteville, Tennessee adjacent to the company's Hardeman Co. Corr. Facility. The 1,500-bed facility will house out-of-state inmates from Hawaii and Wisconsin. The opening of the new prison was attended by Gov. Don Sundquist, Lt. Gov. John S. Wilder and House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh. Source: *The Tennessean*, August 2, 1998.

Hawaiian taxpayers will have to foot the bill for an error that resulted in several inmates being transferred to CCA-operated prisons in Tennessee and Oklahoma while they still had charges pending. They will have to be flown back to attend court hearings. Source: *U.S.A. Today*, Sept. 3, 1998.

According to a U.S. District Court, a privately-operated juvenile prison in Jena, Louisiana has too many problems to open — including an inadequate number of guards, doctors and teachers. Wackenhut had planned to open the facility just three weeks later. Source: *U.S.A. Today*, August 11, 1998.

Mother Sues CCA Over Son's Death

Anthony David Bowman, 28, an inmate at the CCA-operated South Central Correctional Center in Clifton, Tennessee, died on January 5, 1996 due to complications resulting from sickle cell anemia. Bowman suffered from frequent sickle cell "crises" — prison medical personnel had seen him over 120 times during the 21 months he was incarcerated at South Central.

From November to December 1996 he was examined seven times by Dr. Robert Coble, a physician at South Central under contract with CCA. Dr. Coble treated him for an infection and ordered blood tests and an X-ray.

According to prison medical records, on Jan. 1, 1996 Bowman was taken to the infirmary in a wheelchair with a temperature of 102.4 degrees. Dr. Coble ordered an antibiotic, pain medication and an X-ray but did not send him to a hospital. The X-ray revealed an "infiltration" in the right lung.

Two days later Dr. Coble received a "panic" call from the laboratory that had examined Bowman's blood, reporting an extremely high white blood cell count and an extremely low red blood cell count. He did not consider it an emergency requiring hospitalization. Bowman was transferred to a Nashville hospital the next day after his condition worsened, where he died less than 24 hours later. An autopsy indicated his death was due to acute pneumonia, an enlarged liver and a non-functioning spleen.

Anthony's mother, Patricia, had visited her son on New Year's Day and found him in pain and having

trouble breathing. "He said, 'Mama, I thought I was going to die I've never been this sick before,'" she stated. Mrs. Bowman also said her son believed that prison authorities thought he was "joking" about being sick to obtain pain medication.

Patricia Bowman sued CCA, claiming the company's efforts to increase profits by reducing medical expenses contributed to her son's death. Information uncovered in the lawsuit revealed that CCA spent an average of \$3.07 on medical care per prisoner per day before hiring Dr. Coble in October 1994.

According to court documents, CCA entered into a contract with Coble that gave him a financial incentive to keep expenses down: The company withheld 20% of the doctor's payments if he did not reduce inmate medical expenses below an average of \$3.07 per day, and gave him a 5% bonus if he kept costs under \$2.46 per day.

Dr. Coble reduced average medical expenses to \$1.99 per prisoner per day in 1995, \$1.78 in 1996 and \$1.68 in 1997, said Bowman's attorneys. They also stated that although the inmate population at South Central grew from 1,000 to 1,500 from 1994 to 1997, CCA's total medical expenses remained about the same, at approximately \$1 million a year.

Patricia Bowman claimed that "CCA has adopted a policy of providing a financial incentive to its contract physicians to deny or delay medical care to prison inmates in order to increase the physician's income and also CCA's profits," wrote U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell, who is overseeing [continued ⇨]

UPDATES

The sixth inmate who escaped from CCA's Youngstown, Ohio facility on July 25 (see *PCINB*, Aug. 1998) was captured in Buffalo, New York more than a month following the break-out. U.S. Marshals and Erie Co. deputies apprehended escapee Ronald Holmes on August 27 after being tipped by an informant. CCA spokeswoman Susan Hart said the company was pleased to learn that Holmes had been caught, but declined to comment further. Sources: *Commercial Appeal* (TN), August 28, 1998; *The Jackson Sun* (TN), August 28, 1998.

Arizona officials have announced the state will not renew the operating license of the Arizona Boys Ranch following an investigation into the death of a California youth at the facility (see *PCINB*, August 1998). Investigators found that abuse and neglect by 17 employees contributed to the March 2 death of Nick Contreras. ABR President Bob Thomas said he would appeal the decision by the state's Dept. of Economic Security. Source: *U.S.A. Today*, August 27, 1998.

U.S. District Judge Sam Kent, who is overseeing a lawsuit brought by Missouri inmates against CCRI and Brazoria Co., Texas (see *PCINB*, July 1998), ordered the parties to engage in settlement discussions. The plaintiffs say they are willing to settle for \$2.9 million. Source: *U.S.A. Today*, Sept. 3, 1998.

the suit. Dr. Coble and CCA denied that fiscal incentives influence the medical care that inmates receive.

Judge Campbell determined that Bowman had set forth sufficient evidence about the financial motives of CCA and Dr. Coble to present the case to a jury, where she will argue that the company and doctor were deliberately indifferent to her son's medical needs by failing to send him to a hospital in time enough to save his life.

The case presents an innovative question of law as to whether private prison contractors can reduce inmate medical expenses — sometimes to dangerously low levels — in order to increase profits. "I think the judge is recognizing this sort of policy can be a motivating force behind constitutional violations, [and] that the policies and incentives that the institution sets up can lead to people's rights being violated," stated University of Memphis law professor Barbara Kritchevsky. □

Source: *The Tennessean*, September 6, 1998.

Inmate Dies at CCA Facility

Ralph Carpenter, a 48-year-old convict incarcerated at the CCA-operated South Central Correctional Center in Clifton, Tennessee, died of a heart attack on Friday, September 11, 1998.

According to an inmate source at South Central, Carpenter had complained of chest pains earlier that day; he went to the infirmary but

was told to sign up on sick call the following Monday. The prison does not offer weekend sick calls. When he insisted on seeing a doctor or nurse he reportedly was ordered to leave or face disciplinary sanctions for "creating a disturbance."

Also according to a first-hand source at South Central, Carpenter informed security staff that he was having chest pains while they were conducting the 10:30 p.m. count, and was told they would check on him after they had finished. When the officers returned at around 11:00 p.m. he was dead. Carpenter was only a few months away from completing his sentence. □

Source: Inmate correspondence.

Other Private Corrections Industry Resources

The Corrections and Criminal Justice Coalition (CCJC), which represents unionized government corrections employees, strongly opposes prison privatization. Address: 7700 Leesburg Pike #421, Falls Church, VA 22043; web site: www.ccjc.com.

The *Prison Privatisation Report International*, a publication of the non-profit Prison Reform Trust, is published ten times a year. Highly recommended! Subscription rates are £25 for individuals, £50 for public or non-profit agencies and £100 for corporations or businesses. Address: Prison Reform Trust, 15 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AH. Phone: ++44-171-251-5070; e-mail: prisonreform@prisonreform.demon.co.uk.

Land Swap, Proposed Prison Anger Community

Two years ago CCA approached Prince George's County, Maryland officials about building a privately-operated prison in their area. After the company faced opposition to the proposal it struck a deal with federal lawmakers to trade its 84-acre parcel in Maryland for 42 acres of national park land just over the border in the District of Columbia.

The land exchange was attached to a lengthy 1997 appropriations bill for the Dept. of the Interior in an amendment made during conference committee negotiations. Officials are unsure which Congressman added the amendment.

The land swap has angered D.C. residents, who say they have been excluded from commenting on the arrangement; Prince George's County residents are concerned that a prison

they didn't want in their community may be built next door across the county line. "Here is a company that has been able to affect federal legislation . . . and almost put in a prison in a community without anyone's say," said Eugene Kinlow, a D.C. activist.

CCA has submitted a proposal to construct a 2,200-bed minimum-security prison and rehabilitation center on the D.C. site. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has solicited bids for a private prison to house 1,900 male and 300 female D.C. offenders, many of them juveniles. No bids have been awarded yet. The D.C. Zoning Commission is expected to schedule hearings on CCA's prison-building proposal when it convenes on September 14.

Despite support for the private

prison project from Mayor Marion Barry, concern among community members is growing. Opposition to the proposed CCA prison has been voiced by the Prince George's Co. Planning Director, Forest Heights Mayor Warren Adams, and a D.C. citizens' group called the Ward 8 Coalition.

Before CCA can build the facility the Zoning Commission must approve zoning changes, the Dept. of the Interior must conduct a land inspection and the Bureau of Prisons must award the company the contract bid. Wackenhut is offering a competing plan to house D.C. prisoners in North Carolina. □

Sources: *Prince George's County Journal* (MD), Aug. 28, 1998; *U.S. News*, September 14, 1998.

CCA Attempts to Silence Inmates, Attorney

On August 21 lawyers for CCA asked U.S. District Court Judge Sam H. Bell to prohibit inmate plaintiffs at the company's Youngstown, Ohio prison and their attorney from commenting publicly about the problem-plagued facility. Judge Bell is overseeing a class-action lawsuit filed by prisoners at Youngstown who allege unsafe conditions, mistreatment, inadequate staff training and insufficient medical care.

CCA filed for a restraining order after six prisoners escaped from the Youngstown facility on July 25 and the plaintiff's attorney, Alphonse Gerhardstein, agreed to be interviewed by

Dateline, *Sixty Minutes* and *Hard Copy*. The company argued that "further dissemination of information by the plaintiffs and their attorney through these television news magazine programs will seriously threaten" its right to a fair trial.

CCA's attorneys presented a collection of newspaper articles in which they claimed Gerhardstein made comments that were "untrue, unfair, prejudicial and inflammatory." As one example they said he had cited an exhibit filed in the court case indicating that 19 stabbings had occurred at the Youngstown prison. CCA contends that just

13 stabbings — including two homicides — have occurred.

Gerhardstein responded by saying he has only released information that was publicly available. "The attention CCA has received in this case is more attributable to the inmates who have been murdered and escaped than plaintiffs counsel's behavior," he informed the court.

Judge Bell evidently agreed, as he denied the company's motion for a restraining order. □

Sources: *The Plain Dealer* (OH), Aug. 22, 1998; *U.S.A. Today*, Aug. 26, 28, 1998.

Christian Group Seeks to Usurp Private Prison

A Fort Worth-based religious coalition is bidding to turn a privately-run prison in Venus, Texas into a faith-oriented operation that would provide job training, counseling and educational programs to participating inmates.

The Restorative Justice Ministries Network, a group of evangelical ministers, educators and prison employees, is sponsoring the idea. "These are programs that the state can't provide, only the faith-based community can provide," said Executive Director Ladd Holton. The religion-themed prison concept has been endorsed by state Representative Ray Allen.

The Venus prison, a pre-release center for inmates within two years of their expected release date, has been operated by CCA since 1989. Laurie Shanblum, CCA's director of special projects, said the company will bid to continue managing the prison and is closely watching efforts to turn it into a faith-based facility. CCA offers education, life skills, vocational and substance abuse programs at Venus.

The Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice is accepting contract bids to manage the Venus prison and three other privately-run facilities until August 31, and will likely make a final decision by November.

Critics of the Christian-oriented prison concept cite problems involving the separation of church and state. Several other religious programs operate in Texas prisons. □

Source: *The Tennessean*, August 6, 1998.

CCA Not in Compliance With State Law

Secretary of State Mike Clooney has concluded that CCA was in violation of a Montana statute when it contracted to build a \$25 million prison in the state. Montana law requires all companies to be licensed and to have a certificate of authority, Clooney said. Almost a month after CCA signed the contract the company still was not licensed or registered with his office.

Montana Corrections Director Rick Day acknowledged that CCA had an obligation to comply with the law, and stated the company's effort to do so was "probably not as timely as it should have been." CCA wants to construct and operate a 500-bed facility near Shelby.

Clooney further questioned the legality of CCA's contract to build a private prison, claiming it was invalid because the company did not have a certificate of authority to do business in Montana. Said Clooney, "If you're going to ask all businesses to comply with the law, I don't know why this company should not be required to do the same."

Day disagreed with Clooney's interpretation of the licensing statute and maintained that the state's contract with CCA is valid.

CCA's failure to comply with the state law also violates conditions imposed on all of the companies that bid for the private prison contract earlier this year. According to state records, three of the other four bidding companies were properly registered and licensed. □

Source: *The Tennessean*, August 19, 1998.

Oregon Inmates to Return Home

The Oregon Dept. of Corrections has announced that all 119 women prisoners housed at a Corrections Services Corp. facility in Gallup, New Mexico will be returned to the state by the end of November. The state had recently moved its female offenders from a CCA facility in Arizona to the CSC New Mexico prison (see *PCINB*, July 1998).

According to Oregon Corrections Director Dave Cook, continuing to house the female prisoners at the privately-operated facility would have cost about the same amount as incarcerating them in-state. "The money will be a wash," he said. "For us, it's a concern for the long-term performance of our inmates." □

Source: *Oregonian*, Aug. 13, 1998.

Late Prison Opening

The opening of Georgia's first privately-operated prison, a 750-bed facility in Charlton County built by Cornell Corrections, has been delayed due to incomplete construction. Cells had no furniture, wiring was unfinished, electronic locks were uncovered, and control panels had not been installed.

Cornell missed another opening date for the facility in September; company officials blamed the delay on weather-related problems. □

Sources: *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Aug. 19, 1998; *U.S.A. Today*, September 16, 1998.

Problems Plague CCA Prisons in Tennessee

CCA has experienced a series of adverse incidents at a trio of the company's Tennessee facilities, including an escape, assaults and inmate disturbances.

Among other prisons in the Volunteer State CCA operates the Whiteville Correctional Facility and Hardeman Co. Correctional Facility in Whiteville, and the West Tenn. Detention Facility in Mason.

Attack on Officer

On August 5 a CCA guard was assaulted at the company's newly-opened Whiteville Correctional Facility. Jerry Reeves, 26, was airlifted to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis, where he was listed in critical but stable condition with multiple skull fractures. Authorities believe he was beaten with weight-lifting equipment.

The prison was placed on lockdown and both the local police and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation are reviewing the incident. Reeves reportedly was not discovered by CCA staffers until almost an hour after he was attacked and knocked unconscious. According to Reeves' family he had worked at the facility only three or four weeks, and was left alone with inmates in a recreation area even though he had received relatively little training and had no way to defend himself.

Prisoner Stabbed to Death

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is also reviewing the stabbing death of an inmate at a CCA prison in Mason. Company officials confirmed that Corey Smith, 29, a Washington, D.C. prisoner, was killed on August

27 by another D.C. inmate at the West Tenn. Detention Facility.

The 30-year-old assailant, whom authorities refused to identify, is expected to be charged with murder; he reportedly refused to be placed in restraints when he left his cell for a shower, attacked two correctional officers, and then stabbed inmate Smith with a homemade knife. The weapon has not been recovered.

Both Smith and his attacker had been transferred to the Mason facility from CCA's Youngstown, Ohio prison last April. The TBI investigation was requested by District Attorney Elizabeth Rice.

CCA Loses One

Pete Jenkins, a convicted rapist serving a 34-year sentence at the CCA-operated Hardeman County Correctional Facility, escaped from the prison on September 4. Prison officials were unsure how he managed the break-out as there was no apparent breach of the facility's two 12-foot razor wire-wrapped fences.

Jenkins, 31, who was discovered missing during an afternoon count, had a history of escape. Some local community members expressed concern while others didn't consider the break-out exceptional. "They usually catch them, so I'm not scared," stated Whiteville resident Shirley Bartling.

Jenkins was captured one day later about 150 miles outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was stopped by police who observed that children in his car weren't wearing seat belts. CCA's Hardeman County facility has experienced other escapes, the first occurring in July

1997, just two months after the prison opened.

Inmate Disturbance

Ten days after Jenkins' escape the Hardeman County facility was placed on lockdown status following a disturbance among inmates on the recreation yard. CCA spokeswoman Susan Hart said about 100 prisoners were involved, with one being treated for a stab wound. "It did not develop into what we would consider a serious situation," she stated.

Authorities believe the incident involved rival gang members. The Hardeman County facility houses approximately 1,500 Tennessee and out-of-state prisoners; under CCA's contract the company must notify the state of security problems that involve Tennessee inmates. □

Sources: *The Jackson Sun* (TN), Aug. 7, Sept. 3, 5, 15, 16, 1998; *Commercial Appeal* (TN), Sept. 1, 5, 7, 15, 1998; *The Tennessean*, September 2, 5, 1998.

VIDEO AVAILABLE

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees can provide a video entitled "What CCA doesn't want you to know about private prisons." Appearing in the video is Tennessee Rep. John M. Windle and Youngstown, Ohio Mayor George McKelvey. Contact: AFSCME, Attn: Joshua Miller, 1625 L Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 429-1215.

Ohio Legislative Hearings Condemn CCA

Public hearings by the Ohio Correctional Institution Inspection Committee into events surrounding the July 25 escape of six prisoners from a CCA facility in Youngstown turned into a CCA-bashing event.

Said state Sen. Jeffrey Johnson to Youngstown Warden Jimmy Turner, "Don't even try to defend your corporation. In many ways they are indefensible." Besides the escape lawmakers were incised that maximum- and close-security inmates had been housed at the facility despite CCA's assurances to the contrary. "The old warden lies. The new warden lies. CCA's public relations flak lies. The company president lies," fumed Sen. Robert Hagan.

Other committee discussions centered on jurisdictional issues concerning the Youngstown prison. Although federal officials have indicted the escapees in connection with the break-out, the U.S. Attorney's office has

said it lacks authority to prosecute crimes such as assault and murder committed at the facility.

When two inmates were stabbed to death at the prison earlier this year county prosecutors handled the case. The Youngstown facility was criticized by Mahoning Co. District Attorney Paul Gains last April.

CCA has refused requests by law enforcement officials to release information about assaults, murders and near-riots at the prison, claiming it was under no legal obligation to do so. The company argued it is only accountable to its contractor, Washington, D.C. "Private prisons have been around for a good period of time, but there is very little on the books as far as laws," stated Rep. Mark Mallory.

Testifying before the committee was Tennessee Sen. Pete Springer, who described recent incidents at CCA-operated facilities in his and

other states — including a stabbing death and an attack on a correctional officer (see pg. 7). Earlier this year the Tennessee legislature considered and eventually rejected a bill that would have permitted privatization of up to 70% of the state's corrections system.

To counter the negative slant of the hearings CCA packed the committee meetings with more than 50 company employees and published a full-page ad in the Youngstown newspaper saying they were working to restore public confidence in the prison. Warden Turner also took reporters on a tour of the Youngstown facility to showcase new security features. CCA's Youngstown prison is presently the subject of a federal investigation. □

Sources: *The Plain Dealer* (OH), Aug. 13, 14, 1998; *The Tennessean*, September 2, 1998.

Private Prison Panned in Iowa

Mildred Elliott, chairwoman of the Iowa Board of Corrections, has announced that discussion about building a privately-operated prison in the state is likely over for this year. Elliott removed the issue from the board's agenda on September 11 because there was only one prospective contract bid, which likely would have been defeated.

The bid, from CCA, was to construct a \$40 million medium-security facility on the grounds of the Wood-

ward State Hospital and School, located about 30 miles northwest of Des Moines.

The vice chair of the Board of Corrections, Jim Schweisow, indicated that he probably would have voted against the proposal. "I don't see a big advantage for the state," he said. "We would have all the liability for the staff and the inmates at a private-run prison and none of the control."

Local critics claimed that cor-

rections contractors are more interested in maximizing profit margins than in maintaining safe and secure facilities, which has led to escapes, riots and other adverse incidents at private prisons. The proposed 750-bed CCA facility would have been Iowa's first privately-operated adult prison. □

Sources: *The Jackson Sun* (TN), Sept. 13, 1998; *The Tennessean*, September 13, 1998.