

PRIVATIZATION AND THE PRISON SYSTEM:

STEPPING BACK TO THE FUTURE

by

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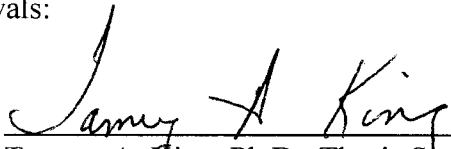
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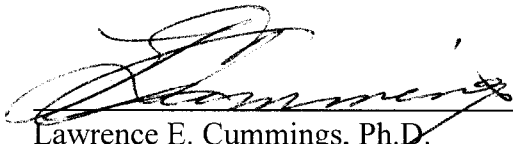
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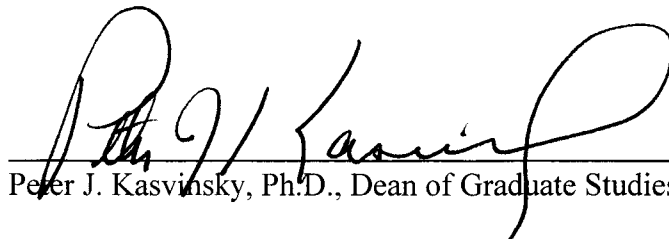
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to examine the differences between government operated correctional facilities and privately operated correctional facilities, as seen through the eyes of the inmates. The over-riding philosophy of the criminal justice system today is that criminals should be locked up in order to protect society. The types of facilities that are being used vary greatly and they are not run the same. This research focused not on the public's perceptions, but on the inmates' impressions of the differences between private and government operated facilities. In order to accomplish this goal, inmates were surveyed who had served time in both a private and a government operated facility.

Some of the factors that were used to compare the two facilities from the inmates' perspective were what type of crime they had committed and what were the differences in educational training. Which facility had better commissary, barber, food, clothing and support staff. These and several questions were compiled and put on a questionnaire to be taken into the prison for the inmates to check which box he thought was more suited for him.

A total of 311 questionnaires were distributed to inmates serving time in a private prison in the northeastern part of the United States. The inmates serving time in the private prison had also served time in a government operated facility. After all data were collected, descriptive and comparative statistics were conducted on the data. It was found that the majority of the inmates preferred the government operated facility over the private

operated facility. In what might be described as crucial areas, the private facility was selected over the state operated facility. The correctional officers in the state run facility were perceived to be better than the correctional officers in the private run facility by inmates who were incarcerated for violent or drug offenders. The correctional officers in the private run facility were perceived better by inmates for non-violent and property offenses. (This is the type of inmate that the private facility is suppose to service). The counselors in the private facility were selected over the counselors in the government run facility by inmates who were raised in the non-traditional family setting. This factor showed that the counselors in the private facility showed more concern for these inmates' needs.

Finally, it should be noted that the inmates in this survey had spent the majority of their prison time in a government operated facility and had just been introduced into the private operated prison. The results of this research should not be interpreted to suggest that the private facility is slacking in any areas. It is suggested that the survey instrument needs to be administered again in a few years and then compare the results of that study to the results of this current research. With time, inmates in the private setting will be able to see that they have more educational and vocational choices in the private operated institution than in a state operated institution. A final concern is that the physical layouts of the public and private facilities are very different and this was not addressed in the survey. Inmates, while incarcerated in the public facility had more freedom of movement than was offered at the private facility. This restricted movement may have contributed to their displeasure over minor issues.

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Statement of the Problem

Introduction

A majority of American citizens cite crime as one of the country's most pressing social problems. Many feel that crime is out of control and have elected an array of politicians who cite their willingness to the "tough on crime (and criminals)" as one reason to be elected. In response, ordinary citizens, those most likely to be victimized by aggressive street criminals, have been insistent that those convicted of criminal activity receive severe punishment. The public wants criminals to be dealt with in a way that not only controls their behavior but symbolizes society's anger and desire to exclude, hurt or eliminate law violators (Hass, Alpert, and Hawkins, 1997).

The earliest known prisons were designed to detain prisoners prior to trial. Prison, as a post conviction punishment, did not occur until the early decades of the nineteenth century (Orland, 1975). The use of prisons as punishment seems to be unique to 19th century American culture. Prisons did not develop as instruments for punishment in either the European or Asiatic cultures which existed at that time. Americans, possibly because the country was built on philosophical notions of being "free", saw incarceration, i.e. not being free, as a severe form of punishment. Incarceration, as punishment for a wide variety of social offenses, became the preferred method of dealing with law violators.

The American public continues to wrestle with the notions of punishment for criminal behavior. Punishment, by definition, involves the infliction of pain. Many agree

that hurting someone, subjecting them to pain is wrong. Several differing philosophies on the subject of punishment have emerged. One theory proposes that the infliction of pain as punishment for criminal behavior is fundamentally different from inflicting pain on innocents and is therefore, not inherently wrong. This theory concludes that punishment is justified when the individual deserves it. Generally, this theory of just deserts is identified as retributive. Retribution in this case is a term defined as balancing a wrongful act through punishment of the individual committing the wrongful act.

Another theory, identified by the term utilitarian, regards punishment as an evil, but one justified when it accomplishes more good than the evil it represents. The utilitarian supporters argue that the good, coming from punishment of an individual who has committed a wrongful act, has beneficial effects for those who have not engaged in wrongful behaviors:

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), argued that human behavior is governed by the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain. Bentham argued that criminal behavior could be managed and changed by careful applications of criminal law.

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794), felt that the premise for punishment is the deterring of criminal activity. Beccaria called for punishment based on certainty, not severity.

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), focused on the notion of punishment as retribution.

For Kant, all criminals deserve punishment for committing crime. For supporters of the retributive theory, society has the right to punish offenders as a way to defend itself. Utilitarian theorists argue that the collective benefit to society from punishing an individual for his misdeeds, outweighs the negative elements of punishment to that individual. The social contract, generally agreed on standards of behavior within society offers support for both views.

Punishment is seen to have the following benefits:

1. Deterrence, of criminal behavior,
2. Incapacitation, for criminal behavior, and
3. Rehabilitation, (a form) of criminal behavior.

Imprisonment as punishment for serious crime has been part of the American social fabric since the founding of the country (Irwin and Austin, 1997). Because criminal behaviors affect the social order in many ways, primarily negatively, ordinary citizens who are most likely to be the victims of criminal behaviors have consistently supported strategies which promise severe punishment for those committing criminal acts. The public wants criminals to be dealt with in a way, that not only controls their behavior, but symbolizes society's anger and desire to exclude, hurt or eliminate law violators (Hass, Alpert, and Hawkins, 1997). In response, politicians at every level seized the issue of crime and criminality as a "ticket" for election to office. People associate crime with prison (Johnson, 1996, 4).

As prison developed, they were influenced by varying perspectives. These philosophies are:

1. Conservative - assumes that human behavior is the result of free will. People make rational choices in their behaviors and deserve the logically outcomes generated by those choices.
2. Liberal - assumes that human behavior is influenced by upbringing, education, affluence, and/or poverty. e.g. general life experiences.
3. Radical - assumes that the social order is based on economic power derived from private ownership of material goods and socioeconomic relations (Durham, 1994, 17-20).

The conservative perspective argues that, if individuals are not deterred from criminal behavior by the thought of prison, then they might be after experiencing the traumas, physical as well as mental impact of incarceration. Incarceration assures society's safety while the offender is locked away. The liberal perspective views incarceration as having a focus on reforming and rehabilitating the offender. Prison, was seen as redemptive if people changed within themselves resulting in them becoming better people. Prison, for the liberals, was viewed as rehabilitation in focus, capable of changing criminals into law-abiding citizens.

The radical focus argues that economics is the dominating factor in social relations. Much criminal activity is directed toward the acquisition of material property in a manner that society does not condone. Frequently this means that taking of something that belongs to someone else. Ownership of materials and property means having economic power. Having economic power leads to having legal and social power. The legal system, including the power to incarcerate, is viewed by radicals, as another tool of those who

wield power. For radicals:

“Whether the system focuses on individual responsibility for crime (and therefore punishment) or individual deviance (and therefore treatment), the result is the same: the existing social order is excused from any charge of injustice (Pollack, J. 1997, 17).

According to the radical perspective, prison is presented as one part of the institutionalization of society. Prison housed the ne'er do-wells and criminals, mental institutions housed the mentally ill, orphanages housed the young, the poorhouses held those without economic means, all normalized the idea of containment and deprivation of liberty as a natural right of society (Johnson, R., 1996).

Statement of the Problem

With the various competitive philosophies concerning incarceration, there is also a new debate centering around the issue of incarcerating individuals, should the facilities be operated by the government or should they be operated by private companies. In the next chapter a review of the prison systems in the United States will be presented and the debate over private versus government operation will be presented. Ultimately, which facility services the needs of inmates will be the main focus of this research.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

In the beginning, prison systems in America reflected two models. They were similar because they both required silence, obedience, and work from inmates. Both systems sought some demonstration of repentance, and through that repentance, reformation of the offender (Johnson, 1996). The system adopted by the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Walnut Street Jail became the working model for the separate system. Solitude and forced labor were the chief characteristics of that system. An intense effort was made to ensure that each prisoner served his sentence in complete solitude. Author Charles Dickens described it in this way:

“Over the head and face of every prisoner, a black hood is dropped...he is led to his cell from which he never comes forth until his whole term of imprisonment has expired.”
(Hass and Alpert, 1997, 12)

New York (1819), Connecticut (1827), Massachusetts (1829), and Maryland (1829) joined with Pennsylvania in erecting prisons designed to prevent any communication between inmates. Pennsylvania's Cherry Hill Facility isolated prisoners 24 hours a day. In New York, as well as the states listed above, prisoners were locked into solitary cells only at night. During the day, prisoners worked together in common workshops but were restricted to a rigid law of silence. Thus, though physically together, they were in fact isolated. Joint labor was the major difference between the New York system and the system in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's system was defined as “separate”;

New York, Ohio, and others' systems were termed "congregate".

As the systems developed, the concept of isolation, originally designed as a mechanism for rehabilitation, began to faded. Isolation led directly to a system of harsh discipline and rigid control of the inmate population. (Hass and Alpert, 1999, 17). From 1900 to 1950, prisons were "Big Houses", fortress-like institutions where prisoners did little more than time. The functioning of the penitents (convicts) was little more than passing their time. The environment was physically imposing and highly regimented. Movement was done in lockstep formation and included movement from bare and solitary cells to workshops. They were clothed in common dress and forced into standard routines designed to carry a message to the community, that prison could (and would) train the convicts by discipline, teach them to resist corruption, and promote a new respect for order and authority (Johnson, 1996, 4).

But, whether the prisons were operated for retributive or rehabilitative reasons, they remained little more than warehouses for offenders until the end of World War II. After WWII an attempt was made to rehabilitate offenders. This era which focused on reformatory or rehabilitative goals ended roughly in the 1980's when studies showed that prisoners involved in treatment modalities returned to prison in roughly equal rates as those who had not been treated (Pollock, 1997).

Rehabilitation as a focus was abandoned by many and felons were sentenced to prison to receive their "just desserts". This philosophy holds that a fair and explicit brand of retribution was a way to replace the expensive and time-consuming efforts at rehabilitating criminals. By emphasizing the fact that those incarcerated were only

receiving their just desserts, the community was assured that sentences were based not on the needs of the offenders, but on their crime and criminal histories.

Using “just desserts” as a basic rationale, politicians and policy makers “one-upped” each other to demonstrate their commitment to being tough on crime and criminals to the general public, particularly at election time. They argued that steady and dramatic increases in prisons and prisoners were absolutely necessary to maintain a safe society. They claimed that increased punishment through longer sentences and through restricting early release opportunities would lead to a general reduction in crime.

By the middle of the 1980's many states had begun massive construction projects in order to incarcerate a rapidly expanding number of felons. Policy makers at the state and federal level accepted claims that rehabilitation had “failed”, endorsing the further claim that rehabilitation was also “too expensive”. Policy makers accepted claims made by President George Bush’s Attorney General, William Barr, that “the country had a clear choice of either building more prisons or tolerating even higher violent crime rates.” Barr further claimed that figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Justice “proved” that during the 1960's imprisonment rates declined by 19 percent while crime rates increased by 104 percent.

Comparing imprisonment rates with crime rates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Irwin and Austin (1997) were able to demonstrate that states which increased their prison populations by less, 100 per 100,000, were more likely to experience a decrease in crime than those states which increased imprisonment rates by more than 200 per 100,000. (146). An analysis of these figures compiled “prove” that crime rates

decreased when imprisonment rates increased failed to support the Justice Departments conclusion. Overall, crime rates stabilized during certain periods, only to increase when the rates of imprisonment also increased.

In 1995, the states of Texas and California had a combined prison population of more than a quarter million people. Prior to 1995, California has spent more than five billion dollars on the largest prison building program in the United States. Despite this effort though California prison facilities were shown to be operating at 177 percent of total capacity (Hewitt, Shorter and Godfrey, 1994, 2). California was reported that the California Department of Corrections estimates that it costs \$7 million per day to house and service its prison population.

In spite of the demonstrated costs, politicians continue to argue for more and lengthier prison sentences as part of the crime control measure. President Clinton, a democrat, joined forces with the Republican-controlled Congress for the design and passage of the 1994 Crime Bill. This Bill eventually signed into law by the President, increased the use of imprisonment by its provision of a “truth-in-sentencing” feature. It requires that individuals convicted of violence during the commission of criminal acts, serve 85 percent of the time for which they were sentenced. This provision, say some researchers, would only lead to an increase in the prison population. This would increase the cost of prison construction to more than \$80 billion, and lead to an increase in operating costs from \$16.1 billion to \$44.7 billion at 1995 costs (Irwin and Austin, 1997, 154).

This massive amount of tax-payer generated revenue for crime control has

attracted privately owned companies and corporations in growing numbers. A well organized campaign by private prison advocates and their lobbyists has succeeded in diverting enough of this revenue stream to make private, for profit prisons a “growth industry”. Prisons for Profit now represents the fastest growing segment of the American correctional system, according to a 1998 ABC News program on the subject.

Logan, 1990; Bowman, Simon, and Sidenstat, 1992; and Shicor, 1995, are only a few of many researchers who have noted the escalating trend in the privatization of many government services. Just as the “privatization” of trash collection fueled the growth of companies such as Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) into a national and international corporation, companies such as Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and Wackenhut Corrections Corporation have become the new “darlings of Wall Street” as recommended investment opportunities. Stock investments in the nation’s largest private prison operating company, CCA, rocketed tenfold on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) index from 1994-1998 (Phinney, 1998).

Former Federal Bureau of Investigation official, George Wackenhut, founded his own private security firm in 1954. Wackenhut, Inc., entered the private prison business in 1987, opening a 250 bed center in Florida. It provided imprisonment services to the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service. The company now operates prison facilities in Australia and other countries.

Together, Wackenhut and CCA control the imprisonment of nearly 70 percent of the prison population of the United States. CCA controls 52.3 percent while Wackenhut controls 25.11 percent of the prison population. Experts acknowledge that nearly 20

other private firms are attempting to claim the remaining percentage.

Consolidation of companies is occurring at a rapid pace. After securing a site and constructing a medium security facility for housing prisoners in Youngstown, Ohio, CCA sold the facility to a realty trust for \$47,000,000. The city of Youngstown granted the 100 acre site, utility hook-up, and a waiver of real estate taxes for three years to CCA for only \$1,000. While negotiating with Youngstown, CCA had entered into a five year, \$182,000,000 contract with the District of Columbia which would transfer criminals from a penitentiary at Lorton, Virginia to the facility in Youngstown. CCA has an aggressive growth strategy which is aimed at improving the bottom line for the company and investors. Corrections Corporation of America is a prison management company. It has created a real estate investment trust (REIT) called CCA Prison. This new private management company will seek to secure new management contracts with existing prisons. To further cut costs, the management company will also seek to purchase the prison, in turn, selling it to the CCA Prison R.E.I.T. CCA Prison will then contract with the management company to operate the purchased facility. Legally, Real Estate Investment Trusts pay no taxes on facilities they own. It is illegal for them to own and manage them, thus the need to keep the management and ownership entities clearly separate.

Cost savings have been a major thrust in the move to permit the privatization of prison services, including the custodial holding of convicted offenders. Typically, private vendors have provided prisons with food services, health care services, educational services, and some physical plant maintenance services. Educational services, e.g.

programs leading to the inmates securing the General Education Degree (GED), are often provided by a non-profit public institution such as local college or university. Research has shown that such services can be provided at lower costs than if they are provided in-house.

Cost savings can be illusory. CCA won a contract to operate the Silverdale Work Farm near Chattanooga, Tennessee for \$21.00 per inmate per day and at \$3.00 less than the county was spending, it seemed like a good deal. Then a new campaign to address the problem of drunk drivers flooded the farm with new inmates. Because fixed expenses were not affected by the surge, each new prisoner cost CCA about \$5.00 more. The county, stuck with the contract that required payment of \$21.00 per inmate quickly found itself \$200,000 over budget. When that contract came up for renewal in 1986, county commissioners voted to retain CCA as the operator of Silverdale Farm. A subsequent investigation showed that the commissioners who voted to retain CCA had received monetary bribes from CCA. A 1996 evaluation of cost savings by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) of private versus public prison concluded that no substantial evidence was found that savings have occurred (Hass and Alpert, 1997, 595-596).

One prominent supporter of the privatization of prison facilities provided the framework upon which many other supporters of privatization base their respective arguments. Logan (1999) identified ten categories which, he says, should apply across the board to both private and public operated prison facilities with no double-standard. Logan (1999) listed the following:

1. Propriety

2. Cost
3. Quality
4. Quantity
5. Flexibility
6. Security
7. Liability
8. Accountability
9. Corruption
10. Dependency.

Logan (1999) argues that in any comparison of these 10 factors between private and public operators of prison complexes, private operators are equal to, or better than public operators.

“There is no potential problem with private prisons that is not matched by an identical or closely related problem among prisons that are run by the government. It is primarily because they are prisons, not because they are contractual, that private prisons face challenges of authority, legitimacy, procedural justice, accountability, cost, security, safety, corruptibility, and so on, ... privatization raises no truly new problems for prisons, it does offer some new solutions” (Logan, 1999, 41).

Logan (1999) named the following as advantageous elements in privatization:

1. Cost containment
2. Speed and flexibility in expanding or contracting physical capacity and programs
3. Effects on standards, expectations and quality of operations

4. Indemnification and other protections against liability
5. Enhancement of justice by allowing supply to respond to demand instead of
vice versa
6. The enhancement of accountability and due process through additional
monitoring and independent review.

If privatized prisons are subject to the same problems as those run by the government, as Logan (1999) tacitly admits above, what appears to be a key element in the current push to reward the investors in prison stocks is the link between prison operators and politicians. Political clout extends from the local to the national level. CCA, for instance has employed the services of former Federal Bureau of Prisons director J. Michael Quinlan who served in the George Bush administration. CCA also reserves a board seat for a Democrat, former Rainbow Coalition Executive Director Joseph Johnson. Johnson is reported to have played a pivotal role in activities behind the scene (in 1988) which allowed CCA to buy a prison in the District of Columbia for \$52 million. It was the first time a government sold a prison to a private company (Hass and Alpert, 1994, 602).

Logan (1999) notes that “corruption” may not be particularly important in the issue of privatizing the prison system. He argues that the existence of the contract, putting the profit motive against other less benign motives can operate system designed to punish criminals.

American University professor of Law, Ira Robbins asked: What happens when the company is allowed to lobby for laws that are self-protecting and self-enhancing? ABC News.com reported in 1998 that members of the industry have already lobbied for stiffer

criminal penalties. Senator Spencer Abraham, Republican of Michigan, has introduced a bill calling for stiffer penalties, longer sentences, for persons convicted of selling illegal drugs. Private prisons have the financial incentive and the financial influence to lobby lawmakers for harsher prison sentences and other “get-tough measures”. Locking people up is good for business (Hass, and Alpert, 1991, 602).

It was the passage of the 1986 Anti-Drug Act that is cited as the major engine which has led to the explosive growth in the number of persons held in prison in the past decade. Unprepared for the deluge, prisons operated by the public sector were overwhelmed. The then existing stock of prisons lacked the space to hold the influx. A crash-building program to relieve the congestion was hampered by the states public policies which required extensive hearings and review steps before a bid process could be initiated. The privatization of the process meant that prisons could be financed, sited and constructed more quickly and more quickly than the government could do it. Prisons designed by private firms were apt to be designed for more efficient operation because of contracting for the needed resources (Logan, 1999, 48).

CCA’s Vice-President, Susan Hart, observed that, “the prison business exploits its competitive edge by taking advantage of flexibility.” Hart contrasts the private sectors flexibility with the procedural rigidity of the rules by which public sector operators must adhered to. Private sector supporters ignore the notion that the government red tape, redundancy and inefficiency that they criticize was deliberately created in an effort to protect workers from the often unscrupulous and inhuman seeking of profit by the private sector interests (Pollock, 1997, p. 405).

Historically, privatization in the correctional field has taken many forms, from slavery to the sale of private companies the labor of inmates. Some jailers sold the necessities of life to inmates as a way to cut costs. Some leased inmates to private firms to reduce the costs to the public for food, clothing, housing, supervision, and medical care for inmates. The economic status of the vendor remained the base-line concern before the welfare of offenders placed in their charge (Mays and Gray, 1996, 65).

This new work, Turbo Capitalism, author Edward Luttwak notes, “corporations are not moral entities...they exist to earn profit” (NYT, 1996, 6). The lure for private investors in the prison-industrial complex remains attractive...the money. The United States is spending \$21 billion on prison construction and maintenance in 1998. Both CCA and Wackehut have reported that their respective stocks have doubled in worth since 1997. Both stocks are operating in a price stratosphere rivaled only by fast-growing technology companies, reported by ABC news.com in 1998.

Nationally, prison experts say the private prison industry controls only six percent of the nation’s prison facilities. By aggressive lobbying of politicians at local, State, and federal levels, the private prison operators are aiming for a much larger and thus more profitable percentage. Increased demand will expand marketing opportunities that in turn, expands the potential for profits and increased private sector involvement in public policy determination (Mays and Gray, 1996, 5).

Robbins and other critics of the privatized prison notion are troubled that this involvement in policy determination allows private prisons to define punishment for profit. Robbins called this “selling” inmates to the highest bidder. Supporters of private prisons

argue that assuming people are going to be imprisoned, that taxpayers can get the same quality for less public expenditure.

It is the claims of 10-20 percent savings by the private operators that is a driving force in the continuing privatization effort. The General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported to Congress after an exhaustive review of reports on the matter it could not support the notion of 10-20 percent in savings. A corrections official in New Mexico contends that in his state, Wachenhut Company brought a new prison on-line that costs \$40-\$50 per inmate per day. New Mexico operates its prison at an estimated \$76 per inmate, per day cost.

Private prisons typically pay lower wages and do not offer the extensive benefits offered as incentive to public sector employees. The cost of labor is estimated to take up 70 percent of the operating budgets for public prisons. This is not the case for private run prisons. For example, the new privately owned and operated prison, set to open in Lawrenceville Virginia in 1999, will use a small workforce. Five day time guards and two night time guards will supervise 750 prisoners. The innovative design of the prison includes a control room that will enable a single guard to watch three pods of cell blocks containing 250 prisoners in each. Doors are controlled by a "high-tech" panel with switches for opening and closing purposes. CCA and other private prison companies use the reduction in physical numbers of their workforce as a major cost-cutting strategy.

Reducing labor costs, hiring fewer people, paying those hired less, should have permitted CCA to demonstrate significant cost savings at the South Central prison it acquired in 1992 in Tennessee. By 1995 CCA was spending only 38 cents per day less

than the State of Tennessee had been spending. The Wanted 10-20 percent promised was not achieved in this case. “At its heart, privatizing prisons is really about privatizing tax dollars...about transforming public money into private profits,” observed Bates in Prisons for Profit, (601).

No one element has contributed more to the explosion in the American prison population than the passage of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. By 1989, many American cities were awash in violent times attributed to struggles by heavily-armed criminal to control drug trafficking in the inner city, particularly crack cocaine. The Anti-Drug Act featured mandatory sentences for using, distributing, or making crack cocaine. Law enforcement efforts were directed at the most visible element in crack cocaine trafficking, the street corner dealers in inner city neighborhoods, most of whom were African-America or Hispanic.

Drug law enforcement has been directed toward inner city and African-American and Hispanic drug users. The National Institute of Drug Abuse reported that African-Americans comprise 12 percent of the people who use drugs and only 16 percent of regular cocaine users, yet more than 48 percent of those arrested and incarcerated for involvement in 1988 were Black. Crack cocaine never became the scourge that politicians claimed it would become. But for politicians the drug debate became driven by the three “R’s”, “Retribution, Revenge and Retaliation that led to the fourth R, Re-Election” (Dean, 1999, 21).

Politicians and other public officials persistently harangue the issue of crime. They do this because the issue of crime is seductive. Crime directs attention away from more

intractable problems, such as the economy and pollution. Solutions to these issues require unpopular sacrifices from the more affluent segments of the society whereas crime does not normally affect the affluent (Irwin and Austin, 1997, 162). Crack, use of and sale of, was singled out for attention because it was the scourge of the inner city. Edwin Meese, Attorney General in 1988 said the laws were changed to “protect” the inner city residents. From 1984-1995 the number of Black males incarcerated for drug-related offenses rose from 30 percent to 40 percent.

“Sure, it’s true we prosecute a high percentage of minorities for drugs. The simple fact is, if you have a population, minority or not, that is conducting most of their illegal business on the street, these cases are easy pickings for the police” (Maurer, 1999, 37).

Statistically, nearly 90 percent of those incarcerated under federal Anti-Drug Laws are Black. By 1996, 8.3 percent of Black males were reported to be in prison compared to just .08 percent of White males in the same age cohort. Crack cocaine penalties are said to be the basis for the high discrepancy rate. Many researchers have found evidence to support the 1995 conclusion of a study by Zimring and Hawkins. They concluded that the number of drug arrests increased and the number of those imprisoned for drug-related crimes is also rising because of the attention directed toward the inner city minority population. This leads to an apparent racial disparity in sentencing that is perceived to be unfair in many minority communities.

In an effort to deal with the perception of increased criminality in society, states are building more prisons. For example, Pennsylvania Governor, Thomas Ridge in a 1998 New York Times noted that “every public expenditure comes with a choice, we defend the

choices we have made...” Pennsylvania chose to build one new prison per year. In 10 years the incarceration budget for the Commonwealth increased five-fold and is now estimated to total more than one billion dollars. In California prison guards earn more than first year professors in the California University system.

The “get tough” on crime rhetoric has overwhelmed several other public policy objectives. Money spent on prisons, whether private or government operated, cannot be spent on the mentally ill, the schools, or the public infrastructure. The effect of the “incarceration boom” on American’s minorities continues to be devastating in terms of the life choices available. The increase in prison populations have become a fiscal nightmare for state governments. Privately or publically operated, the corrections system is consuming an inordinate amount of publically generated income. At an estimated \$20,000 per year, per inmate, incarceration represents, a very expensive way to provide secure housing for people who probably do not even belong in prison (NYT, 1999).

Many of the new prison facilities under construction were at 100 percent of capacity even before they opened for occupancy. Only Texas has built more than the current demands warrant. As a result, in Texas, private and publically operated prisons compete to import prisoners from other states to fill empty beds.

Many of the new facilities which well come “on-line’ are of the super maximum variety. Inmates in these facilities are locked down for 23 hours per day in individual cells.

Cherry Hill, America’s first architecturally designed prison (1829) featured:

“Seven massive stone corridors, providing access to 400 solitary cells, each 8 by 15 by 12 feet high...each with an individual exercise yard, securely walled

about to prevent communication between prisoners..” (Ohand, 1994, 12).

The new “super-max” facilities are also designed to isolate individual prisoners. The new designs reduce the number of guards needed to control the inmate population. The privatization of these and other facilities represents a step back into the future for incarceration purposes. No convincing proof has been established that private prisons are cheaper, more efficient, or of higher quality than those built by the government. The push for more privatization is being driven by those who benefit the most. Lost in the controversy is the basic reason for establishing a prison in the first place.

America’s prison building boom has resulted in the imprisonment of more and more minority members of the community including females. No reliable proof has been provided that longer and tougher sentencing has in fact reduced violent crime. The effects of the prison building effort has reduced expenditures for other components of the public sector such as education and repair of aging infrastructure elements.

The effect on the quality of life for all of us can only be surmised at this point in time, but will probably not have the beneficial effects politicians claim it will have. Finally, by “focusing attention on the root causes of crime would be more fruitful than dusting off methods of punishment from the Dark Ages” (Hass and Alport, 1991, 628).

Chapter 3

Methodology

Introduction

For several decades, there has been an on-going debate which compares the benefits to be derived from the private, for profit operation of penal institutions with the traditional government operated incarceration facilities. The continuing debate demonstrates that the “pro” and “con” with regard to the issue have yet to be resolved into a general consensus.

Attempts to identify the “better” institution for those incarcerated have not reflected the opinions of those who have the closest appreciation for the differences between these two types of prison facilities, the incarcerated inmates. As noted in the literature review, major analyses and studies appear to support a general conclusion; it is more effective for public facilities to place their clients into a privately operated facility, rather than to operate such a facility. No major analysis has examined the issue from the perspective of individuals who have been incarcerated in each type of facility, private and public.

This research is designed to abstract information on several relevant topics from current inmates who have become experienced in both types of penal institutions. The methodology of this research involved the collection, via a questionnaire, of inmates’ appreciation of the differences between private versus public incarceration on a variety of issues (see Appendix A). The inmates were asked thirty-nine questions.

Methods

Two professors from Youngstown State University, who had experience working with inmates collected the data. A private facility in Northeastern Ohio (simply referred to as the private facility) was contacted and gave permission for the study. This facility was ideal since most of the inmates had been incarcerated in a public facility prior to being incarcerated at the private facility. The researchers were escorted by a case manager at the private facility to living units, pods. The pods were selected systematically by the private facility. Only pods housing the least problematic inmates were surveyed for safety reasons.

The case manager introduced the researchers to the inmates living in the pods. The number of inmates per pod varied. Once the researchers were introduced, they were told that the purpose of the study was to help a student complete his degree work and the information would be in his thesis project. They were told that the study was designed to compare private and public correctional facilities. They were informed that they had the needed information since they had served time in both facilities. The inmates were finally informed that their individual responses would only be seen by the research team and the student. The inmates were asked to place their questionnaire into a box, upside down when they had completed filling it out. If an inmate had trouble reading or needed assistance, then the researchers helped him.

Responses were then tabulated for each type of institution. Descriptive and comparative statistics were calculated using SPSS/PC+, a computer software packet for social scientist to use to calculate statistics. Comparative statistics were generated using

Pearsons' chi-square test. The collection and analysis of the responses to the questionnaire helped to provide a more specific focus to some of the issues raised in the private versus public penal institution debate. Of particular interest is the perception of institutional quality comparisons by a particular segment of the population that has had specific involvement with both types of institutions through incarceration.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument consisted of 39 questions (see Appendix A). Approximately 70 percent (n = 29) of the questions on the survey permitted respondents to directly compare subject of the question as it relates to the two types of institutions. The remaining questions, 30 percent (n = 10) permit the creation of a general "snapshot" of the responding participants. In addition to specific responses to subjects asking for comparisons between institutions, survey participants were asked to respond to general questions about their family life, including religion, education background, and composition of family who raised them. The survey solicited responses for questions regarding the quality of life in each type of facility. For example, barbering services for inmates were compared for both types of facilities.

Additional questions were asked. Inmates were asked to provide information about their feelings and their perceptions concerning staff and services. They were asked to provide information about education and training. An open-ended question was, "do you need any services or have any concerns you would like to share with this researcher?", was also asked in case the researchers failed to discuss other comparison issues that the

inmates felt were important. No identify information, such as name, was collected from the inmates.

In the next chapter, the results of this research are presented. The inmates generally found the government operated facility to be “better.” This may simply be do to the fact that they had spent more time in the government operated facility and were more familiar and comfortable with that facility. The private prison was rated “better” on issues such as guards, and counselors.

Chapter 4

Analysis and Findings

In the previous chapter, the methods for data collection and analysis were presented. The data were collected from a privately operated correctional facility in the northeast United States (the name of the facility will remain anonymous). The data were collected in an effort to determine how those incarcerated compared privately operated facilities from publicly operated facilities. The findings from this study are presented in this chapter.

Survey Participants

Survey participants (n = 311), now incarcerated in a privately operated facility, were transferees from a larger, publically / government operated institution. The majority of the inmates were of a Christian faith (n = 126, 63.3%); 30.2% were of the Islamic faith (n = 60) and the rest of the inmates indicated membership in other faiths (n = 13, 6.5%). They were almost equally divided on who raised them as they were growing up. Approximately one-half of the inmates (n = 145, 48.2%) indicated that they were raised by two parents; the rest of the inmates indicated that they were raised by one parent (n = 124, 41.2%) or other(s) (n = 32, 10.6%).

The inmates were incarcerated at the facility for many different offense types. About one-fourth (n = 75, 24.2%) of the inmates refused to answer . The common reason inmates indicated they were incarcerated was for drug offenses (n = 75, 24.2%) and

murder (n = 40, 12.9). Robbery (n = 25, 8.4%) and felonious assault (n = 22, 7.1%) were the next highest reported offenses.

Comparison of General / Basic Services

In addition to some general descriptive information collected from the inmates about themselves, they were asked to compare the private and government operated facilities (Figure 1 provides a summary of the findings concerning general services). The initial group of questions dealt with the quality of services provided at each type of institution. Respondents were asked to compare the services listed and identify whether that service was better at the private institution or at the government, public facility. Additionally, respondents were able to indicate if the services were the same at both facilities. Respondents were also permitted to indicate if they were not sure which was better.

1. Barber Service

The barber service at the public facility was ranked by the respondents as better than the private facility. According to the data, 53 respondents favored the private facility (n = 53, 18.7%). The majority of the inmates indicated that they preferred the public/government facility (n = 185, 65.1%). Forty-six of the respondents indicated that they were not sure or that the services were the same at both facilities (n = 46, 16.2%).

2. Food

One hundred and sixty-one respondents (n = 161, 55.9%) favored the private facility. Seventy-nine respondents (n = 79, 27.4%) favored the public facility. The “not

sure or the same” category generated 48 responses (n = 48, 16.7%).

3. Clothing

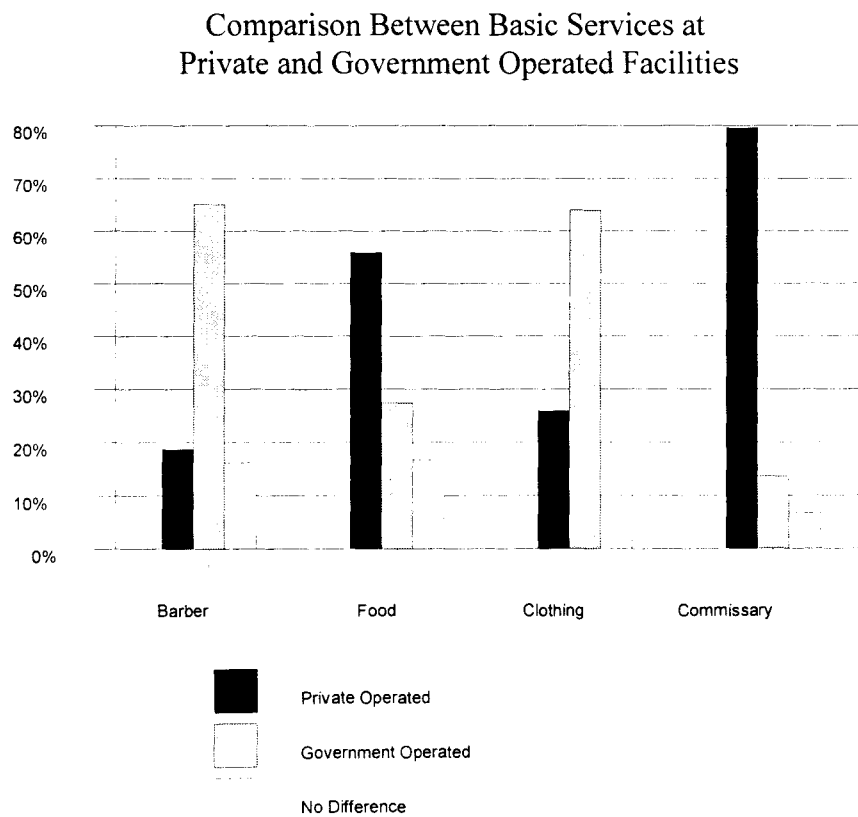
The private facility was favored by 74 of those responding (n = 74, 25.9%). One hundred and eighty-three participants favored the government facility (n = 183, 64.0%). The not sure or the same category received 29 responses (n = 29, 10.1%).

4. Commissary

Two hundred and thirty-eight respondents favored the private facility (n = 238, 79.6%). The government facility received 41 responses (n = 41, 13.7%). Those not sure or felt that they were the same received 20 responses (n = 20, 6.7%).

According to the data, the private facility provided better food and commissary services than the public facility. The public facility was ranked better with reference to clothing and barber services.

Figure 1



Personal Property and Theft

The second grouping of survey questions permitted respondents to provide information on questions of privacy for personal property. Respondents were asked if the facility provided means to secure their property. Additionally the survey asked participating respondents to answer questions relating to theft at the respective facilities (see Table 1).

To survey queries on the security of personal property at the privately operated facility, survey respondents indicated that 79.2 percent (n = 225) of the 284 responded “no” to the question of having property stolen at the facility. Fifty-nine (20.8%) answered “yes” to the question. The majority of inmates at both facilities had no property stolen at the facilities. Respectively, 79.2 percent (n = 225) and 84.2 percent (n = 234) reported no stolen items. The respondents were asked if each type of facility provided a means to secure their property such as a lockbox. The majority of the respondents (n = 290, 94.8%) were given a lockbox at the private facility, were as 89.9 percent (n = 277) indicated that they were given a lockbox at the government facility.

Overall less than 10 percent of the respondents said they did not have access to a lockbox for securing private property at both institutions. This may indicate that access to such amenities is a factor of length of time in each facility. It may be that inmates who said they did not have a lockbox, may in fact had one, but whose lock was inoperable or missing.

Frequency charts provided a breakdown on the items most subject to theft at the institutions. At the private facility 20.8 percent (n = 59) reported that they were victims of

theft. Miscellaneous items were reported stolen most frequently (n = 22, 41.5%). These items were identified as: clothes, batteries, soup, shoes, and stamps. Electronic items were reported stolen by 18.9 percent (n = 10) of those reporting that they were victimized. These items included televisions and radios. Eight of the inmates (15.1%) reported that all of their personal items had been stolen.

Table 1

Inmates Indicating Their Property was Stolen While Incarcerated
a Comparison Between Private and Government Operated Facilities

ITEM	PRIVATE Operated (n = 53)	GOVERNMENT Operated (n = 39)
Food	3 (5.7%)	9 (23.1%)
Cup	1 (1.9%)	0
Cigarettes	0	1 (2.6%)
Clothes	0	0
Batteries, Soap, Shoes	22 (41.5%)	14 (35.9%)
Stamps	0	0
Electronics	10 (18.9%)	6 (15.4%)
Everything	8 (15.1%)	6 (15.4%)
Legal Materials	3 (5.7%)	
Jewelry	2 (3.8%)	1 (2.6%)
Art Work	0	1 (2.6%)
Multiple Items	4 (7.5%)	1 (2.6%)

At the government operated facility, 15.8 percent of all the inmates reported that they had had items stolen while serving time there (n = 44). Figure 2d shows that 35.9

percent of those individuals (n = 14) also reported the loss of miscellaneous items being stolen. Six (n = 15.4%) reported the loss of electronic items. A similar percentage (n = 6, 15.4%) reported the loss of everything.

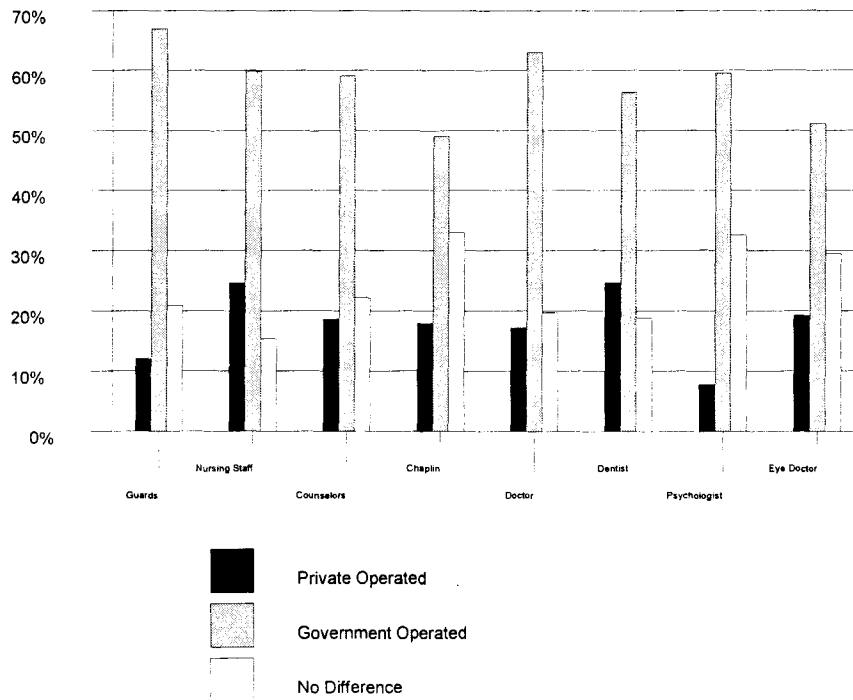
Most survey respondents indicated that nothing was stolen at either facility. Those reporting loss via theft at both institutions indicated that miscellaneous items were most likely to be stolen at the facilities. Overall, theft appears to be a minor problem at both institutions, private and government run facilities.

Staff Comparisons

Respondents were asked to compare staff members at both types of facilities. Frequency charts and bar graphs were constructed following a review of the comparisons. Eight staffing positions were presented for the respondents to compare. The following figure presents those comparisons.

Figure 2

Comparisons Between Staff Members at the Private and Government Operated Facilities



1. Guards (Corrections Officers)

Sixty-seven percent (n = 199, 67%) of the inmates reported that they found the guards at the government facility better than those at the privately operated facility (n = 36, 12.1%). “Better” was not defined and the inmates were allowed to interpret this term for themselves. About 20 percent (n = 62, 20.9%) did not select either facility’s guards as better than the other. A comparison was conducted to see if offender types differed on their impression of guards. A Pearson’s chi-square test was conducted. It was found that inmates who had committed violent acts preferred the guards at the government facility over the guards at the private facility ($\chi^2 = 12.39, p \leq .05, df = 6$). All other offender

types (drugs, property, and other), preferred the guards at the private operated facility. See Table 2.

Table 2

Offender Types and Their Perception of Guards at the Private and Government Operated Facilities

FACILITY TYPE	OFFENDER TYPES				Total
	Violent (n=110) (n=293)	Property (n=9)	Drug (n=73)	Other (n=101)	
Private Operated	9.1% n=10	33.3% n=3	13.7% n=10	11.9% n=12	11.9% n=35
Government Operated	76.4% n=84	55.6% n=5	65.8% n=48	59.4% n=60	67.2% n=197
No Difference	14.5% n=16	11.1% n=1	20.5% n=15	28.7% n=29	20.8% n=61
$\chi^2 = 12.39, p \leq .05, df = 6$					

2. Nursing Staff

About 60 percent (n = 175, 59.9%) of the inmates favored the nursing staff at the government operated facility; 24.7 percent (n = 72) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the nursing staff at the privately operated facility. Approximately 15 percent (n = 45, 15.4%) did not select either facility's nursing staff as better than the other.

3. Counselors

About 60 percent (n = 168, 59.2%) of the inmates favored the counselors at the government operated facility; 18.7 percent (n = 53) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the counselors at the privately operated facility. Approximately 22 percent (n = 63, 22.2%) did not select either facility's counselors as better than the other. A

comparison was conducted in order to determine if inmates with some perhaps concerns about their family upbringing determined their judgement about the counselors (See Table 3). It was found using a Pearson's chi-square test that inmates who were raised in non-traditional families (two parents) preferred the counselors at the private facility over those of the government facility ($\chi^2 = 10.07$, $p \leq .05$, $df = 4$).

Table 3

Who Raised the Inmates and Their Perception
of Counselors at the Private and Government Operated Facilities

FACILITY TYPE	WHO RAISED THE INMATES			
	One Parent (n=114)	Two Parents (n=132)	Other (n=29)	Total (n=275)
Private Operated	22.8% n=26	11.4% n=15	27.6% n=8	17.8% n=49
Government Operated	57.0% n=65	65.9% n=87	41.4% n=12	59.6% n=164
No Difference	20.2% n=23	22.7% n=30	31.0% n=9	22.5% n=62
$\chi^2 = 10.07$, $p \leq .05$, $df = 4$				

4. Chaplin

About 49 percent (n = 131, 49.1%) of the inmates favored the Chaplin at the government operated facility; 17.2 percent (n = 50) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the Chaplin at the privately operated facility. Thirty-three percent (n = 88, 33.0%) did not select either facility's Chaplin as better than the other.

5. Doctor

About 63 percent (n = 183, 63.1%) of the inmates favored the doctor at the

government operated facility; 17.2 percent (n = 50) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the doctor at the privately operated facility. Approximately 20 percent (n = 57, 19.7%) did not select either facility's doctor as better than the other.

6. Dentist

About 56 percent (n = 162, 56.4%) of the inmates favored the dentist at the government operated facility; 24.7 percent (n = 71) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the dentist at the privately operated facility. Approximately 19 percent (n = 54, 18.8%) did not select either dentist as better than the other.

7. Psychologist

About 60 percent (n = 137, 59.6%) of the inmates favored the psychologist at the government operated facility; 7.8 percent (n = 18) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the psychologist at the privately operated facility. Approximately 33 percent (n = 75, 32.6%) did not select either psychologist as better than the other.

8. Eye Doctor

About 51 percent (n = 130, 51.2%) of the inmates favored the eye doctor at the government operated facility; 19.3 percent (n = 49) of the inmates indicated that they preferred the eye doctor at the privately operated facility. Approximately 30 percent (n = 75, 29.5%) did not select either facility's eye doctor as better than the other.

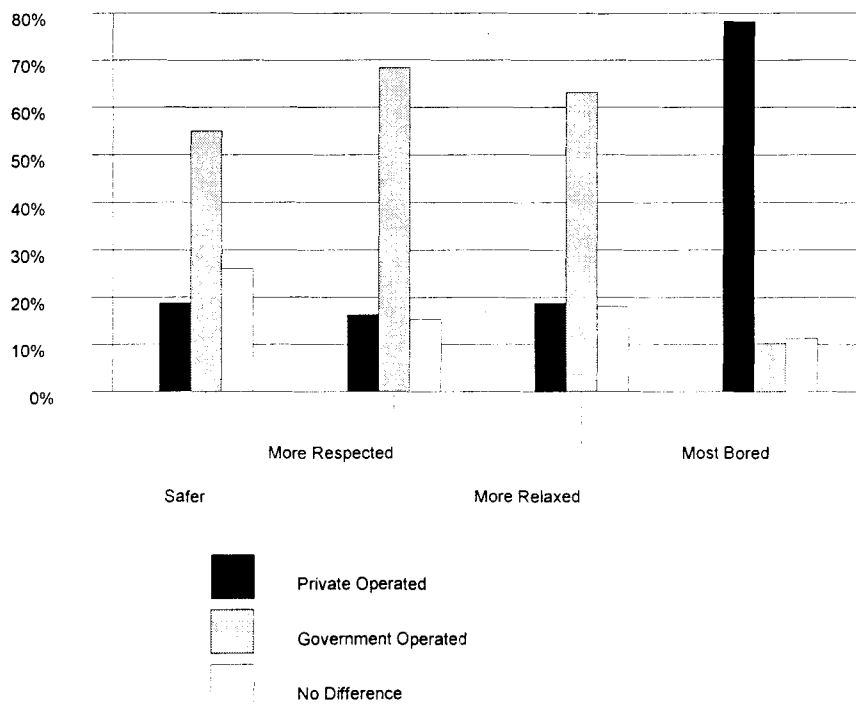
The majority of the survey respondents preferred the staffing at the government operated facility for each position. It is felt that this occurs in large part because the respondents had spent more time in the government facility thus becoming more familiar with the staff at that facility.

Safety, Respect, Relaxation, Boredom

The next group of survey questions asked respondents to indicate their preferences with regard to the two institutions in regard to where the inmates felt safer, more respects, and more relaxed. A bar graph was constructed to illustrate respondents' answers. Frequency charts were constructed from the answers to demonstrate the collected responses. The following is a summary of the questions and the responses (see Figure 3).

Figure 3

Comparisons Between Different Emotions Experienced at the Private and Government Operated Facilities



1. Where do you feel safer?

About 55 percent (n = 158, 55.1%) of the inmates responding said that they felt

safer at the government operated facility; 18.8 percent (n = 54) of the inmates indicated that they felt safer at the privately operated facility. Approximately 26 percent (n = 75, 26.1%) did not select either facility as safer than the other.

2. Where do you feel more respected?

About 68 percent (n = 197, 68.4%) of the inmates responding said that they felt more respected at the government operated facility; 16.3 percent (n = 47) of the inmates indicated that they felt more respected at the privately operated facility. Approximately 15 percent (n = 44, 15.3%) did not select either facility as making them feel more respected than the other.

3. Where do you feel more relaxed?

About 63 percent (n = 182, 63.2%) of the inmates responding said that they felt more relaxed at the government operated facility; 18.8 percent (n = 54) of the inmates indicated that they felt more relaxed at the privately operated facility. Approximately 18 percent (n = 52, 18.1%) did not select either facility as making them feel more relaxed than the other.

4. At what facility were you most bored?

About 78 percent (n = 235, 78.3%) indicated being most bored at the private facility; 10.3% (n=34) indicated being most bored at the government operated facility. Approximately 11 percent (n = 34, 11.3%) indicated they were not sure.

The government operated facility was the preferred of the majority of those responding to the questions in this section of the survey. Our construction of their respondents depends on our feelings that the length of time inmates has spent at the

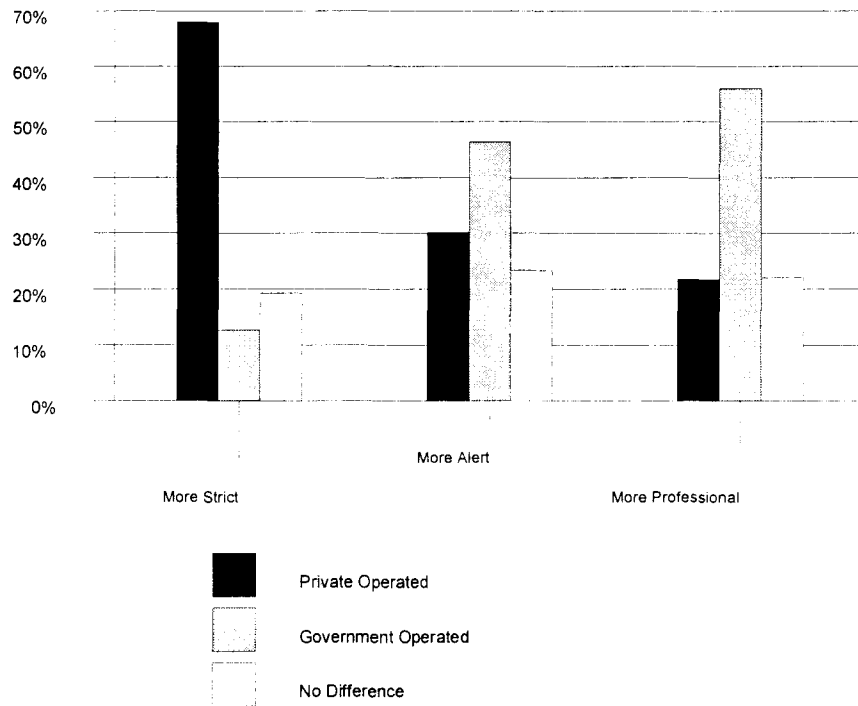
government operated facility was an important factor in the respondents preferences as displayed. It is expected that respondents would feel safer, more respected, as well as more relaxed in an environment which had become familiar to them.

Additional Staff Information and Inmate's Sense of Boredom

Inmates were asked to respond to four questions. Bar charts were constructed from their collected responses for illustrative purposes. Frequency charts were constructed to provide a distributive analysis of the responses.

Figure 4

Comparisons Between Impressions About Staff at the Private and Government Operated Facilities



1. Where do you think the staff is more strict?

Sixty-eight percent (n = 204, 68%) of those responding, the inmates felt the staff at the private facility was more strict; 12.7% (n=38) of those responding felt that the staff at the government operated facility were more strict. Approximately 19 percent (n = 58, 9.3%) were not sure.

2. Where do you think the staff is more alert?

About 46 percent (n = 137, 46.4%) felt that the staff at the government facility were more alert; 30.2% (n=89) felt the staff at the private facility were more alert. Approximately 23 percent (n = 69, 23.4%) were not sure.

3. Where do you think the staff is more professional?

Approximately 56 percent (n = 165, 56.1%) of respondents thought the staff at the government facility was more professional; 21.8% (n=64) of those responding thought the staff at the private operated facility was more professional. Approximately 22 percent (n = 65, 22.1%) were not sure.

Survey respondents indicated that the staff of the government operated facility were more alert and professional. Survey respondents indicated being most bored at the private facility and that the staff at the private facility was more strict than the staff at the government facility. The factor of length of time at the facility, for both staff and surveyed inmates, has some influence on the respondents answers to the questions in section V of the survey.

Family Visitations

The questions in this section of the survey focused on family visitations.

Respondents were asked if they received family visits at both the private and government facility. They were also asked to provide information if they did not receive a family visit at each institution. The following is a simple list of those responses:

1. Does your family visit at the private facility?

66.2% (n=206) responded that family did not visit them at the private facility,

31.1% (n=93) responded that family did visit them at the private facility.

2. Why doesn't your family visit at the private facility?

50.2% (n=156) of those responding said the private facility was too far away,

10.7% (n=20) said financial problems kept family from visiting,

3.7% (n=7) responded they did not want family members to visit.

3. Did your family visit at the government facility?

95.4% (n= 291) responded that family members visited them while they were at the government facility,

4.6% (n= 14) received no visits from family while at the government facility.

4. Why didn't your family visit at the government facility?

45.5% (n= 5) of those who responded indicated that the government facility was located too far away for a family visit,

17.3% (n= 3) of those responding said they did not wish to have family visit them at the government facility,

Most respondents indicated that they received visits at the government facility because of

its proximate location. Most respondents indicated that they received no family visits at the private facility because of its location away from where their family resided. The cost involved in visiting a far away location was an important factor in determining visits by friends and /or family.

Education and Vocational Training

The final section of the survey instrument focused on educational elements. Survey participants were queried on whether they had acquired General Education Certification (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and/or completed a vocational training program at either facility while incarcerated. A summary of the responses is provided below:

1. Did you receive GED certification while incarcerated?

66.4% (n= 202) indicated that they did not receive GED certification while incarcerated,

33.6% (n=102) indicated that they received GED certification while incarcerated.

2. Where did you receive your GED certificate?

53.7% (n= 51) indicated they received their GED certification while incarcerated at the government facility,

28.4% (n= 27) indicated that they received GED certification elsewhere,

5.5% (n=17) indicated they received GED certification at the private facility.

3. Did you complete an Adult Basic Education program while incarcerated?

50.3% (n=148) indicated that they did not complete an ABE program while incarcerated,

49.7% (n=146) indicated that they did complete an ABE program while incarcerated.

4. Where did you complete the Adult Basic Education program?

68.3% (N=86) responded that they had completed the ABE program while incarcerated in the government facility,

17.5% (N=22) responded that they had completed the ABE program at the private facility,

14.3% (N=18) indicated completing an ABE program elsewhere.

5. Did you complete a vocational training program?

Approximately 52 percent (n = 155, 51.5%) of the inmates indicated that they did not complete a vocational training program while incarcerated; 48.5 percent (n = 146) indicated that they did complete a vocational training program while incarcerated.

6. Where did you complete vocational training?

Approximately 48 percent (n = 65, 48.5%) of the inmates indicated that they completed vocational training at the government operated facility; 33.6 percent (n = 45) indicated that they completed their vocational training at the privately operated facility.

About 18 percent (n = 24, 17.9%) indicated receiving vocational training elsewhere.

The majority of respondents completed an educational program of some kind while incarcerated at the government operated facility. It may be that the private facility has not been in operation long enough for inmates to complete the programs offered to inmates at the facility. The survey indicates that both institutions offer educational services to inmates from GED certification to vocational training programming.

Chapter Summary

This survey provides a brief and inconclusive review of a comparison between a privately operated incarceration facility and one operated by a government entity. The survey sought information from those who had been incarcerated in the government facility before being transferred to the private facility. The responses collected appear to support a general conclusion that neither facility is superior in every area. The snapshot focus designed to provide a general picture of these responding indicates that most inmates were incarcerated for criminal activities derived from participating in the arena of illicit drug use. A majority of the inmates were raised by parents or other family relations. The debate on which is the “better” incitation will continue. More research should be conducted to include the perspective from those incarcerated.

Chapter 5

Discussion and Summary

In the final analysis, when a cross tabulation was conducted on violent offenses, property offenses and drug offenses, it was noted that inmates who were convicted of a drug offense or a violent offense preferred the guards at the state operated facility. The inmates convicted of a property offense preferred the guards in the privately operated facility. Looking at this factor, one could conclude that the guards in the government run facility were more lenient toward acts of violence on other inmates or get involved in the drug trade with other inmates. This comparison is a very positive finding in favor of the private prison. The more professionally that guards run a prison is a certain way to keep violence and drug abuse to a minimum.

Another very positive cross tabulation finding was that the private prison was better prepared to deal with family problems stemming from inmates who were raised in non-traditional families. Inmates that were raised in the traditional two-parent home preferred the counselors that were provided by the government operated facility. Inmates that were raised in non-traditional or one-parent families preferred the counselors that were provided by the private operated facility. It can be assumed that since the majority of the inmates in the privately operated facility came from non-traditional homes, the counselors in the privately operated facility gave the inmates more quality time and also showed more concern for the inmate's needs.

If there is to be future research on the argument of private versus government

operated prisons, then there should be some major changes to the study. One major change in the study that should be examined is that of inmates who are bitter at the system. Removing such inmates from the place where they are well adjusted to a place where they know no one should not be included in the study. Inmates should be given an adequate amount of time to get used to the new facility and the new staff. New inmates and a changing climate can have a very negative effect on the way an inmate answers a survey.

On the question of what is the future of privatization, the question is no longer over whether privatization will exist. The debate is more likely to be framed in terms of what will be privatized? To what extent? It should be recognized that privatization will never totally supplant the public provision of correctional services. Not even the most ardent supporters of privatization would suggest that corrections at all levels should be turned over to a private enterprise.

The private sector may be able to provide some goods and services to be available at all state and local governments. Private correctional firms can supplement services that are already provided by certain public correctional agencies, and private facilities can provide a range of specialized services in areas where the public sector most needs the help. Some of these areas of supplementation and specialization could include education programming (adult basic education, highschool / GED completion, vocational education and job skills training, as well as college level academic courses), health care (including medical, dental, and mental health), food services, and prison industries.

A major selling point for privatization has been the promise of cost savings. With the little experience to date with privatization, it appears that private service providers may

achieve certain efficiencies that allow them to deliver goods and services at lower costs than those obtainable by government entities. It should be noted that privatization will not solve all, or even most, of our correctional problems. Privatization will not rescue us in terms of the correctional funding crisis either. If privatization expands our prison capacity, the increase in numbers of inmates may more than offset the potential savings privatization might bring. Finally, if current sentencing policies continue, the nation will be faced with expanding offender populations, both in prisons and other correctional programs. If this happens, there will be additional pressures to turn to the private sector for assistance. Privatization is here to stay.

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Appendix A

Questionnaire Private VS. Public Prison System

**NOTE: THE NAMES OF THE TWO FACILITIES COMPARED
WERE REMOVED FROM THIS VERSION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE
TO PROTECT THE TWO FACILITIES IDENTITIES**

Private VS. Public Prison System

Compare services at **** with the facility you came from in ****
(Mark an "X" under your response)

	Better at ****	Better in ****	Not Sure or Same
Barber	_____	_____	_____
Food	_____	_____	_____
Clothing	_____	_____	_____
Commissary	_____	_____	_____

What is your religion? _____

Were you raised by _____ one parent _____ two parents
_____ other (if other who raised you?) _____

What offense were you convicted of? _____

Were you given a way to secure your property at **** (such as a locker box)?
_____ Yes _____ No

Were you given a way to secure your property in the **** facility
(such as a locker box)? _____ Yes _____ No

While at **** was any property ever stolen from you? If yes what?

While in the **** facility was any property ever stolen from you? If yes what?

Private VS. Public Prison Systems

How would you compare the staff at **** to the staff at the **** facility.
(Mark an "X" under your response)

	Better at ****	Better at ****	The same
Guard (C.O.)	_____	_____	_____
Nursing staff	_____	_____	_____
Counselors	_____	_____	_____
Chaplin	_____	_____	_____
Doctor	_____	_____	_____
Dentist	_____	_____	_____
Psychologist	_____	_____	_____
Eye doctor	_____	_____	_____

Does your family (friends) visit you at ****? yes_____ If no, then why?

Did your family (friends) visit you at the **** facility?
yes_____ If no, then why?_____

Place "X" at correct location

	****	****	Unsure
Where do you feel safer?	_____	_____	_____
Where do you feel more respected?	_____	_____	_____
Where do you feel more relaxed?	_____	_____	_____

Private VS. Public Prison Systems

	****	****	Unsure
At what facility were you most bored?	_____	_____	_____
Where do you think the staff is more strict?	_____	_____	_____
Where do you think the staff is more alert?	_____	_____	_____
Where do you think the staff is more professional?	_____	_____	_____

Please write responses to the following questions:

Did you receive GED certification while incarcerated? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, where? _____

Did you complete Adult Basic Education program while incarcerated? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, where? _____

Did you complete a Vocational Training program while incarcerated? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, where? _____

Do you need any services or have any concerns you would like to share with this researcher? _____

Appendix B

Human Subjects Review



Youngstown State University / One University Plaza / Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0001

September 29, 1999

Dr. Tammy A. King, Principal Investigator
Mr. Alphonso Robinson, Co-Investigator
Department of Criminal Justice
Youngstown State University
CAMPUS

RECEIVED
SEP 30 1999
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

RE: HSRC Protocol 08-2000

Dear Dr. King and Mr. Robinson:

This is to report on the results of the action taken by the Youngstown State University Human Subjects Review Committee (HSRC) at its meeting of September 29, 1999 with respect to the above referenced protocol. The Committee, based on unanimous vote (Dr. King abstaining), determined to approve the protocol, subject to the following conditions:


1. that the investigators provide the HSRC with written permission for deposit on file from the warden and/or other appropriate prison officials, if necessary, allowing the investigators to conduct the study on site;
2. that the investigators revise and provide the Committee with a file copy of the introductory statement to potential subjects, containing the following elements, which also may be incorporated into the study questionnaire: (A) identification of Dr. King as the principal investigator and an unidentified employee as co-investigator; (B) information on how Dr. King can be contacted for possible follow-up by subjects; (C) use of language in the solicitation statement that *solicits* subjects' participation, informs potential subjects about what the study is to be used for (if, as suggested, it might serve other purposes beyond the scope of a research thesis), informs them of how much of their time will be involved, and that their responses will be held to be anonymous (not confidential), as well as notifies them of their standard right to withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice. Comment: In soliciting potential subjects, the investigators also must take into account and adjust for potential subjects' ability to read and comprehend solicitation instructions sufficient to allow them to reach an informed consent decision;
3. that the investigators confirm in writing that prison authorities will not be provided or otherwise have access to any raw data or other information that may link subjects and their responses;




4. that the investigators provide a written description to the HSRC of: (A) the physical setting in which the questionnaires will be administered, and, (B) who, specifically, will have access to the questionnaires throughout the data collection process; please note that this information should be provided in sufficient detail to indicate to the Committee that (a) subjects will not be placed in a potentially coercive situation, and (b) the data collectors themselves will not be placed in harm's way;
5. that the investigators provide the HSRC with information about their planned handling of possible subject follow-up to the last question regarding the sharing of concerns which may reveal psychologically or emotionally threatening conditions, or criminal behavior.

Please feel free to initiate the project upon fulfillment of the above conditions and do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about them. Finally, notwithstanding the gravity of the protocol review process, in this circumstance we believe it important to underscore the fact that the Committee recognizes and deeply appreciates the conscientious approach which the investigators, in particular Dr. King, have adopted with respect to their research methodology.

Sincerely,


JoLynn Carney, Ph.D.
Program Chair


Eric C. Lewandowski, CRA
Administrative Co-Chair

ECL:JC